



## 9. Government services have become more centralized

It is now more efficient (at least according to some) to operate service facilities (such as hospitals and schools) at a larger scale, partly because the technology requires more 'clients' to make it pay. Thus, these facilities are moving to larger centres. Consequently, rural people must often go greater distances for education, health, welfare, legal, and other government services.

**Implications:** Rural people will need to find new ways to access these services. Some populations are now more vulnerable than others (e.g., youth, women, elderly and other similar groups that have less access to transportation). Local voluntary organizations and households (largely women) face greater demands on their time and energy.

**Strategies to consider:**

- a) Tele-health
- b) Distance education

- c) Organize community transportation facilities to travel to the larger centres
- d) Organize respite care alternatives
- e) Collaborate with regional people and organizations to organize more efficient services
- f) Foster local leaders to serve on regional service delivery boards
- g) Lobby regional and national policy-makers for more appropriate services.

**Questions to ask:**

- a) How are local and regional services organized and what are the pressures they face?
- b) How have other communities dealt with these pressures?
- c) How many people are made vulnerable by these changes? Where are they located? How do they typically cope with these challenges?
- d) What lobby groups are currently operating to meet these challenges?