

--- Understanding the New Rural Economy: Choices and Options ---

**Economic Integration and Isolation of First Nations Communities:
REPORT II: A PROPOSAL FOR RESEARCH**

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Economic Integration and Isolation of First Nations Communities: REPORT II: A PROPOSAL FOR RESEARCH

1. Preface

This report is a companion to the one entitled "*Economic Integration and Isolation of First Nations Communities Report I: an exploratory review*" (Reimer and Trott, 1997). We build upon the theoretical framework and empirical analysis of the review to propose a program of research which will address the limitations of our existing knowledge regarding First Nations communities. In so doing, we play particular attention to the opportunities created by the *New Rural Economy Project* (NRE) initiated by the *Canadian Rural Restructuring Foundation* (CRRF).¹

2. Introduction

This proposal is for research to answer the question:

To what extent are rural First Nations economies integrated with regional and local economies, or conversely, should they be viewed as enclave economies?

This question is important to answer for a number of reasons. As paraphrased from our previous contract, it will:

- C contribute significantly to understanding how First Nations communities are currently economically integrated or isolated (in the broadest sense) from their non-Indian neighbours, and
- C help us develop a comprehensive picture of the new rural economy and the challenges and opportunities that this emerging economy(ies) poses for First Nations.

In addition, this question takes for granted the importance of integration and isolation for the welfare of First Nations communities. This most likely arises from the common assumption that if communities become or remain isolated they will be unable to take advantage of new economic opportunities which emerge in the new rural economy. If isolated from the market economy, they may become dependent on non-market (especially state) resources. If isolated, they may in turn become unsustainable. Taken from a narrow perspective, these assumptions accept the value of integration over isolation.

We accept the reasonableness of these assumptions, but will proceed in a manner which does not take them for granted. We treat the issue of economic isolation and integration in a broad context, thereby raising additional questions such as:

¹ For further information regarding the NRE Project and CRRF, see the previous report (Reimer and Trott, 1997), and section 4 below.

- C To what extent is economic isolation or integration related to social, cultural, or environmental degradation?;
- C What forms of isolation and integration best serve the interests of First Nations and rural people?; and
- C To what extent does economic integration imply social and cultural assimilation?

3. Research Questions from Report I

From the analysis in the preliminary review, it is clear that much work needs to be done. There is very little material which directly examines the economic integration and isolation of First Nations communities. At most, the focus is on the nature of First Nations economies, typically in relative isolation from external economies, and virtually never with reference to nearby locations.

On the other hand, the review provides numerous hints regarding strategic directions for research on the topic. Both the review of the literature and the analysis of available data suggest that First Nations communities operate within special economic contexts even as they share commonalities with other rural communities. These differences include the following.

- C First Nations economies rely to a greater extent on domestic production, informal exchanges, and non-market economic relations.
- C First Nations economies are less integrated into a wage labour economy, both through lower levels of participation and a higher level of part-time and part-year labour.
- C First Nations economies make a greater use of transfer payments from government sources.
- C First Nations economies show a relatively low level of business and enterprise development.

These characteristics are striking because they are also features of rural places in comparison to urban ones. This raises the question whether the most important differences are to be found between First Nations and other communities or between rural and urban places. Our preliminary analysis suggests that the answer to this question is not simple: both dimensions are involved.

In addition to demonstrating important differences between First Nations and other communities, our analysis has pointed to the considerable variation found among First Nations settlements. In spite of the common legal and public identification, there are important economic, social, political, and cultural differences across the country. Reserves without a resource base, for example, face very different problems than those with access to fish, timber, or minerals; reserves located near urban centres have very different opportunities than those in more remote locations. Such a conclusion reinforces a strategy of comparison between First Nations communities.

Our previous report also hints at the many ways in which First Nations economies relate to those of their neighbours. Some appear to be highly integrated into their

economic, social, political, and cultural milieu, while others seem quite isolated, both physically and economically. The reasons for this variation as well as the consequences of it are not well understood.

In sum, our preliminary analysis serves to identify the following research questions.

- 3.1. What forms of domestic production and informal economies are represented in First Nations communities?
- 3.2. In what ways are these forms integrated into the more formal (market and wage labour) economies?

Our previous analysis suggests that these questions should be addressed with sensitivity to the following issues.

- C Strategies of labour force involvement and wealth distribution may be individual or collective. The role of kin and friendship relations, obligations of reciprocity, and networks of information are likely to play an important part.
 - C The conditions under which skills transfers occur between the informal and formal labour markets should be included in the investigation.
 - C Complementarities of economic activity and patterns of social support should be investigated. This includes formal types of support such as transfer payments or health services and informal types of support such as child care.
 - C Incompatibilities between the formal and informal spheres should be identified. This includes the demands of time, seasonal limitations, life cycle opportunities and costs, and the necessity of network development.
- 3.3. In what ways do domestic production and informal economies contribute to or limit the openness of local economies?

This question requires us to expand our analysis of the informal economies beyond the local community and consider the ways in which they contribute to the integration or isolation of those communities with respect to nearby ones, national ones, or even international groups. In answering this question, one must look at the social and political networks and activities which serve to support the operation of the local economy. This includes family, business, cultural, recreational, and political networks.

- 3.4. What are the conditions for business opportunities and developments in First Nations communities?

Our previous research has shown that employment in government and education services, retail trade, and construction industries is particularly high in several First Nations communities. It has also shown that these levels of employment are sensitive to the characteristics of neighbouring communities. These results suggest that much can be learned about business development if we were to answer such questions as:

- C What types of business have been successful and unsuccessful in First Nations communities?
 - C Why are they successful or unsuccessful?
 - C Who are the people served by these businesses?
 - C Are they local or external?
 - C How do the neighbouring communities affect the success of the enterprises?
- 3.5. In what ways are the processes affecting First Nations communities similar to those affecting rural communities in general and in what ways are they unique?

This question arises from our research which has shown the similarity in discriminating characteristics of First Nations and rural communities in general. Strategies and policies regarding First Nations communities could be significantly affected by the identification of processes which are unique to First Nations communities from those which are faced by all rural communities.

4. Opportunities provided by the NRE Project

The New Rural Economy Project provides a unique opportunity to answer the questions above. It is a five-year national education and research project initiated in the spring of 1997. The project is conducted with the participation of researchers, policy-makers, business people, community activities, and rural citizens in a collaborative and comparative context.

A core feature of the project is the collection of information at both the general and local levels in a participatory manner combining research and education. Thirty-two rural sites have been selected using a sampling framework designed to ensure comparisons on five dimensions:

- C the exposure to the global economy,
- C the stability of the local economy,
- C the adjacency to metropolitan centres,
- C the availability of social and institutional infrastructure, and
- C the extent to which the location is leading or lagging on several dimensions.

Five of the current sites have a very high proportion of Aboriginal people and three of the five are reserves. The field work on these sites will produce information at a level which is more appropriate to the questions being asked: the organization of household production and survival, the movement of people, goods, and services, and the structure of local networks and organizations.

In addition to the field work, the NRE will continue the analysis of general information. The CSD database will be extended from 1991 to 1986, 1981, 1976, and 1996 to create an opportunity for longitudinal analysis. In addition, more administrative data will be integrated regarding government and private services: health, education, justice, enterprises, and associations. At each stage we will be able

to evaluate the quality of the information by comparing it to the data from the field studies.

Since the NRE project includes a major education component, it also creates important opportunities for the development of a local learning culture and national exchange. Local residents will be invited to participate in the research activities, workshops, and conferences of the project. In addition, researchers and students will be encouraged to visit more than one site in order to maximize the advantages accruing from comparative exposure. Our current practice of including Aboriginal students in the project will be continued as part of the ongoing work.

In sum, by integrating the macro, micro, and participatory aspects of the NRE project, we will be able to:

- C understand how local activities relate to more general processes,
- C separate structural from transitory effects,
- C separate characteristics which are unique to First Nations communities from those which are part of the rural milieu in general, and
- C maximize the opportunities for developing models which include new opportunities for local communities.

The conceptual and methodological framework of the NRE project provides an ideal context for addressing these issues. The field work activities of the project will permit us to fill in many of the gaps in our understanding of the local economic organization, both within the community and with nearby locations. In addition, the NRE project provides a national context in which comparisons can be made to identify and explore the many differences which we find between First Nations communities. It will also provide a rich comparative context for locating First Nations communities in the broader context of rural Canada: permitting us to separate the importance of 'ruralness' from that of First Nations status.

5. Information Needs

Our analysis of available data has identified some of the information which is required to more adequately address the question of economic and social integration and isolation in First Nations communities. The list is not complete, however. Our view of the process of information gathering is both iterative and collaborative. As a result of reviewing the literature and a preliminary analysis of available data, we are able to identify some of the major issues for data collection. As we make contact with other researchers and local people, our understanding will change and the information required will be modified to some extent. The NRE project will permit such flexibility even as it maintains a core of consistent data to allow the necessary comparisons to be made. Our suggestions for information, therefore, must be treated as an initial list: likely to be modified as the research proceeds. We will outline these information needs first, then discuss how they relate to the information to be collected as part of the NRE project.

Information on each of the substantive topics below must be collected at several levels of analysis. Since much of it requires details regarding individual characteristics, activities, relationships, and strategies, the research must involve field work of considerable depth. This implies a carefully drawn sample of individual interviews from within locales. It also implies the collection of information at the level of the field site. This will provide data on the economic, social, and cultural context in which people operate. Finally, we require information which will permit us to place each locale in its broader context. For this, we need data at a regional and national level, including within it, the particular sites chosen for the more in-depth field work. These three levels of data collection and analysis are involved in each of the more substantive topics identified below.

5.1. Domestic Production and the Informal Economy

There is considerable information available regarding domestic production and the informal economy but it is seldom developed or used in a comparative framework. This makes it difficult to identify the common elements in these activities, separate them from the more unique aspects, and thereby understand the nature of the processes which underlie domestic production and the informal economy. To overcome this limitation, we require comparative information from several locales which will inform us about people's activities, the relationships which support these activities, and the strategies they utilize to coordinate them. The locations must at least be chosen to provide comparisons on the dimensions we have identified in our preliminary report: Aboriginal status, location, and characteristics of the neighbouring communities. Questions regarding these issues should be designed to include the following elements.

- C activities related to domestic production and the informal economy;
- C information regarding where the activities are performed;
- C information regarding others who are involved in the activities (as participants or beneficiaries);
- C information regarding the ways in which the activities are coordinated with more formal labour market activities and other household members;
- C information regarding the changes in these activities over the last few years;
- C information regarding the strategies supporting the activities; and
- C appropriate formulations to include women's activities.

5.2. Wage Labour

Information from census and survey sources is sufficiently detailed to show that wage labour is an important but varied feature of First Nations economies. It is insufficient, however, to help us determine the way in which wage labour is articulated with other activities, responds to seasonal variations, or contributes to the integration of the local community. To explore these issues, it is necessary to make direct contact with rural residents.

The NRE field work plan includes an inventory of wage labour in the field sites. This will be developed from a survey of employers as well as a field site population survey. Our objective is to identify the employment opportunities which exist in the

region as well as the activities related to wage labour. Of particular interest will be the changing patterns of travel relating to employment. Information from this work will permit us to determine not only the extent of wage labour, but where people go for this employment, how it varies over the year, and how it is integrated with domestic and informal economic activities.

5.3. Income

Information regarding the sources of income will be gathered as part of our investigation of the informal market and wage labour. In addition, the extent and use of transfer payments and other sources of income will be of particular interest in the research. Income not only provides direct means for survival but it also serves as a necessary ingredient for access to the informal economy and social integration. This makes an examination of both formal and informal sources of income an important element of our work.

5.4. Business Enterprises

One of the core themes of the NRE project focuses on the role of small and medium sized enterprises in rural places. This makes the investigation of such enterprises a priority within each location. Profile work will outline the extent and nature of business enterprises and more detailed field work will follow up with a close study of the organization of these businesses, their relationship to the local population, their markets, their sources for supplies and capital, and their prospects. Particular attention will be given to the local, regional, national, and international networks which emerge and support the operation of enterprises in the field sites.

5.5. Commercial Consumption

Our preliminary analysis makes clear that there is considerable variation in the nature and extent of commercial consumption for First Nations communities. Since consumption plays an important role in the integration of local economies, it is imperative that we identify its characteristics and understand the implications of the variation. Our research will therefore determine the extent of consumption, and include with it an assessment of the extent to which it represents a flow of funds in and out of the community.

5.6. Organizations and Associations

Formal and informal organizations, associations, and networks are crucial elements for the quality of life and culture in rural communities. They can provide important links to local, national, and international opportunities even as they can serve to foster isolation. In addition, they are the major mechanism whereby state services are delivered to the population. For this reason, we will ensure that information regarding such organizations and associations is a part of our research. As with the information regarding enterprises, this will be gathered at the community level as well as the level of individuals. In all cases, we will include details regarding the level of access to organizational services, the nature and extent of participation in

them, and the opportunities they provide for learning social skills and expanding networks.

Special attention will be given to the level of access to government services in all sites. This will include an examination of the proximity of the various services as well as the obstacles to access such as language, literacy, or awareness.

5.7. Legal and Political Activities and Entitlements

First Nations peoples live under legal and political regimes which have determined the conditions of their existence for some time. The legacy of this situation must be examined as an important factor in the integration and isolation of their communities. The NRE project offers a unique opportunity to do this, since it adopts a methodology which allows comparison across those regimes and between First Nations communities and those of non-Aboriginal peoples. For this reason, we will include information regarding the legal and political history of each site, the structure and activities of local councils and political bodies, and the extent to which local citizens participate in those bodies.

5.8. Land and Amenities

The physical environment and the treatment of it can play a significant part in the isolation or integration of a community. Transaction costs can rise significantly with distance or difficult terrain, thus increasing the isolation. Beautiful natural landscapes can serve as an enticement for others, thereby serving as a force of integration. Both of these can be modified by human endeavour. We will include information regarding the amenities, the responses to them, and who has control over them as part of our research.

5.9. Demography

The population structure, family composition, density, and migration patterns significantly condition the extent of isolation and integration of rural communities. The availability of health and social support services is directly related to the population size and density, for example. Young families limit the opportunities for labour force participation and high mobility can increase the chance of integration into external communities through kinship networks. Each of these will be investigated as part of the NRE research.

6. Plan of Action

The broad framework for the research is provided by the results of our research in the first report and the structure of the NRE project. The latter consists of three major activities at the present time: an historical analysis of programs and policies which have been a part of rural Canada since the second World War; a macro-level analysis of rural CSDs; and field work in 32 rural sites. Our proposal for the

investigation of integration and isolation in First Nations communities follows the schedule of these activities in a number of respects.

6.1. Site Selection

The selection of the initial 32 sites was completed in December 1997. Five of the sites have a high proportion of Aboriginal peoples and three of them are under the jurisdiction of DIAND. Four of the sites were included for special attention in our previous report. Soowahlie was replaced by Pic Mobert in the final selection of sites for reasons relating to the overall sampling frame. The sites chosen are:

- C Indian Brook, NS (Reserve)
Indian Brook is a reserve near Halifax, it has a relatively high level of part-time and part-year employment by comparison to the other two nearby reserves. Only 39% of the population is in the labour force and the unemployment rate is 33%.
- C Pic Mobert South, ON (Reserve)
Located in Northern Ontario Pic Mobert is located about 270km east of Thunder Bay and about 240km north of Sault Ste. Marie. It is next to Pic Mobert North and not far from Pic River, both reserves. It has a higher level of mining and service employment as well as some manufacturing. 31% of the population is in the labour force.
- C Okanese, SK (Reserve)
Okanese is a smaller reserve surrounded by many others. It has a higher level of government service and accommodation employment by comparison to those in the radius. 47% of the population is in the labour force and the unemployment rate is 29%.
- C Upper Liard, YT
Although upper Liard is not a reserve, 98% of its population are aboriginal. It is situated in close proximity to two other reserves and has a relatively high level of fishing, manufacturing, retail and government service employment. 77% of the population is in the labour force and the unemployment rate is 15%.
- C Arctic Bay, NT
Arctic Bay is an Inuit community adjacent to the Nanisivik mine. This mine is scheduled to close in the summer of 1999: during the period of the NRE project. It has a high level of service employment and some secondary processing. 56% of the population is in the labour force and the unemployment rate is 19%

These sites provide a reasonable basis for comparison on a number of the issues. Three of them are adjacent to metropolitan regions, 3 have relatively stable economies, 3 are leading, and a range of employment sectors are represented. We expect that reserve populations will also be found in the CSDs surrounding a number of the other sites in the NRE sample (e.g. Port Alice, BC).

Should there be a compelling reason to change those sites, we would make the substitution in consultation with DIAND. We are also open to the inclusion of more

sites, provided they are consistent with the principles of the sampling framework and appropriate funding can be found.

Materials relating to the field site selection are the following:

- C Report: "A Sampling Frame for Non-Metropolitan Communities in Canada" (Reimer, 1995).
- C Report: "Understanding the New Rural Economy: Options and Choices - Sample Selection", (Reimer, 1997).
- C Presentation: "Sample Selection for the NRE Project", North Bay Workshop, May, 1997 (Reimer).
- C Report: Field Sites Selected, with preliminary census information, December, 1997.

6.2. Field Site Profiles

A profile of each site will be developed using easily available information. The information will come from two major sources: census and administrative databases, and initial contacts with local and regional people familiar with the sites. At this stage, we will not engage in systematic interviews or surveys at the local level. Details regarding the proposal for information to be collected and procedures to be followed in the field site can be found in the NRE Field Site Manual (Reimer, 1997) via the CRRF World Wide Web page.

The Profiles will be prepared by regional teams in collaboration with the Research Manager and Data Curator. As partners, DIAND personnel would participate in all aspects of the research.

Each site will have a Field Site Log in which information regarding the site, contacts with local people, methodologies employed, observations, and experiences will be recorded. The NRE researchers will be asked to contribute to this Log throughout the period of the project. These Logs will serve as a basis for coordination of activities, information, and evaluation as the project develops. They will also serve as a rich source of material for local people and those who continue similar research in the future.

Deadlines:

- C December 18, 1997: descriptions of each site using census and administrative data from the NRE CSD database.
- C January 5, 1998: finalization of information to be collected for the initial profiles.
- C March 20, 1998: descriptive profiles of each site: integrating data from the CSD database and initial discussions with local and regional people.

Products:

- C Logs: Field Site Logs,
- C Report: Field Site Profiles, March 27, 1998.
- C Report: Access to Government Services in Selected Sites, March 27, 1998

6.3. Extension and Analysis of CSD/ACP and Radius Databases

The analysis of the databases in our first report is a preliminary study. The value of the work has been demonstrated, particularly with respect to the analysis of radius locations. If support is forthcoming, such work will continue, with particular attention to:

- C refining the measure of similarity and analyzing the characteristics and processes associated with similarity or difference in local economies;
- C refining the measure of labour mobility and analyzing the characteristics and processes to which it relates;
- C refining the measure of local consumption and analyzing the characteristics and processes to which it relates;
- C examining the relationship between field work data and that which is available through census and survey materials; and
- C answering the relevant questions as identified in our previous report to DIAND.

We will also conduct an analysis of the utility of census and survey information in the light of data gathered at the level of the field sites. The availability of both types of information will provide an opportunity to evaluate the relative sensitivity of census and survey data to variations in community integration and isolation.

Deadlines:

- C May 29, 1998: report on the implications of the measures for understanding the isolation and integration of First Nations communities
- C October 31, 1998: report on the validity of census and survey data for understanding the isolation and integration of First Nations communities

Products:

- C Report: Isolation and Integration of First Nations Communities, May 29, 1998.
- C Periodic reports regarding the general context and characteristics of field sites.
- C Report: The Strengths and Limitations of Census and Survey Data for the analysis of rural issues, October 31, 1998

6.4. Preparations for intensive field site research

The work of the previous stage will provide introductions to the sites and a framework to develop research approaches and instruments for the later stages of the project. Two types of materials will be developed:

- C a manual of the core information to be collected in each site, and
- C a protocol for relating to local people in a way which helps develop a learning culture.

The manual will be developed using material from:

- C the Field Site Manual,
- C supporting documents,
- C proposals from NRE Theme teams,
- C proposals from focused and allied NRE research, and
- C proposals arising from the analysis of the profile information collected during the first stage of the research.

Deadlines:

- C April 24, 1998: Draft manual of the core information (with data collection instruments)
- C April 24, 1998: Draft manual of the protocol

Products:

- C Presentation: Core information to be collected, May 7-9, 1998
- C Training Sessions: Protocol and techniques for relating to field sites, May 7-9, 1998
- C Manual: Core Information for the field research (with instruments), May 29, 1998
- C Manual: Protocol for relating to field sites, May 29, 1998

6.5. Field Work data collection

Detailed field work will begin in June, 1998. It will continue throughout the period of the project according to the opportunities and developments in each of the regions. Information will be collected using a number of sources, such as:

- C interviews,
- C focus groups and local meetings,
- C local surveys,
- C historical and administrative documents, and
- C field notes.

The collection process will be participatory in nature, including local people, councils, and administrators, as well as NRE supporters from regions other than those of the site. The guidelines for this process will be established by the Protocol Manual, and monitored through regular evaluations.

At present, the Manual identifies many of the types of information which will be central to answering the questions posed above:

- C the operation and role of the informal economy
- C the nature of external relations: consumption, mobility, commuting, trade, capital flow, information transfer, associations
- C local initiatives, collective action, and the infrastructure supports for them
- C strategies of survival adopted by local citizens

Deadlines:

- C June, 1998: Begin field site research

Products:

- C Presentations: Initial findings re. core themes, October, 1998

- C Reports: Core theme, focused initiatives, and allied research products related to the field work will be produced throughout the NRE project.

6.6. Comparative Analysis of Field, Census, and Survey Information

This analysis will be conducted throughout the period of the NRE. It will provide an important analytical framework for relating sites to each other as well as to the regional and national data. This focus will make it possible to evaluate hypotheses which arise from the project, separate unique from general effects in the analysis, and develop policies which are less piecemeal in nature.

7. Possible Products

In addition to the information and analysis provided by the NRE themes, there are several products which could be of particular interest to DIAND. We will outline a few of these below.

- C A typology of First Nations rural economies.

This would include a description of each type identified with an emphasis on the dynamic nature of their economies. It would include a consideration of their relation to local issues, and a sensitivity to variations in their informal economic activities.

- C A description of the importance of Aboriginal communities to rural Canada

This description would include a discussion of their role in such things as markets, employment, economic innovation, environment, and social sustainability. Each of these items would be supported with information from existing sources and the NRE project.

- C A description and analysis of sources and the nature of social support

This analysis would be part of the NRE theme regarding inclusion and exclusion processes in rural Canada. It would include the study of access to and use of formal sources such as government and private services as well as more informal supports such as voluntary associations, friends, and kin.

- C A description of the roots of social collective action

This study would examine the roots of collective action in rural areas: in business, political, labour, cultural, and social spheres. Understanding the emergence and maintenance of such action in rural places will provide an important basis for communities to respond to the new rural economy and to take of opportunities which emerge.

8. Budget

The NRE Project is fundamentally a collaborative project. Funding partners will be included in all aspects of the research and have access to the full range of discussion and output from the work. The research is also iterative: although we will always work from an agreed plan, new questions will emerge as we pursue our objectives and we will move to include these questions should they be highly evaluated.

Funding support can take four forms as outlined below. They are not meant to be mutually exclusive options and are open to negotiation with respect to all their aspects.

8.1. Fund a Site

The estimated expenditure for conducting research in the field site is \$14,000 per site. This figure may vary depending on the remoteness of the site. This amount would provide the means for meeting with local residents in the site, arranging collaborative efforts for data collection and preparing the results for analysis.

Support on this basis would provide:

- C participation for DIAND in the design, implementation, and analysis of all aspects of the NRE project;
- C access to all information collected as part of the project;
- C a profile of each field site (the first version of these profiles will be prepared for March 1998);
- C field work documents including field logs, local materials, and analytic reports; and
- C reports of theme teams which integrate the site material on the core themes of the NRE project.

8.2. Fund an Issue

Funding would support a particular issue defined within the framework of the NRE. Funding would go to support meetings of the theme team and student support for research on the theme. Our estimate for this is between \$10,000 and \$14,000 per year. This amount would go toward field work and macro-level expenses related to the theme, the preparation and analysis of theme-specific information, student assistance, collaboration, materials, and overhead. Currently, the core themes of the NRE project include:

- C changing location and mobility
- C social and economic inclusion and exclusion
- C trapping and instability
- C employment and enterprise restructuring
- C historical review of public policies and programs
- C leading and lagging sites in rural Canada

Three issues are also under discussion:

- C aligning enterprises, environments, and social objectives in rural areas
- C rural health service provision
- C reducing trade and transaction costs

The questions identified for First Nations communities are closely allied to several of these themes: social and economic inclusion and exclusion, trapping and instability of rural economies, employment and enterprise restructuring, and health service provision. The special circumstances faced by First Nations peoples could be dealt with as part of these themes.

Support on this basis would provide:

- C participation for DIAND in the design, implementation, and analysis of all aspects of the NRE project;
- C access to all information collected as part of the project;
- C the guarantee that the funded theme team would devote considerable attention to the implications of the theme for First Nations people; and
- C reports from the funded theme team regarding the implications of the theme for First Nations peoples;

8.3. Fund a Question

Funding could go to answer a particular question of your choice so long as it is related to the substance and objectives of the NRE project. The funding would provide support for the development and investigation of the question using the NRE network and facilities. Costs would vary with the nature and demands of the question, but they would normally cover travel and subsistence costs for a team to meet several times a year, student support, materials, and overhead.

Support on this basis would provide:

- C participation for DIAND in the design, implementation, and analysis of all aspects of the NRE project;
- C access to all information collected as part of the project;
- C the guarantee that the NRE personnel would attempt to answer the question using all the relevant resources of the project (including conferences and workshops); and
- C a report on the question.

8.4. Fund the Future

The NRE project is a collaborative education project in addition to its research objectives. From this perspective, there are a number of possible activities which might be attractive to DIAND, particularly those related to education. These include the following.

- C provide support for seminars to discuss issues arising out of the NRE project. These could be oriented to students, policy-makers, DIAND personnel, rural people, or many other groups which are of interest to DIAND.
- C provide support for the preparation and distribution of research materials or documents to a wider audience than currently involved in the project. This

support could include the provision of rewriting services to make the documents more accessible to the public, translation services, publication services, or mailing support, in cash or in kind.

Costs would be negotiated on the basis of the activity proposed.

Support on this basis would provide:

- C participation for DIAND in the design, implementation, and analysis of all aspects of the NRE project;
- C access to all information collected as part of the project; and
- C products, documents, and activities related to the activity supported.