

Rural Policies in Canada

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The slide features three logos: on the left, the FCRR/CRRE logo with a green field graphic; in the center, the SSHRC logo with a globe and the text 'SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES RESEARCH COUNCIL OF CANADA'; on the right, the NRE logo with a green arrow and the text 'THE NEW RURAL ECONOMY'. A small footer text 'Bé Reimer (10/31/2021)1' is visible at the bottom left of the slide.

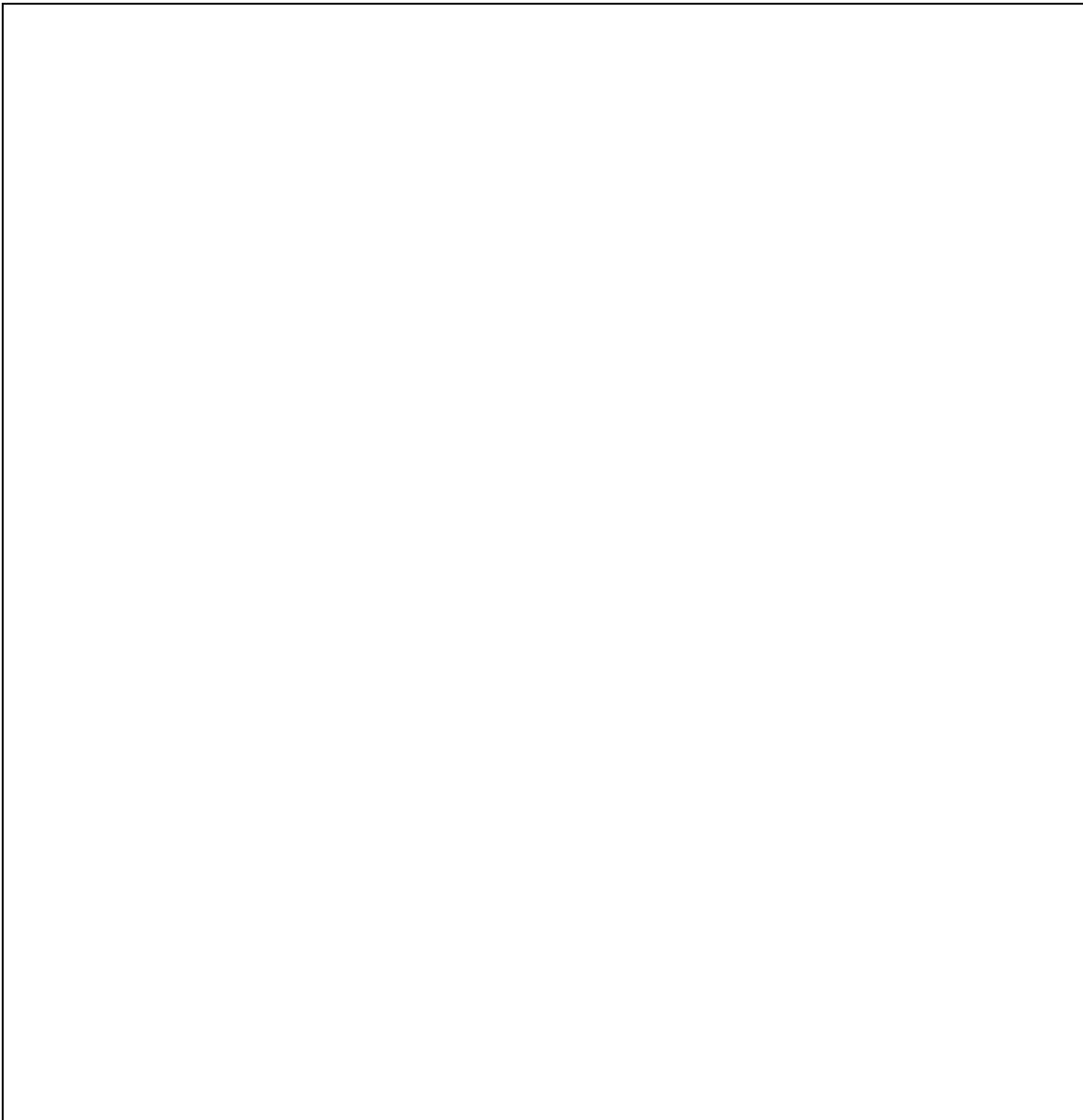
- Acknowledgements:
- The Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation
- The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
- Colleagues in the New Rural Economy Project
- Colleagues in the Institute for Rural Revitalization in the 21st Century

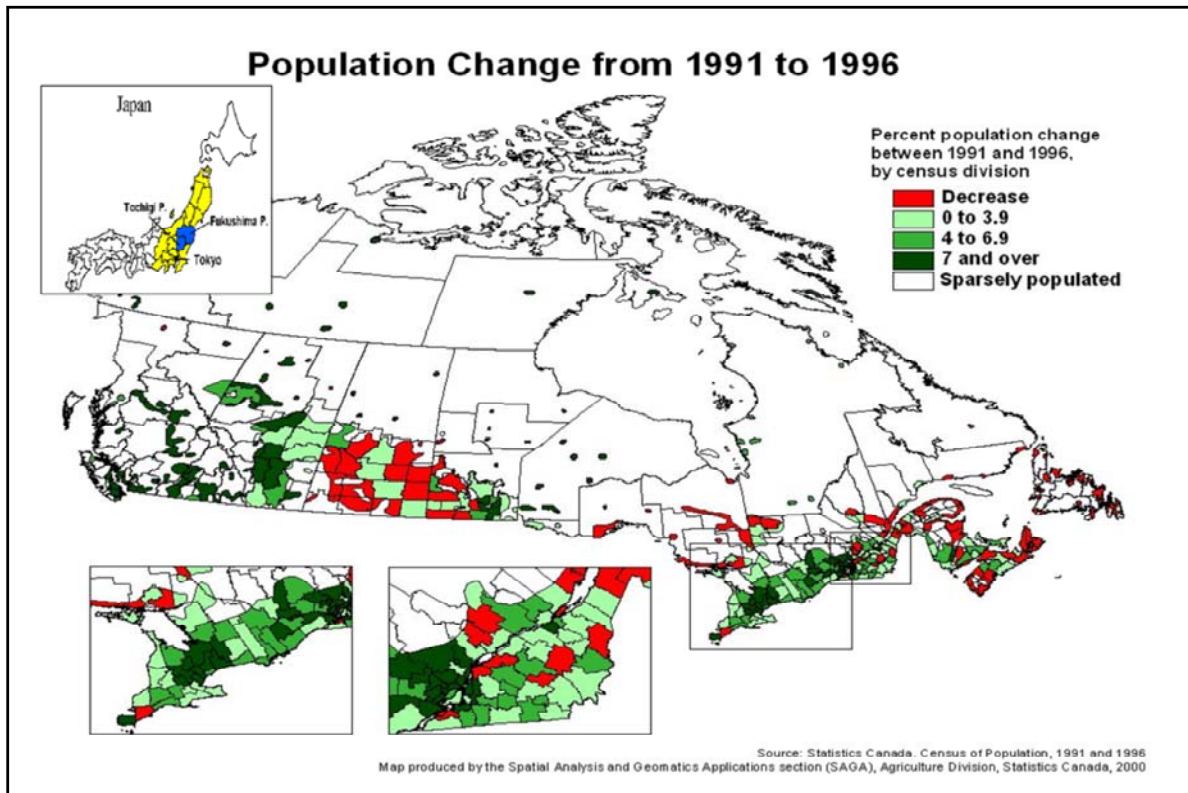
- Thanks for invitation

Canada is BIG

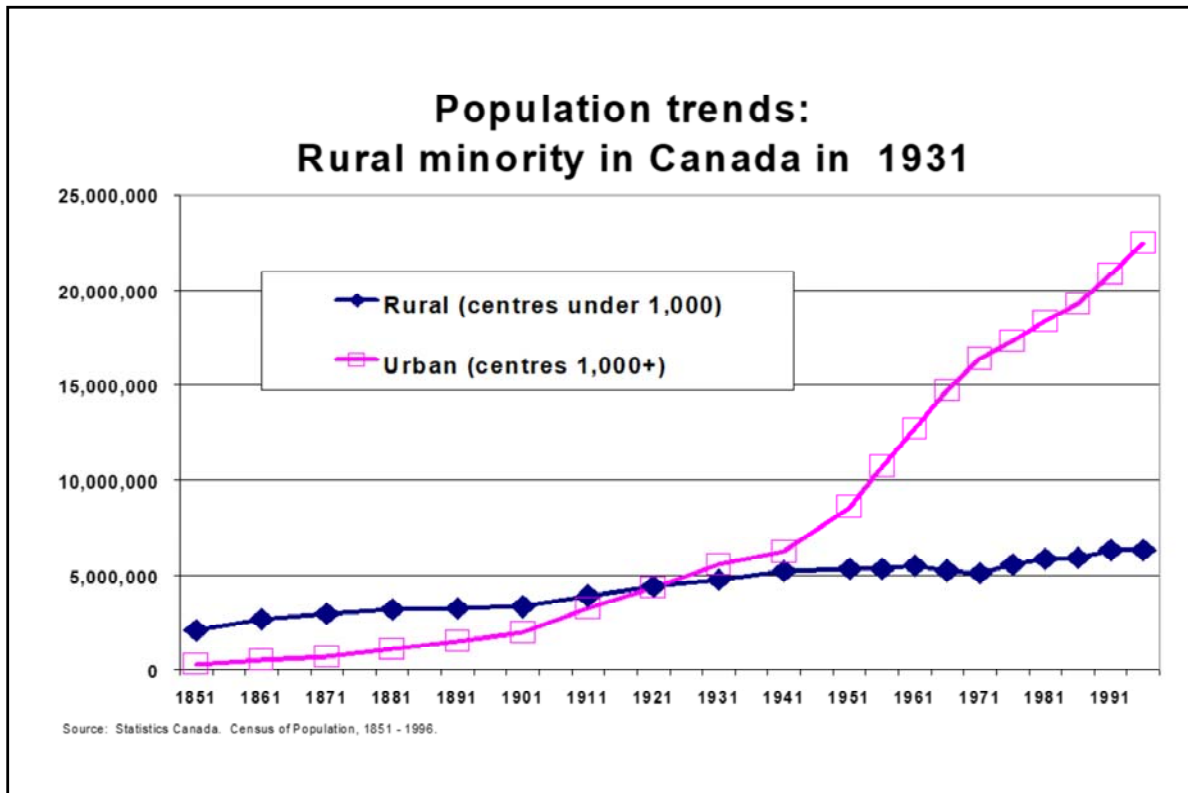
- Plenty of space
- Few people
- Mostly in the southern part

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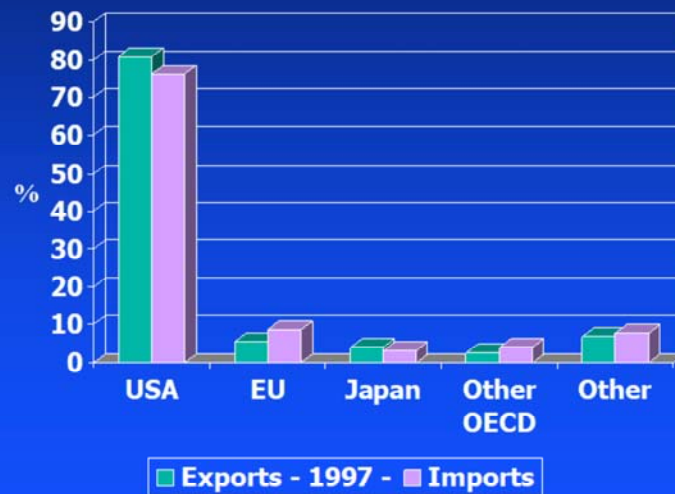
- **This map emphasises the diversity of population growth and decline among census divisions in Canada.**
- **Note strong employment growth in northern regions.**
- **Note (continuing) population declines in the agricultural regions of Saskatchewan and Manitoba.**
- **Note continuing population declines in parts of the Gaspé region of Québec, northern New Brunswick, the tips of Nova Scotia and in Newfoundland.**
- **Population continues to grow in census divisions where the workforce can access large cities.**



•Canada is Urban

- About 80% of population is in urban areas – and growing
- At the Canada level, and in most provinces, the (census) rural population is increasing.
- In Saskatchewan, the (census) rural population has been **decreasing** since 1931.
- Within each province, the rural farm population has been declining for decades and the rural non-farm population is increasing.
- (Census rural refers to individuals living outside settlements of 1,000 or more)

USA is Canada's dominant trade partner



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- **Canada is a trading nation**

- **The USA is our dominant trading partner**

- 80% of our exports are to the USA (\$243 million in 1997)
- 76% of our imports are from the USA (\$210 million in 1997)
- The next largest trade partner is only 5.5% of imports (European Union)
- Japan next with 4% of our exports and 3% of our imports
- Canada is USA's largest trading partner as well
 - 27% of USA trade is with Canada
 - Mexico is next - 14%

- **Result**

- What happens in the USA has strong impact on Canada
- Trade policy in Canada is under pressure to accommodate USA interests

Rural policies reflect natural resource policy

- Pre-1945: Resource exploitation
 - Fish
 - Timber
 - Fur
 - Agriculture
 - Minerals
 - Oil
 - Hydro-electricity

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Policy Periods

- 1945 to 1955: Macroeconomic Keynesianism
- 1955-1965: Populism and Regionalism
- 1965-1980: Rise and Fall of Technocratic Planning
- 1980-1995: Rise and Fall of Megaprojects
- 1995-present: Retreat of the State

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Rural policies reflect natural resource policy

- Pre-1945: Resource exploitation
- 1945 to 1955: Macroeconomic Keynesianism
 - Growth led by state spending
 - Public planners creating conditions to make private-sector growth more efficient
 - Undisciplined subsidies for resource industries
- 1955-1965: Populism and Regionalism
 - Regional disparities
 - Many programs in infrastructure development
 - ARDA, 1961 (Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Act)– Agricultural focus
 - FRED, 1966 (Fund for Rural economic Development) – regional focus
- 1965-1980: Rise and Fall of Technocratic Planning
 - Focused, centralized, and institutionalized planning
 - DREE, 1969 (Department of Regional Economic Expansion) – integrated previous programs, shifted focus
 - Regional focus – growth-pole theory (regional urban and industrial development)
 - Top-down approach
- 1980-1995: Rise and Fall of Megaprojects
 - Megaprojects as economic (regional development)
 - Criticisms
 - First real rural development project (Community Futures)
 - Small-scale, gradual, decentralized
- 1995-present: Retreat of the State
 - Fiscal crisis, increased influence of the right agenda
 - Contraction to
 - Sectoral policies
 - Human resources/training

Policies are Diverse

- 10 Provinces
- 3 Territories
- Federal



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**2 major approaches
(Usually a mix):**

- Departmental (sectoral) structure
 - Assume rural issues will be addressed
 - Establish 'rural lens'
- Regional structure (zones)
 - Assume rural and departmental issues will be addressed
 - Establish 'rural lens'

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2 major approaches (Usually a mix):

- Departmental structure
 - Assume rural issues will be addressed
 - Establish rural lens (for each dept. or cross-dept. organization)
- Regional structure (zones)
 - Assume rural and departmental issues will be addressed
 - Establish rural lens (for each dept. or cross-dept. organization)
 - In one case (QC), part of regional mandate is to act as watchdog (rural lens) on provincial policies and actions

Policy Patterns

- Economic focus
 - Resource/commodity trade
 - Business development
- Environment focus
 - Management of resources
 - Kyoto a new element
- Social/Cultural focus
 - Human capital development
- Political focus
 - Few transfer assets
 - Few transfer control
 - Language of 'Partnerships'

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Policy Patterns

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Most are commodity trade focused

- Fish, forestry in the east
- Agriculture in centre and prairies
- Forestry in BC and north
- Only QC and SK have rural focus



Pressures on Policy - Competition

- Policy Responses
 - Protect producers
 - Enhance production
 - Add value
 - Expand markets

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Pressures on Policy

- Competition
- Policy Responses
 - Protect producers
 - Some would say – not enough
 - Enhance production
 - Add value
 - Expand markets
- Multifunctionality arguments considered
 - Primarily as negotiating possibility
 - Not as commitment to description of situation

Pressures on Policy – Local Challenges to Resource Control

- Policy responses
 - Aboriginal land claims negotiation
 - Community-based resource management

Pressures on Policy – Community Decline

- Policy Responses
 - Employment training
 - Services delivery
 - Health
 - Water
 - Remedial policies for rural people

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Pressures on Policy – Community Decline

- Employment training
 - People move to jobs
- Services delivery
 - Health
 - Water (some major crises)
 - Not much on education

Pressures on Policy – Special Case

- Québec
 - Cultural, regional focus
 - Urbanization threat
 - Limited mobility
- Result:
 - Regional-multifaceted approach
 - Greater regional power

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www.crrf.ca
nre.concordia.ca
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Logo: G Project (with Chinese characters 加 and 日)

Logo: SSHRC (SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES RESEARCH COUNCIL OF CANADA)

Logo: NRE (National Rural Extension)

Text: Become a member today!

- Thank you
- Invite you to find out more about our work
 - web site is best way
- We are open to collaboration proposals of all sorts