

GAZING INTO THE CRYSTAL BALL

THE FUTURE TRENDS IN REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Ryan Gibson, PhD
University of Guelph

Collaboration for Success
Kingsville, Ontario



Overview

- » Who is Ryan Gibson?
- » Changing local economies
- » Harnessing change
- » Reflections of communities moving forward



@ryanfgibson



School of
Environmental Design
& Rural Development

**“Here was the least common denominator of nature, the
skeleton requirements simply of land and sky”**

Mitchell (1947)



About me

Originally from Holmfield, Manitoba



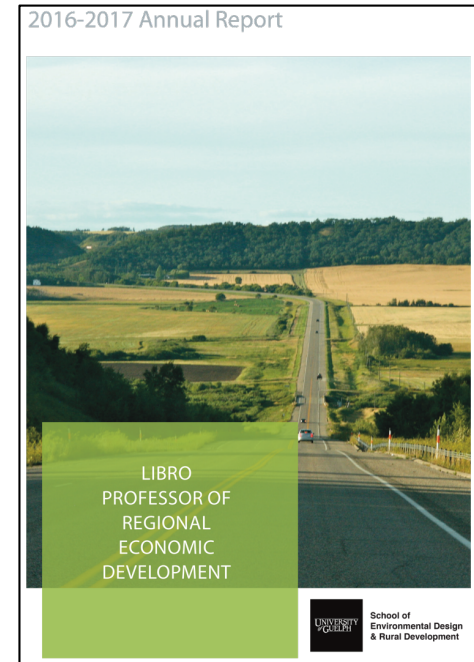
@ryanfgibson



School of
Environmental Design
& Rural Development

Libro Professorship

- » \$1 million, 10 year initiative
- » focused on regional economic development
- » teaching, research, service, and community engagement



www.ruraldev.ca



@ryanfgibson



School of
Environmental Design
& Rural Development

School of Environmental Design and Rural Development



Capacity Development & Extension

- Master of Science



Landscape Architecture

- Bachelor of Landscape Architecture
- Master of Landscape Architecture



Rural Planning & Development

- Master of Science in Rural Planning & Development
- Master of Planning



Rural Studies

- PhD in Rural Studies



@ryanfgibson



School of
Environmental Design
& Rural Development

The future

Rural
Communities



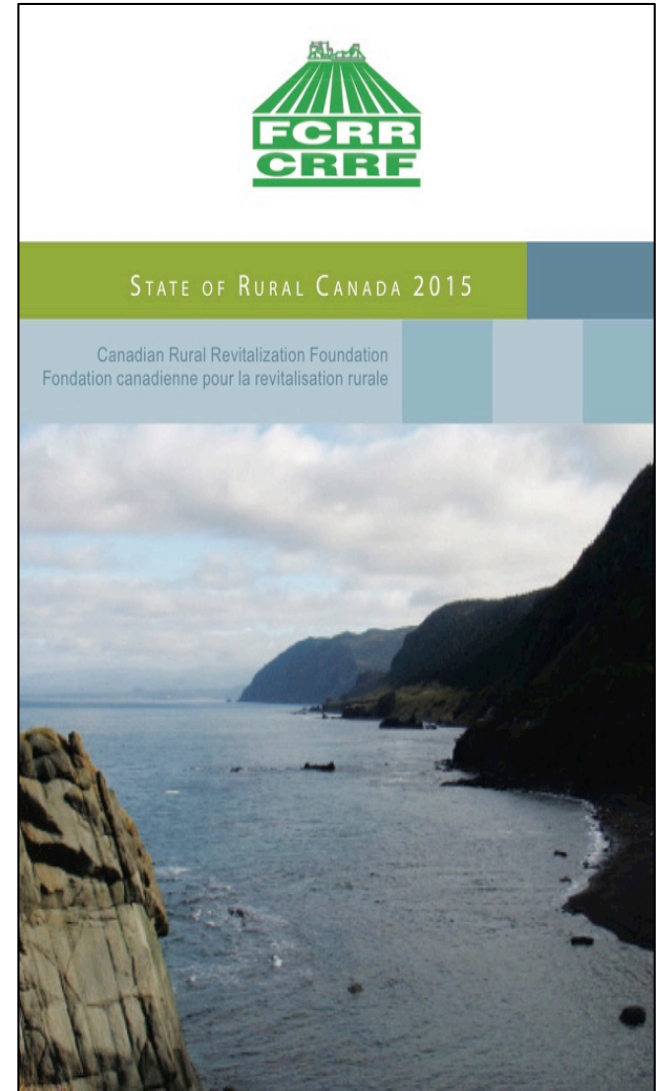
Rural Realities

» Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation (CRRF) released the State of Rural Canada in 2015

» 33,349 unique downloads of the report since September 2015

www.sorc.crrf.ca

 @ryanfgibson



Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation

- a charitable institution committed to bettering the lives of rural Canadians through collaborative research and education
- enhances the understanding of rural issues and opportunities
- facilitates national and regional dialogues

www.crrf.ca

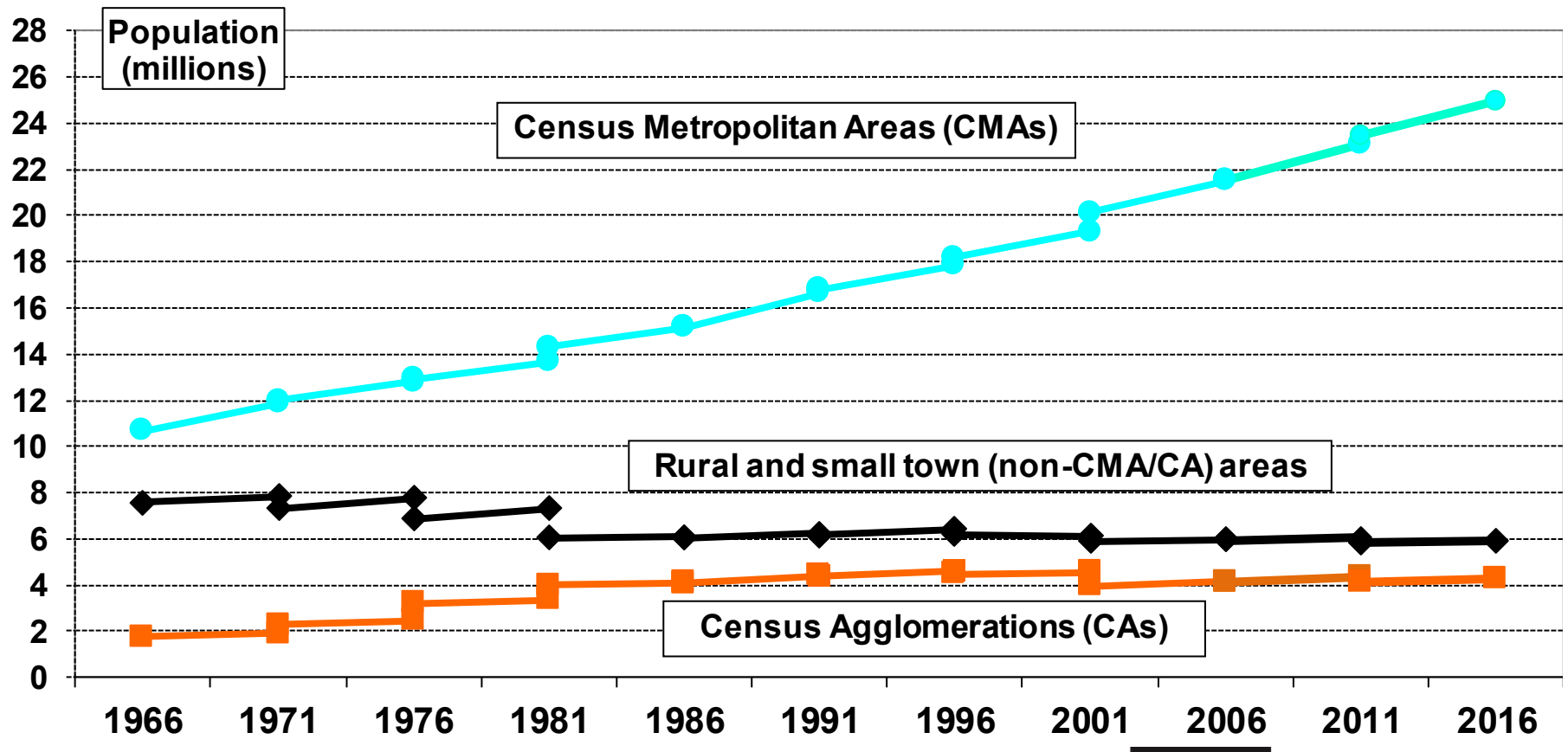


SORC Recommendations

1. For senior governments, we need a new and robust vision and policy framework for rural Canada
2. Rural communities themselves must be active participants in understanding, planning and investing in their own futures
3. For all Canadians, with the recent release of the findings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Report, there is a window of opportunity to acknowledge and seek serious corrective steps to heal the “historical trauma” suffered by Aboriginal peoples

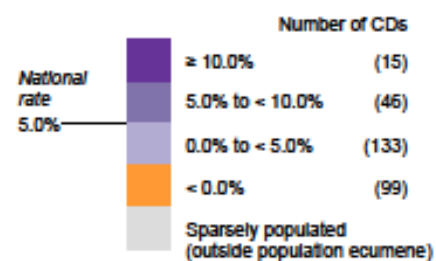
New Realities

In 2016, 6 million individuals were living in rural and small town areas, Canada



Canada

Population change from 2011 to 2016,
by census division (CD)



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2011 and 2016.

The Good News

growth in most small towns

17% of the national population

immigrant attraction

GDP contribution equals share of population

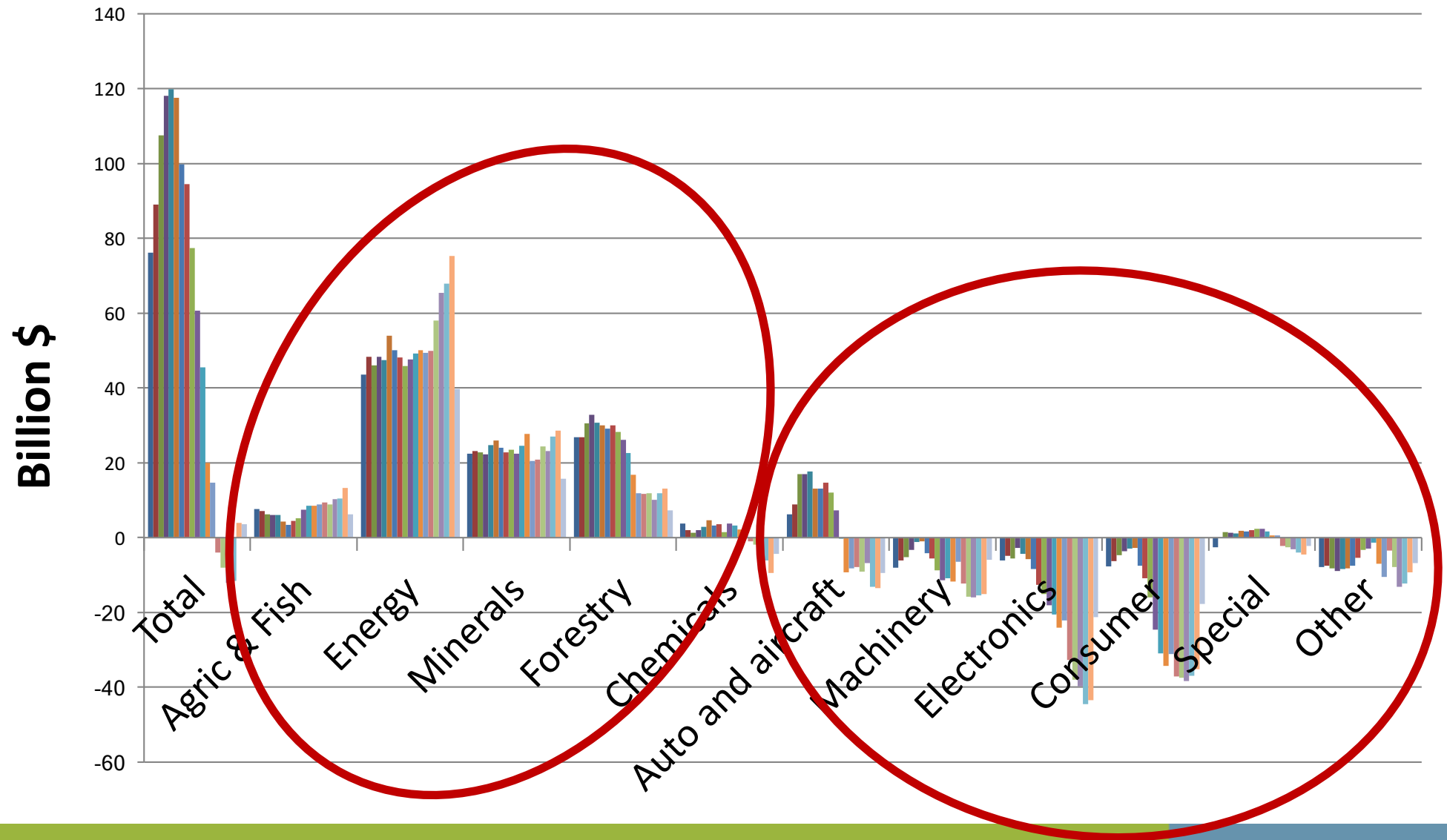


@ryanfgibson



School of
Environmental Design
& Rural Development

Canadian Balance of Trade 1997-2015



STATE OF RURAL CANADA 2015

From: CANSIM Table 376-0006 Balance of international payments, current account, goods, annual (dollars x 1,000,000)

Not So The Good News

good news is geographical uneven

urban population growth far exceeds small town growth

small town economy is more intensive, seasonal

creative destruction

 @ryanfgibson labour force replacement



School of
Environmental Design
& Rural Development

Regional Economic Development Trends in Canada and Beyond



Creative Destruction, Globalization



Increased mobility



Retreat from small town economic development



Place-based Development Strategies



Project Funding; limited process funding



Financial austerity



Merging economic and social mandates



The role of the state



**Partnerships,
partnership,
partnerships**



Implications

- » government will not be a savior to economic development challenges/opportunities
- » understanding local/regional assets
- » re-examine local 'wealth' and how to keep it
- » be open to collaboration
- » innovative thinking



@ryanfgibson



School of
Environmental Design
& Rural Development

Regional Economic Development in Action



Strait of Belle Isle

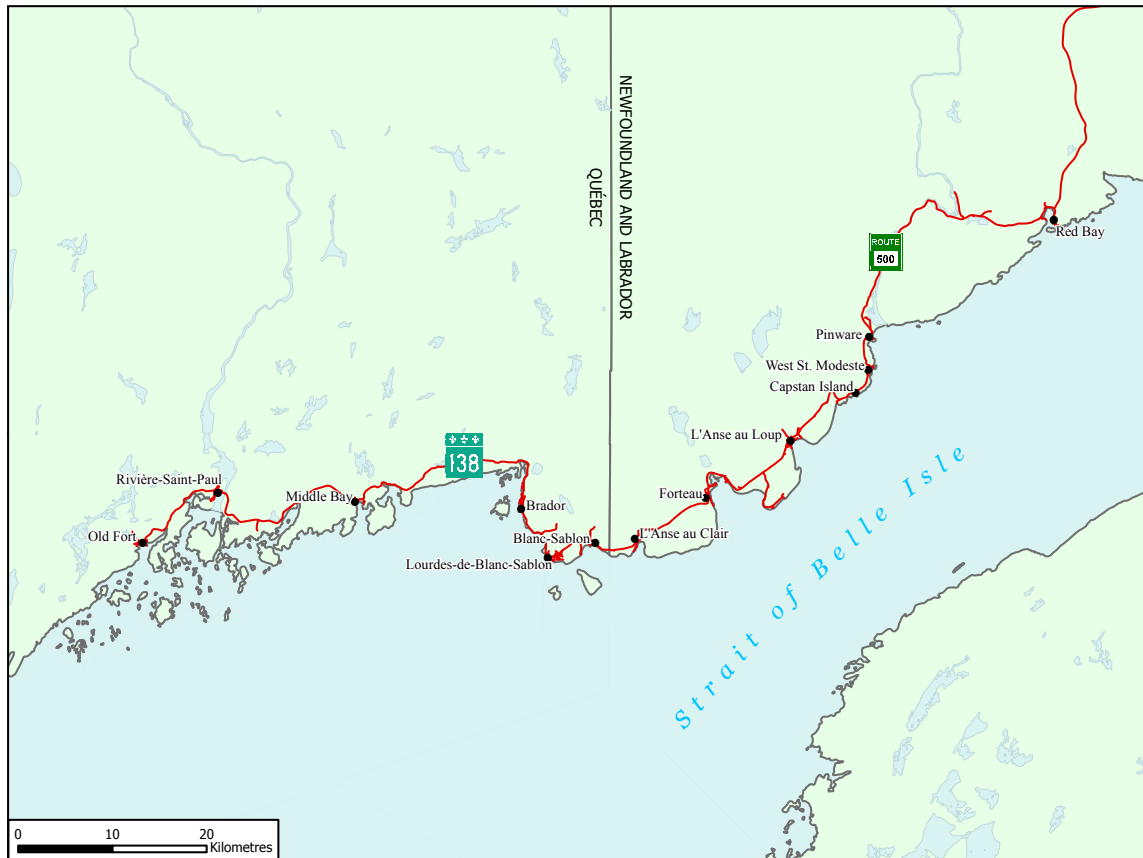
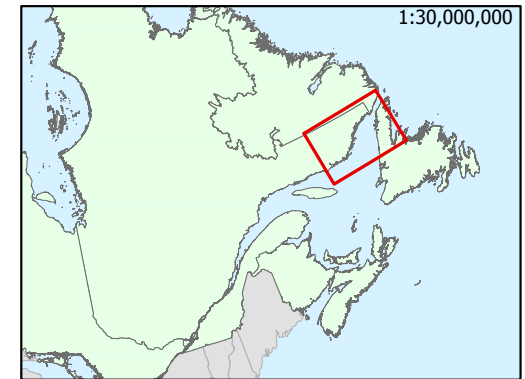


Figure 1: Québec Lower North Shore and Labrador Straits



- » 15 communities
- » 5,000 people

reality

» 90 minute 'vortex' between
Blanc Sablon, QC and L'Anse
au Clair (Lab)

» NL ferry connecting
Labrador and island docks in
Québec

» Two sustainability plans for
the region

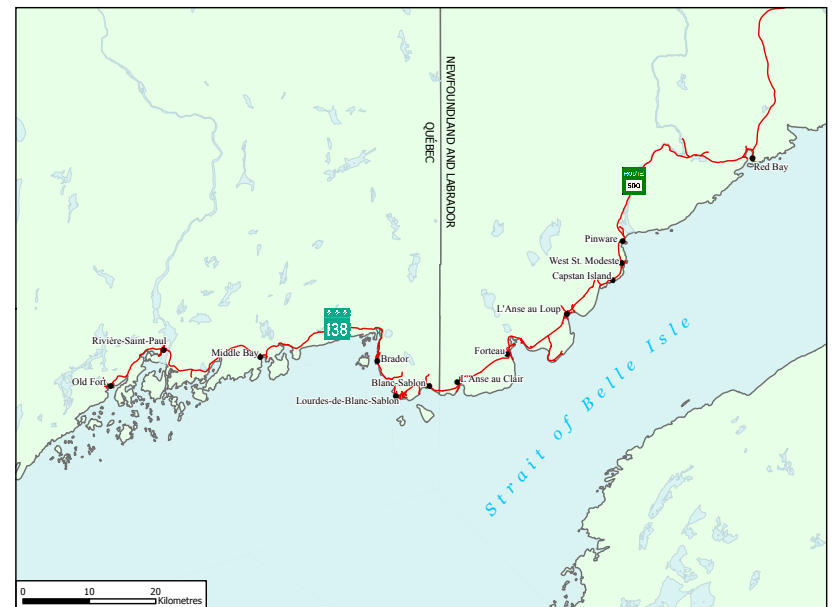


Figure 1: Québec Lower North Shore and Labrador Straits

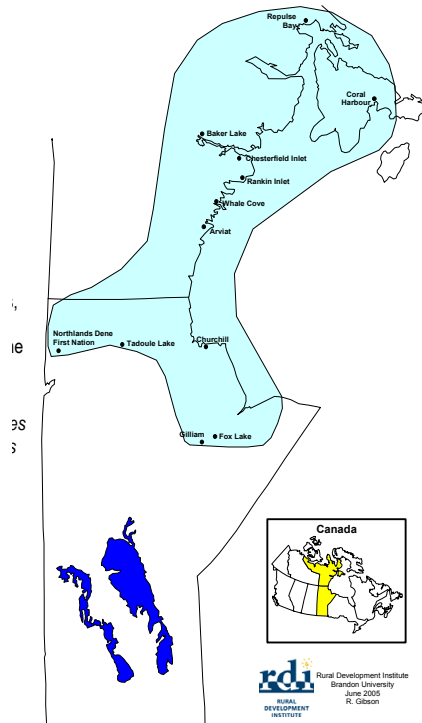
hudson bay neighbours



» 12 communities and First Nations

» to secure a strong, self-reliant Region containing self-sufficient communities.

» information sharing, collective advocacy, and joint projects



Manitoba

- » Community Enterprise Development Tax Credit
- » raises local capital to support economic development initiatives
- » 45% tax credit on a maximum of \$60,000
- » Maximum credit of \$3 million



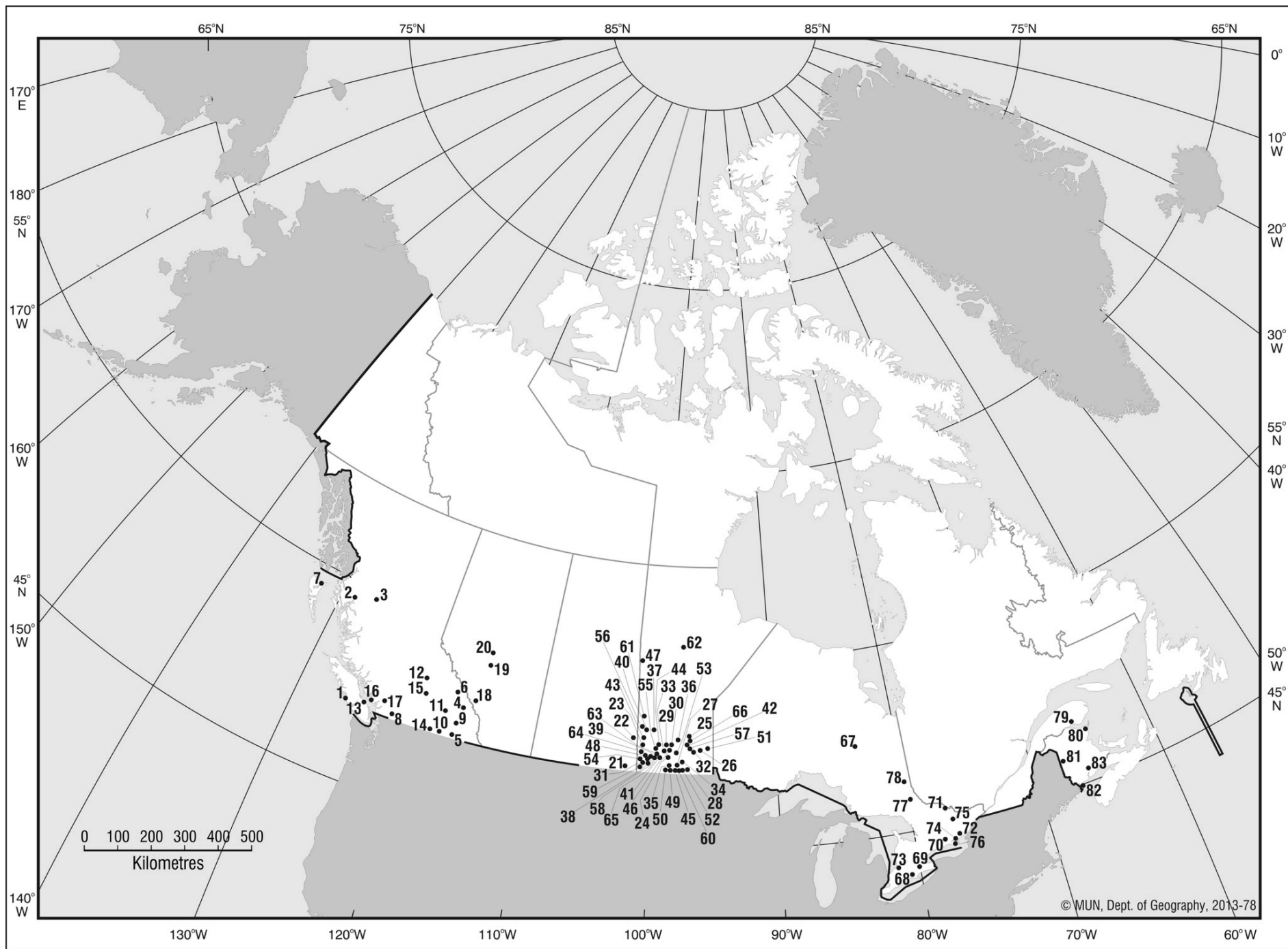
@ryanfgibson



School of
Environmental Design
& Rural Development

Re-embedding wealth to place

- » exploring platforms to re-embed wealth across Canada
- » exploring processes to prevent loss from intergenerational transfers



Rural Routes Podcasts

» information is critical in the knowledge economy

» What does it mean to live rurally in the 21st century?

www.ruralroutespodcasts.com

 @ryanfgibson



School of
Environmental Design
& Rural Development

**CHANGE
AHEAD**



**embrace the
uncertainty and
change**

**THE DIFFICULTY LIES
NOT SO MUCH IN
DEVELOPING NEW
IDEAS AS ESCAPING
FROM OLD ONES**

JOHN MAYNARD KEYNES

contact



gibsonr@uoguelph.ca



www.ryangibson.org



www.ruraldev.ca



[@ryanfgibson](https://twitter.com/ryanfgibson)



[ryanfgibson](https://www.linkedin.com/in/ryanfgibson)