


The New Rural Economy Project: A CRRF Success Story

CRRF AGM Nov 2023: Bill Reimer (Concordia), Laura Ryser (UNBC), Evan Curley (DAL)

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1. The NRE

- 1997-2007
- Collaborative (researchers, community members, policy-makers)
- International

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2. What we did


- Designed and built The Rural Observatory
 - 32 Field Sites in Canada, 2 in Japan

- Organized the Theme Teams and Partners
 - Governance, Environment, Services, Communications, Integration

- Collected and analyzed information
 - Community profiles (descriptive/text, statistical, longitudinal)
 - Surveys: households, SMEs, Co-ops, Institutions, Local Perceptions, Events, Communications, Environment
 - Integration of admin data (Tax-filer, Municipal finances, health)

- Collaborated with Community Members, Policy-makers, Researchers
 - Organized conferences and workshops
 - Met in communities
 - Created cross-site learning opportunities
 - Facilitated evaluation and feedback
 - Utilized multiple forms of Knowledge Mobilization


The New Rural Economy Project	
JRCD 2006 Special Issue on the NRE, 1: 2	
The New Rural Economy - 1997 to 2001	
The NRE Field Sites: Events, reports, and photos	
Regional Studies (2002) "A Sample Frame for Rural Canada: Design and Evaluation, 36.8:845-859"	

The NRE Theme Teams and Partners	
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Field Site Reports	
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Capacity Profiles	
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Research Instruments	
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Data and Information	
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Strategic Observations		Conferences and Workshops 1	
Conferences and Workshops 2		Knowledge Mobilization	




- Proposed and evaluated policies
 - Topics: Community Capacity, Social Cohesion, Rural-Urban Relations, Informal Economy
 - Served as Parliamentary Witnesses and Consultants
 - Prepared reports and presentations

7 Reports for the Rural Secretariat	
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Access to Federal Government Services in Rural Canada	
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A Whole Rural Policy for Canada	
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- Supported Partners
 - ICRPS
 - C-J Project
 - RUPRI
 - Health and wildfire researchers
 - RPLC (2014-2020)

ICRPS		C-J Project	
RUPRI		Rural Wildfire	
RPLC		Opportunities for Rural Canada	

3. What we learned

- See presentations, reports, publications, and website
- About Community Capacity, Social Cohesion, Social Capital
- About Themes: Governance, Environment, Services, Communications
- About organizing large projects
- About Knowledge Mobilization

In Sites Flyers	
Social capital as social relations	

In the Media		Collaboration Challenges	
Rural-Urban Interface		Bridging Communities of Place	






4. After the NRE: Future Research Directions

- Services
- Governance
- Environment & Resources
- Communications & Technolog

Dr Greg Halseth, Canada Research Chair in Rural and Small Town Studies, UNBC	
Community Development Institute, UNBC	

5. Supporting Future Generations

- NRE resources I am using: Evan Curley

Evan Curley's work		Interview Transcription	
Community Perception Interview Guide		CRRF'n the Archives	
Bill's Fantasy Projects			

6. An Invitation