

THE NEW RURAL ECONOMY PROJECT (1998-99)

Interim Report to the Rural Secretariat

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This report focuses on the accomplishments of the NRE Project as they relate to the Project Number NA/RES/0005 supported by the Rural Secretariat of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. This contract provides support for four major items on the NRE agenda: the Data Curator for the NRE Data Centre, a workshop and conference, two research projects, and accounting services. The NRE Project includes many more elements than these four. Details regarding these elements, the Project in general, and its founding organization (the Canadian Rural Restructuring Foundation), can be found in Appendices B and C of this report, the NRE Web page (<http://nre.concordia.ca>), and the CRRF Web page (http://arts-ci-ccwin.concordia.ca/SocAnth/CRRF/crrf_hm.html).

1. Data Centre and Curator

We were very pleased to announce the inauguration of the NRE Data Centre and Web site at the 1998 CRRF National Conference this month. The Data Centre serves as the communication, data collection, archiving, and analysis facility for the NRE Project. All information pertaining to the NRE's research activities, whether they be on paper, audio-visual media, or in electronic, machine-readable formats, is being inventoried and stored at the Centre.

The Centre is much more than an information archive. It also serves as an Internet resource base and practical working tool for participants in the NRE research. By using the Web site as a communication forum, the Data Centre offers unprecedented access to other rural people, to the project network, and to the Centre itself.

The Rural Data Centre plays an important role in the NRE's research activities by supplying it with the electronic means to gather and study information from the 32 sites involved in the project. Questionnaires and field manuals for economic, statistical, and ethnographic analysis are available to the NRE researchers at every phase of the study. The data collected from this research is discussed and analyzed, reports are produced, and the results are distributed to all members of the NRE via its Web site.

The Rural Data Centre offers the opportunity to "compare notes" with others by accessing the site data posted on the NRE Web page, or conduct investigations using the search and analysis features of the online database. It is also possible for members to download material from the Web site in various formats using FTP, for analysis on their own computers. The Data Centre's Web site is an invitation to exchange with other NRE members in a dynamic and direct way, thus enriching and broadening the research and education process itself. This aspect of the Centre's function is one of the most exciting, for it enables rural people located all across the country, to work together in a professional, immediate, and congenial electronic environment.

Since the spring of 1998, Mr. Roger has been at work researching, installing, and programming the equipment in preparation for its role. The fruits of his labour are now visible on the NRE web site (<http://nre.concordia.ca>).

The heart of the Rural Data Centre's electronic information exchange function is an Internet Web server which runs the NRE's Web site and doubles as an archiving and data analysis tool. In its present configuration, the NRE server can hold up to 108 gigabytes of data internally and is equipped with a recordable CD ROM burner in order to backup, store and distribute the NRE's data. A high resolution scanner is also connected to the server for scanning maps and images or for performing Optical Character Recognition when needed.

The Data Centre also has access to standard and DAT tape recorders, VHS videocassette dubbing equipment and photocopying services via its agreement with the Concordia Centre for Broadcasting Studies, with which it shares office space.

We have been very pleased with the support from the Rural Secretariat and Concordia University which has made this facility possible. As the amount of information grows and the Centre becomes fully operational as a research tool, we expect that the demands on its staff will create a major pressure for growth. Our plans are to use the current infrastructure and benefits as a basis for soliciting additional support in the future.

2. Workshop and Conference

The NRE workshop was held in St. Donat, Québec from May 7th to 10th, 1998. It was an important event since it provided an opportunity for us to examine preliminary results from the project and to prepare for the more intensive field work to come. Presentations from some of the field sites helped to focus the discussion on practical issues faced by the researchers and the interventions of policy-makers created pressure for linking the theoretical concerns to pragmatic outcomes.

Funding for the infrastructure of the project emerged as a crucial problem during this period since we were notified by HRDC that our previous level of support was not renewed. As a result, it was necessary to take extreme measures in the reorganization of our administrative structure. In order to direct all our resources to the research objectives of the project, we decided to terminate the employment of our Research Manager and revert back to a volunteer for this position. We will miss Joan Marshall's valuable contribution as Research Manager. She was instrumental in rescuing the PEI conference when it was in trouble, then went on to organize the workshop in St. Donat. She coordinated the plethora of interests represented in our project, prepared and organized the site workbooks, negotiated a number of important partnerships, and expanded our network of collaboration. It is difficult to see how we will manage without her.

The CRRF National Conference was a great success, with over 140 people attending. It was held in Nelson, BC from October 14th to 17th under the title "Small Communities: Moving Beyond Marginalization". It was very ably organized with the help of the Regional District of Central Kootenay.

Topics discussed included 'The Challenges', 'Rural Governance', 'Leading and Lagging Communities', 'First Nations Perspectives', 'The Face of Success', 'The Municipal Finance Authority', 'The New Demand-Driven Rural Economy', 'Marginalized People Fight Back', 'The Healthy Environment', 'Small Community: Big Business', 'Rural Development: New Challenges', and 'New Ideas'. Representatives from many sectors of private business, government, the research community, and local citizens attended. Some examples of non-CRRF presenters were Paul West of Community Futures; Michelle Dimock from Tripartite Public Educations; Robert Inwood from Mainstreet Consulting Association; Jim Craven from the Municipal Finance Authority; the Honourable Corky Evans, BC Minister of Agriculture and Food; Bill vab Yserloo of the West Kootenay Power and Light Corporation; Fred Inglis of the Celgar Pulp Company; Josh Smienk of the Columbia Basin Trust; Victor Jmaeff of the Columbia Power Corporation; Nancy More of the Columbia Brewery; John Kettle of the Lower Kootenay Band; and the Mayors of Nelson and Creston. International guests participated from the Netherlands, Sweden, Brazil, the USA, and Japan.

As is customary at CRRF conferences, participants spent a day on a local tour. This time, two busses took people on separate tours to Castlegar and Creston. Conference sessions were held 'on the road' in addition to the visits to Nelson Hydro, the Brilliant Cultural Centre, Celgar Pulp, the Doukhobor Museum, the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Centre, Columbia Brewery, and the Lower Kootenay Band Facility. Once again, the tours formed a significant highlight of the

conference, not only for the direct exposure they provide to rural activities, but to the congenial and informative relationships which develop along the way.

The National Conference also provided an opportunity for the NRE researchers to meet in a special workshop session before the conference events. This was an extremely valuable meeting since it meant that many of the issues discussed in the St. Donat workshop could be followed up, and the rich field experiences of the researchers could be shared and discussed. It was also an important occasion for the four theme teams and 2 working groups to get together. A more detailed account of the results from the NRE pre-conference workshop can be found in Appendix A of this report.

3. Research Activities

3.1. Access to Government Programs and Services

Our previous report entitled "Access to Federal Government Services in Rural Canada: Preliminary Field Site Findings" provided results from 14 of the 32 field sites in the NRE sample. It suggested the following results.

- C The average times to emergency services in our field sites compares favourably with urban centres, ranging between 2 and 18 minutes.
- C Only education services showed a decrease in distance between 1981 and 1998: all other services increased or remained the same.
- C The economic stability, metro-adjacency, and institutional capacity of the field sites were most likely to be related to the proximity of services.
- C The views of local administrators regarding access to services differ from those of the local citizens. Administrators tend to consider the presence of services in the community as essential, whereas local citizens feel it is sufficient that they are nearby (except for groceries).

By the time of the October conference, 6 more sites had been completed. The remaining sites represent those which are much more difficult to include for various reasons. Most important of these is the care which is necessary to establish contact with the sites and nurture our relationship. This process is well under way for nine of the remaining sites. The final three sites will require additional attention before their final status in the project can be confirmed.

Upon the completion of 29 sites, we will integrate the information into the earlier report, extend the analysis where appropriate, and circulate it to the NRE network before the end of February. If we are able to establish a relationship with the final 3 sites and collect the necessary information, they will be included in the report. Should this not be possible, we will reevaluate the methodology and strategy before proceeding to select other sites. Under these circumstances, we may find it necessary to proceed on the basis of 29 rather than 32 sites rather than jeopardize our relationships with the local period. This strategy will require some adjustment to the contract agreement with the Rural Secretariat.

The Access to Services project has served as a basis for a more extensive initiative funded by the Canadian Rural Partnerships Program. Entitled "Assessing the Impact of Government Funding on Voluntary Associations in Rural Canada", it arose from the feedback we received in our initial contacts with the field sites. The CRP project will examine the problems faced and benefits received by voluntary associations as they attempt to establish partnerships with government funding agencies at all levels. It will also propose solutions to any problems which might arise. A working group has been established under the leadership of Greg Halseth. It has begun developing an instrument to collect information from voluntary associations in eight of the field sites. It will work closely with those preparing the Access to Government Programs and Services documents in order to capitalize on the learning which takes place from the field work.

3.2. Major Economic and Demographic Changes in Rural Canada

This project has advanced considerably as the result of the Nelson meeting. A working group has been established under the leadership of Bill Reimer. The NRE Steering Committee has approved a procedure whereby a group of experts will be invited to participate in a workshop on the topic with the purpose of producing the basic documents for a book length manuscript. At the same time, the NRE will expand the rural Canada database to include 1986 and 1996 data in preparation for analysis based on the experts' suggestions.

The purpose of this book is to provide perspectives on strategic options for citizens and decision-makers in rural Canada. Each author will be asked to respond to the following questions:

- Ⓒ What are the most important structural features and/or processes affecting contemporary rural Canada?
- Ⓒ What empirical indicators (existing or potential) might be used to reflect these features and processes?

When answering these questions, they will be asked to consider the structures and processes which are most important for community, business, and government decision-makers to consider when identifying their strategic options for the future.

The current work plan calls for the following critical dates.

December 15, 1998: Each author will be required to provide a 1-2 page outline of the key points to be presented in their paper. This should include a tentative list of empirical indicators which might be used to reflect the structural features and processes identified. Where possible, the NRE Data Centre will conduct an analysis of census data related to those indicators for the period 1981 to 1996.

February 28, 1999: Each author is required to submit a first draft of the paper.

The submission of the first draft by February 28th will mean that the author is eligible to attend an authors' retreat to discuss and critique each paper. Each author will be requested to read at least three other papers in preparation for the retreat and come prepared to discuss them. At the retreat, each author will be expected to rework their own paper on the basis of the discussion and to submit a draft before leaving.

The drafts produced from the retreat will be used in three ways. First, they will serve as the basis for discussion during the workshop (likely to be held in early March). Second, they will be submitted to the Rural Secretariat with the analysis of indicators in fulfilment of our contract obligations for the "Major Economic and Demographic Changes in Rural Canada" project. Third, they will be used as material for a book directed to university and policy-maker audiences. This book will be polished over the summer of 1999 with a view to publication in 1999 or early 2000. It will stand as a major contribution to the state of information and perspectives on rural Canada and a culmination of many years work on the part of CRRF.

To date, a list of 68 names has been established by the working group. This must be reduced to approximately 20 names in order to meet budget constraints. Discussions regarding this reduction are currently under way. The first distribution of invitations will be made by the 13th of November. In order to meet the requirements of the contract, we propose the following schedule for reports to the Rural Secretariat.

- Ⓒ The list of initial invitations will be copied to the Rural Secretariat's Representative.
- Ⓒ The Representative will also be informed of additions and alterations to this list as they occur.
- Ⓒ A report on the 1-2 page outlines received will be submitted to the Representative by December 31st, 1999. This will include a list of variables identified in the outlines which are in addition to those identified in the contract.

- C An interim report on the data analysis of appropriate variables will be submitted to the Representative by January 31st, 1999.
- C The final report will be submitted by March 19th, 1999. This will include the data analysis of variables, the manual for their access, and the first drafts of the papers produced for the workshop. The delay in the submission date from that specified in the contract will enable us to integrate the results of the drafts received from the experts.

4. Audit

The final item in the contract is for the payment of accounting expenses. This will be used at an appropriate point in the year.

APPENDIX A - The NRE Pre-Conference Workshop October 14th, 1998, Nelson, BC

The CRRF Conference provided an opportunity for many of the people involved in the NRE Project to meet for a special workshop. It was well attended, with over 25 people from all parts of the country, and a few of our international guests. It was particularly exciting since this was the first occasion for us to compare experiences from the many field sites. It is gratifying to see how thoroughly the research in the sites is informing our work.

Some of the highlights of the Workshop are the following.

C Bill Reimer announced the launching of the NRE Web site (<http://nre.concordia.ca>). It includes information regarding the project, but it is much more. All of the information, documents, and e-mail discussions relating to the project will be posted on the site. This means maps, photos, field notes, and statistical information will be made available to researchers and communities participating in the work. It promises to be an important communication and research tool for rural Canadians. Roger is the Data Curator for the Centre. He can be contacted at NRE@VAX2.CONCORDIA.CA

C Tony Fuller and Ellen Wall outlined the findings from their work in the southern Ontario sites. Their work in these sites has been supported by the Sustainable Rural Communities Programme financed through the Minister of Agricultural and Rural Affairs in partnership with the University of Guelph.

They pointed to the dramatic changes taking place in their region: school board and service closings combined with the aggregation of community boundaries have placed considerable stress on rural citizens. They asked "How can we be effectively listening to these communities and provide research tools which can best serve their needs?" Tony also raised the question regarding the terminology we use for discussing our work. He suggested that the concept of "livelihood" has struck a cord with many of the potential partners and funders in his region.

C Patrice Leblanc presented material from the 6 Québec sites. The Québec team was the first to complete the profiles for their sites and are now eager to begin the next stage of the research. Patrice emphasized how important it was that we maintain frequent and regular contact with the sites in order to ensure our credibility in their eyes and to keep the level of motivation high.

The Québec team discovered an important difference between local administrators and the rest of the population with respect to the question of access to services. Local administrators felt that services should be located in their municipality (possibly to attract labour and increase the tax base), whereas most other citizens accepted that nearby services are sufficient, even if they were in nearby communities. They felt that having to travel for some services was a reasonable compromise for living in rural areas without the high levels of traffic, pollution, and population. They did not feel this way regarding groceries, however. They wished to have a variety of fresh food nearby.

C Greg Halseth outlined the results from the two Northern BC sites. Both of them face considerable economic leakages due to their location just off the main highway. It means that local people can easily get out, but tourists on their way to Alaska are unlikely to pass through the town.

Greg reinforced the concerns expressed by the Québec team that we need to deliver materials back to the communities. They must see tangible benefits to a relationship with our

project. This could include information about their community, instruction regarding how to interpret it, contacts with other communities, or the rationales necessary to seek government funding. He also emphasized the need to develop a reasonable time-line for carrying out our research and developing the key findings.

C Derek Wilkinson described his work in Humphrey, ON. This community has recently undergone a boundary shift by being amalgamated with the surrounding townships. When he approached the community, he found that as long as the NRE was not asking for money they were interested in participating. They were particularly interested in learning how other communities deal with population dispersity and access to services given the changing geographic landscape.

C Michael Gertler provided an outline of his work in the Saskatchewan sites. His concerns focused on the problem of whether the sites fit well into the allotted cells and the project design.

C Peter Apedaile discussed his experiences in the Alberta sites. The first response of those in the sites was to reject the proposal since they experienced a significant problem of volunteer 'burnout'. Upon subsequent discussion, however, two of the three sites have expressed willingness to participate, and it is possible that the third will follow in the future. The problems of demand on volunteers is one which should be included in our study since it is shared by many rural communities.

C Jaap Post and Ida Terluin from the Netherlands discussed their work on a similar project in Europe. Their principle foci were the employment levels and labour markets in nine European countries. They identified some of the major differences between leading and lagging regions from the point of view of labour employment. This work reinforced the importance of good networks, the capacity to diagnose the regional situation, intersectoral cooperation, and the adaption of policies to the strengths and needs of a region.

C Several important questions were identified which summarize the concerns of those at the workshop. They are the following.

C How do we give back to the communities and who represents the community?

C What is a reasonable time frame for our work?

C How do we make the plans a reality?

C How do we negotiate the next stages of the NRE?

C What are the best types of relationships to develop with the sites?

C How should we identify the site boundaries in a systematic fashion?

C What is to be done with the 'empty cells' in the sampling frame?

These questions and the discussion related to them was referred to the NRE Steering Committee for action.

C Reports on the four NRE Theme Teams were given by the theme leaders. Additional members for the teams were identified and the teams met to prepare for their future activities. The themes and their leaders are identified below. Please contact the leader if you wish to participate in one of the teams. Descriptions of the themes are provided on the NRE web page. Results for the first two are summarized in the "What Have We Learned?" document on the FTP site and details of these findings can be found in the relevant reports on the same site.

C Spatial dynamics of settlements and activities in rural Canada. Tony Fuller is the leader. (fuller@uoguelph.ca)

C Processes of inclusion and exclusion of rural people and communities. Bill Reimer is the leader. (reimer@vax2.concordia.ca)

C The changing structure of rural enterprises and institutions. André Joyal is the leader. (andre_joyal@uqtr.qc.ca)

- C Processes of change in natural resources and their associated communities. Michael Gertler is the leader. (gertler@sask.usask.ca)

APPENDIX B - Other NRE Activities

1. NRE Working Groups

Two working groups have been established to organize activities related to the next stages of the NRE Project. Information on these groups can be found on the NRE site. For further information contact the group leader.

- C Working Group on Third Sector Organizations and Associations. Greg Halseth is the leader. (halseth@unbc.ca)

This group is busy developing a framework and instruments for examining the role of voluntary associations and third sector organizations in rural communities. They will be testing the approach in eight of the field sites and using this as a basis for future work in all of the sites. Not only are they interested in describing the characteristics of these organizations, but they will be exploring the problems local groups face when attempting to establish partnerships with government. Work is proceeding quickly on these issues, so if you wish to become involved, contact Greg immediately.

- C Working Group on Major Changes in Rural Canada. Bill Reimer is the leader. (reimer@vax2.concordia.ca)

This group is mandated to prepare a report regarding the most important structural features or processes affecting contemporary rural Canada. In doing so they will examine the data on the rural Canada database which reflects those structures or changes. They have decided to produce the report by asking a number of prominent researchers and practitioners for their reflections on these issues. They will be asked to consider those structures and processes which are most important for community, business, and government decision-makers to consider when identifying their strategic options for the future.

2. NRE Task Force on Methodology

As a result of our work in the sites, we have been faced with a number of important methodological issues which need to be addressed. This includes questions about the validity of the sampling frame, the appropriate boundaries for the research sites, the protocols which are used as we establish relations with those sites, and the comparability of the information we are gathering. Many of these questions will not be easily resolved and many more will arise as we move ahead on our project. A Task Force on Methodology has been established to address these questions, to identify new ones as they emerge, to suggest solutions where appropriate, and to propose strategies for dealing with the problems which are too difficult to solve in the short term. We expect that the activities of this committee will form a valuable basis for our future work and choices. The members of the Task Force are Tom Beckley (tmbeckle@nrcan.gc.ca), Patrice Leblanc (patrice_leblanc@uqat.quebec.ca), Bill Reimer (reimer@vax2.concordia.ca), and Derek Wilkinson (derek@nickel.laurentian.ca).

3. A New Partnership with Japan

The Nelson conference was also the occasion for an exciting new liaison between CRRF and the "Institute for Rural Revitalization for the 21st Century" (IRR21) in Japan. The NRE Project plays a significant role in this liaison. For 5 years, CRRF has been discussing the possibility of a formal agreement between our organizations. Members of our network have visited Japan on a number of occasions and representatives from Japan participated in our National Conference in Coaticook two years ago. This year Dr. Nobuhiro Tsuboi attended the conference in Nelson with a proposal from the IRR21 team to establish a formal exchange and research program between Canada and Japan.

Our common interest in the revitalization of rural communities is the primary focus of this exchange. We will send two people to Japan to sign the agreement this winter.

This agreement is a most exciting one for us. Not only does it provide a valuable opportunity for us to learn from the Japanese, but it stands as a unique accomplishment in international relations. To our knowledge, it is the only agreement of its kind with Japan. We are very indebted to Peter Apedaile for all of the energy he has expended to make this possible.

4. A Brief List of Activities Under Way

In summary, here is a list of the activities now under way. As you can see, there is considerable work being done with some valuable and exciting results likely to emerge. If you see something which interests you, contact us immediately so that you won't miss out. If you are concerned that something is missing, let us know. Don't forget to check out our web pages on a regular basis.

- C The 4 Theme Teams: prepare frameworks and projects.
- C Working Group on Third Sector Organizations and Associations: prepare framework, design instruments, select sites, conduct site research, prepare reports.
- C Complete Site Profiles: Establish relations and collect initial information with the 12 other sites in the NRE sampling frame.
- C Update the "Access to Federal Government Services" document: integrate information from the remaining sites, consult with Working Group on Third Sector, prepare report.
- C Working Group on Major Changes in Rural Canada: identify consultants, prepare papers, organize workshop, prepare report.
- C Task Force on Methodology: identify issues, collect information regarding contacts with sites, prepare responses to issues, prepare reports.
- C Site Teams: complete profiles where appropriate, prepare feedback materials for local people, identify local needs.
- C Data Centre: develop web site, integrate 1986, 1991, 1996 census data into rural Canada database, conduct analysis in support of Working Groups and Sites.
- C Steering Committee: integrate, verify, expand the vision!

5. Reports and Documents

Our list of reports and documents is growing. Most of these can be found via the NRE web pages.

- C The NRE Research Business Plan
- C A Sampling Frame for Non-Metropolitan Communities in Canada
- C A Preliminary History of Rural Development Policy and Programmes in Canada, 1945-1995
- C Analysis of Leading and Lagging CSDs in Rural Canada
- C The Social and Economic Integration and Isolation of First Nations Communities: An Exploratory Review
- C Access to Federal Government Services in Rural Canada: Preliminary field site findings
- C The Spatial Dynamics of Labour Supply in the New Rural Economy, by Tony Fuller
- C A List of Variables in the NRE Rural Database
- C NRE Field Site Manual
- C Understanding the NRE: What Have We Learned?

APPENDIX C: What Have We Learned?

November 6, 1998

These comments reflect only a few of the insights which the NRE project has produced since its inception. Action to be taken is identified in terms of the theme or working groups which are primarily responsible. The keywords are:

- C **thspace**: Spatial dynamics of settlements and activities in rural Canada (fuller@uoguelph.ca)
- C **thinex**: Processes of inclusion and exclusion of rural people and communities (reimer@vax2.concordia.ca)
- C **thenter**: The changing structure of rural enterprises and institutions (andre_joyal@uqtr.qc.ca)
- C **thresources**: Processes of change in natural resources and their associated communities (gertler@sask.usask.ca)
- C **wgorg**: Working Group on Organizations and Associations in Rural Canada (halseth@unbc.ca)
- C **wgchanges**: Working Group on Major Changes in Rural Canada (reimer@vax2.concordia.ca)
- C **dcentre**: Rural Canada Data Centre (nre@concordia.ca)

What Have We Done?	What Have We Learned?	What Needs to Be Done?
Created the Rural Database	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C Information useful for our interests is limited: we need more social and institutional information and more longitudinal information C We need more 'ground-truthing' of existing census and survey information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C conduct field work on communities, organizations, households C develop database at CSD level C integrate 1986 and 1996 census data (dcentre) C develop more models and conceptual frameworks (theme teams) C establish procedures to combine CSDs into broader site boundaries (dcentre) C establish instruments to integrate events and characteristics outside CSDs (theme teams, dcentre)
Analysis of Leading and Lagging CSDs in Rural Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C Leading and lagging characteristics are multidimensional and independent with 4 primary dimensions: employment income-related; home ownership & marriage-related; self-employment-related; housing cost-related. C Leading and lagging characteristics shift to some extent when considered on a regional basis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C compare analysis over time (wgchanges) C develop regional models of L/L (thinex) C test dimensions (thinex, dcentre) C consider special events which have occurred in communities (thinex)
Developed a Sampling Frame for Rural Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C The 5 dimensions on which the frame is based are important for understanding several aspects of our NRE research C The available data is inadequate to identify cells in a reliable manner: esp. with respect to trade, economic base, institutional base, and changes in status. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C validate current site selection (dcentre) C integrate more appropriate data (dcentre) C reconsider implications of using CSDs as primary sampling unit (dcentre)

What Have We Done?	What Have We Learned?	What Needs to Be Done?
A Preliminary History of Rural Development Policy and Programmes in Canada, 1945-1995	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∅ Rural development requires continuous human capacity building; planned development at the community level rather than top-down; more attention paid to diversification, marketing, and consumption rather than primary production and megaprojects; better integration of programmes; intercommunity co-operation; and more reliance on local community participation rather than 'partnership' among unequals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∅ Identify how policies and programs emerge, are maintained, and change. ∅ Examine outcomes of policies and programs. ∅ Integrate with other historical events - wars, policies, etc.
Economic Integration and Isolation of First Nations Communities: An Exploratory Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∅ Domestic production is important to understanding First Nation economies ∅ FN economies are not isolated from their neighbours. ∅ FN economies have lower rates of labour force participation, a narrower range of industries, and a higher rate of government transfers than their neighbouring communities. ∅ FN economies are similar to their neighbours with respect to levels of self-provisioning, consumption, and unemployment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∅ Conduct more detailed field studies with respect to trade, local commerce, local governance, and organizational networks. (thinex) ∅ Make comparisons on relevant dimensions: adjacency, leading/lagging (thinex) ∅ literature review on international aboriginals ∅ examine prejudice issues
Established access with most rural sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∅ Volunteer 'burnout' is a significant problem which affects even our collaboration with rural communities. ∅ Considerable flexibility is required to establish relationships with the local communities. ∅ We need to establish a joint purpose with local sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∅ Identify community processes and characteristics associated with volunteer activities. (wgorg) ∅ Identify third sector demands and networks. (wgorg) ∅ Document our experiences as we establish relationships with sites. ∅ Get funding for site research.
Examined human capital contributions to leading and lagging status of rural communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∅ Community leadership is now more important and requires greater knowledge of the community economy. ∅ Services requiring skills and business networking are growing in importance in rural areas. ∅ Rural Canada has a high labour market demographic pressure index. ∅ The rural/urban gap in share of individuals with higher education is relatively high in Canada. ∅ Human capital development starts in infancy ∅ Most benefits of training go to places outside rural sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∅ Develop policy education which shifts from informing communities about policy to empowering communities to develop policy. (thinex, thenter, wgorg, wgchanges) ∅ Distinguish training and education in our analysis. (theme and working groups)
Prepared profiles of field sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∅ Local perceptions of site boundaries vary by activity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∅ Expand data from sites. (dcentre)

What Have We Done?	What Have We Learned?	What Needs to Be Done?
<p>Access to Federal Government Services in Rural Canada: An Exploratory Review</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∅ Average times to emergency services in our field sites compares favourable with urban centres. ∅ Only education services showed a decrease in distance between 1981 and 1998 in our field sites. ∅ Economic stability, metro-adjacency, and institutional capacity of the field sites are most likely to affect proximity to services. ∅ Local administrators view access to services on different terms than local citizens. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∅ Identify the processes which have contributed to changes in proximity. (wgorg) ∅ Identify the consequences of various levels of access for the local population. (wgorg) ∅ Investigate the different perceptions of access in local populations. (wgorg) ∅ Examine alternate models of access. (wgorg) ∅ Share solutions and results among the sites. (wgorg) ∅ Distinguish service economies: consumer, business, or investment. (wgorg) ∅ Identify costs of provisioning and financing. (wgorg) ∅ Identify jurisdictional standards. (wgorg)
<p>Developed dynamic model of local economies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∅ The timing of policy changes matter. ∅ Rural income problems persist. ∅ Rural areas are absolutely disadvantaged except for natural resource sectors. ∅ Positively selective out-migration continues. ∅ The economic function of a place does not determine income performance. ∅ Social cohesiveness is important. ∅ Economic structure does not explain income levels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∅ Compare model results to field data. ∅ Refine and elaborate the models.
<p>Established Rural Data Centre and Web Site (http://nre.concordia.ca)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∅ To establish a useful infrastructure, all participants need education. ∅ Identifying academic and local interests is difficult. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∅ Develop web pages. (dcentre) ∅ Educate network in its use. (dcentre) ∅ Provide information for sites and network. (dcentre)
<p>Established Theme Team: Spatial dynamics of settlements and activities in rural Canada (fuller@uoguelph.ca)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∅ Outmigration of youth likely contributes to low level of unemployment. ∅ Automotive transport is important for job and service accessibility. ∅ There are few activity differences among residents in southern Ontario. ∅ Multiple job holding is common in southern Ontario. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∅ Examine push and pull factors for youth migration ∅ Examine the role of transportation in accessibility. ∅ Examine how conditions and strategies affect activity patterns. ∅ Consider changes in multiple job holding.
<p>Established Theme Team: Processes of inclusion and exclusion of rural people and communities (reimer@vax2.concordia.ca)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∅ processes of inclusion/exclusion linked to changing relationships between economic institutions, state institutions, and civil society. ∅ These institutions are not complementary in their distribution of material resources and services. ∅ 4 vulnerable types of rural people are elderly, single mothers, working poor, and Aboriginal peoples. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∅ Examine the interdependencies between private, state, and civil institutions. (thinex) ∅ Examine the use of these institutions by vulnerable groups. (thinex) ∅ Identify strategies to minimize economic, social, and political exclusion. (thinex)

What Have We Done?	What Have We Learned?	What Needs to Be Done?
Established Theme Team: The changing structure of rural enterprises and institutions (andre_joyal@uqtr.qc.ca)		
Established Theme Team: Processes of change in natural resources and their associated communities (gertler@sask.usask.ca)		
Established Working Group on Organizations and Associations in Rural Canada (halseth@unbc.ca)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ⓒ Local organizations and associations provide considerable support for economic, social, political, and personal sustainability. Ⓒ The extent of connectedness between organizations and communities plays an important role (positive and negative) in the options available for community sustenance. Ⓒ Voluntary associations provide some support for vulnerable people where the private, state, and family sectors do not. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ⓒ Complete profile workbook in all sites Ⓒ Develop framework Ⓒ Develop data collection instrument Ⓒ Conduct field research Ⓒ Develop education strategy Ⓒ Update "Access to Services" report
Established Working Group on Major Changes in Rural Canada (reimer@vax2.concordia.ca)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ⓒ List of processes and structures to consider: development of new technologies; economic globalization; corporate reorganization; reorganization of local power structures; labour and work structure; environmental pressures; availability of natural resources; shift from welfare state; population growth; legitimacy crisis of the state; changing patterns of mobility. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ⓒ Refine the list of changes Ⓒ Elaborate the processes and structures involved Ⓒ Develop indicators of the processes and structures Ⓒ Examine relevant data (wgchanges)