

The State of Rural Canada: A National Perspective on Rural Policy

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Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation CRRF

Mission: the promotion and enhancement of the quality of life in Canada's small and rural communities

Retreat From Rural

Dismantling of rural institutions

- Bill Reimer and Sean Markey 2013

Canada's small towns under siege

- Lindsay Jolivet 2013



State of Rural Canada (SORC)

Rural Policy Learning Commons
(RPLC)

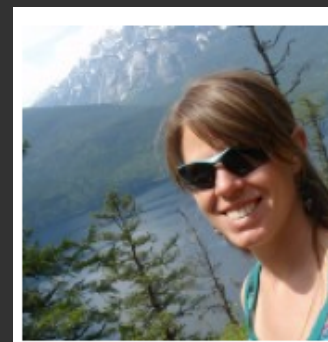
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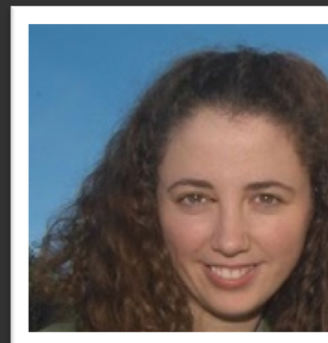
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**OVER 41 INDIVIDUALS
VOLUNTEERED THEIR
TIME**

British Columbia

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**Other Contributors
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Why Does Rural Canada Matter?



SORC Highlights: Challenges





Economic Restructuring

Larger but fewer farms

**More productive but
smaller workforces in
mining and forestry**

Globalization

Boom-bust economies

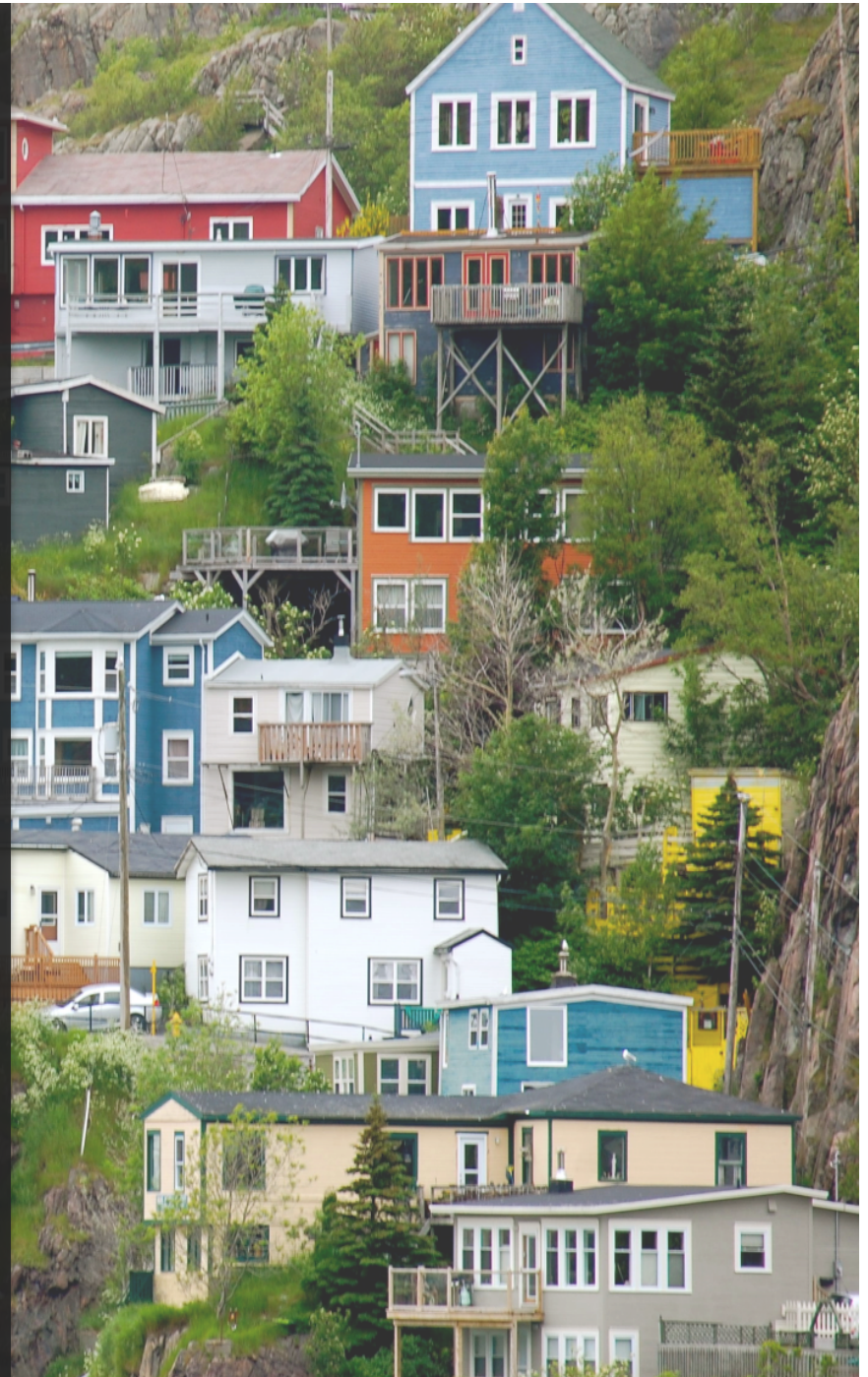
Demographics

Accelerated population aging

Youth out-migration

Rapid growth in the North

*Is the current rural labour force
adequately prepared for
participation in the new rural
economy?*





Infrastructure Deficit & Service Provision

Two-thirds of First Nations have
been under at least 1 water
advisory between 2004 and 2014
-CBC News, 2015

Shoal Lake residents weep as feds
balk at funding road construction
-CTVNews, 2015

Rural Development Policies

Rural has taken a
“back seat”

Sectoral Development

“boots on the ground”

Doing more with less



SORC Highlights: Lessons Learned



Act Regionally

“ ... if you took a pencil in your hand and you snapped it, it's easy. But if you put five pencils in your hand you can't break that ”

Key Informant – Stuck Between A
Rock & A Hard Place, Hall 2012



Investing in Place & Place-Based Development

~~One-size-fits-all~~

Invest in the
capacity of a place
to develop itself

Non-profits & Philanthropy

Volunteers

Cooperatives

Social Enterprises

Charitable Foundations






Back-to-the-land

Back at 30

**Local Food
Movements**

SORC Recommendations



A photograph of a stone tower, likely a lighthouse or observation tower, situated on a rocky hill. The tower has several windows that are illuminated from within, casting a warm glow. The hill is covered in sparse vegetation and rocks. The sky is a pale, hazy pink, suggesting dusk or dawn. The overall scene is quiet and somewhat somber.

**Provincial, Territorial, and
Federal governments
must develop a new and
robust vision and policy
frameworks for rural
Canada.**

**Rural communities
must be active
participants in
understanding,
planning and investing
in their own futures.**





Truth and
Reconciliation
Commission of Canada

All Canadians must participate in the window of opportunity that follows the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada to acknowledge and seek serious corrective steps to heal the “historical trauma” suffered by Aboriginal peoples in this country

Special Sessions

- * **CRRF/CAG Rural Geography Study Group**
- * **Themes: Agricultural, rural policy, Aboriginal capacity building & natural resources, community forestry, and regional planning & governance**

Thank You!



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www.sorc.crrf.ca

www.guelph2016.crrf.ca



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