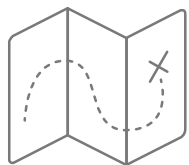


RURAL PROOFING IN CANADA

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Rural in Canada



Rural Secretariat



Rural Lens



Lessons from the Canadian Experience

RURAL IN CANADA

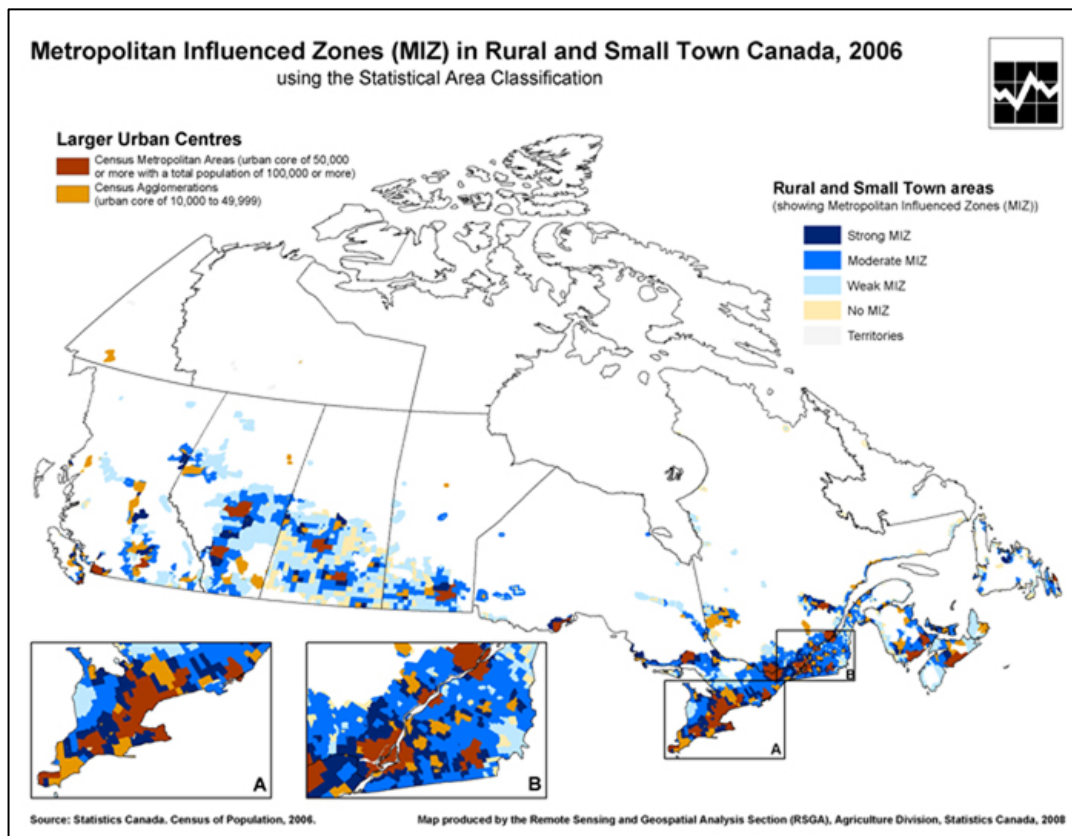


RURAL IN CANADA

- Multiple definitions of rural
 - » Census rural
 - » Rural and Small Town Canada
 - » Census Metropolitan Areas
 - » Beale codes
 - » Forward Sortation Areas
- Distance and density are key characteristics
- Canada is a constitutional monarchy
 - » rural is a shared jurisdiction between federal and provincial/territorial governments
- Long history of rural development policies, programs, and strategies in Canada

Rural Definition	Number of People	% of National Population
Census Rural	6,329,414	18%
Rural and Small Town	6,041,723	18%
Non-Metro	10,353,247	31%

RURAL IN CANADA



RURAL SECRETARIAT



RURAL SECRETARIAT

- Existed from 1996-2013
- Located in the Ministry of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- Responsible for a series of programs
 - » Rural Dialogues and Workshops
 - » Rural Teams
 - » Rural Development Network
 - » Pilot Projects
 - » Community Information Database
 - » Rural Lens

RURAL SECRETARIAT

- Rural Secretariat discontinued in 2013
 - » inability to connect to new agricultural policy framework
 - » Austerity program pressures
 - » Movement towards centralized, smaller government
- Reactions
 - » viewed as a 'retreat from rural'
 - » National organizations outraged

dismantling of rural institutions

The federal government has been changing the basic institutional structure of Canada over the last decade. It has been moving us from a collectivist vision of Canada to one that champions individualism – in social, economic, and political life. In the process, several of our key social-support institutions and programs, such as pensions, health care, welfare, employment insurance, multi-culturalism, transportation infrastructure, and regional-accommodation programs have been reorganized to place more responsibility on individuals and market-based dynamics. Many of these supports are not directed specifically to rural people, but their impacts are disproportionately felt there for demographic and historical reasons.



Feds abolish Rural Secretariat

Posted Jun. 26th, 2013 by Barry Wilson



Fifteen years after the federal government created a Rural Secretariat within Agriculture Canada to advocate for rural issues within government and to support rural research, the Conservatives have dismantled it.

Rural advocates, including the Canadian Federation of Municipalities, worry that the loss of a rural advocacy focal point inside Ottawa will be a setback for attention to rural issues that range from infrastructure to promises of expanded broadband coverage in rural areas.

RURAL LENS



RURAL LENS

- Created in 1998
- Policy tool to review federal policies from the perspective of people living in rural regions
- Rural Secretariat was charged to lead the rural lens
 - » served as reviewers and as resource for other depts
 - » 8 employees devoted to Rural Lens
- Rural Lens review was voluntary; limited evidence of depts applying the lens

Stage 1	Concept <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define the initiative (policy or program)
Stage 2	Environmental Scan and Impact Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How is this initiative relevant to rural and remote Canada? Is it specific to a particular rural or remote region? What are the potential financial and economic impacts on rural and remote regions? What are the potential social impacts on rural and remote regions? What are the potential environmental impacts on rural and remote regions? What are the potential cultural impacts on rural and remote regions? How can the effects on rural and remote regions be measured?
Stage 3	Identify people and organizations that need to be involved or require consultation
Stage 4	Development and design
Stage 5	Communication through appropriate media avenues to reach rural and remote regions
Stage 6	Validation and consultations (if needed) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify who is involved, who needs to be consulted and when and identify their concerns
Stage 7	Refine initiative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include results from the consultation if needed Identify resources including funding, human and organizational
Stage 8	Approval
Stage 9	Deliver program
Stage 10	Monitoring and evaluation

LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE CANADIAN EXPERIENCE



- Where the Rural Secretariat and the rural lens is 'housed' matters
- Having a rural voice matters
- A rural lens without authority becomes a 'suggested practice'
- Seeing the rural lens in action
- Partnership with central statistical agency is imperative from the onset
- Ensure dialogue between different levels of government



SAVE THE DATE

Building Vibrant Rural Futures

2016 CRRF-RPLC Conference

GUELPH, ONTARIO | OCTOBER 12-15, 2016



Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation



RPLC
RURAL POLICY LEARNING COMMONS

CAPR
COMMUNAUTÉ D'APPRENTISSAGE
DES POLITIQUES RURALES

Rural Policy Learning Commons

guelph2016.crrf.ca

North Atlantic Forum 2017

- ▶ Traditions and transformations in the sustainability of rural communities: Balancing Living Culture and Nature
- ▶ Bø, Norway
- ▶ 13-17 September 2017

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QUESTIONS?



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ONLINE RESOURCES

- ▶ Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation – www.crrf.ca
- ▶ State of Rural Canada – www.sorc.crrf.ca
- ▶ Rural Policy Learning Commons – www.rplc-capr.ca