

# NEW REALITIES, NEW STRATEGIES

MOVING RURAL AND NORTHERN  
COMMUNITIES FORWARD

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Culture Shift – Planning Authorities Workshop  
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**UNIVERSITY**  
*of* **GUELPH**

# road map

» about me

» our new reality

» strategies for moving forward

» moving forward

# libro professorship

» created in 2015 in the School of Environmental Design and Rural Development at the University of Guelph

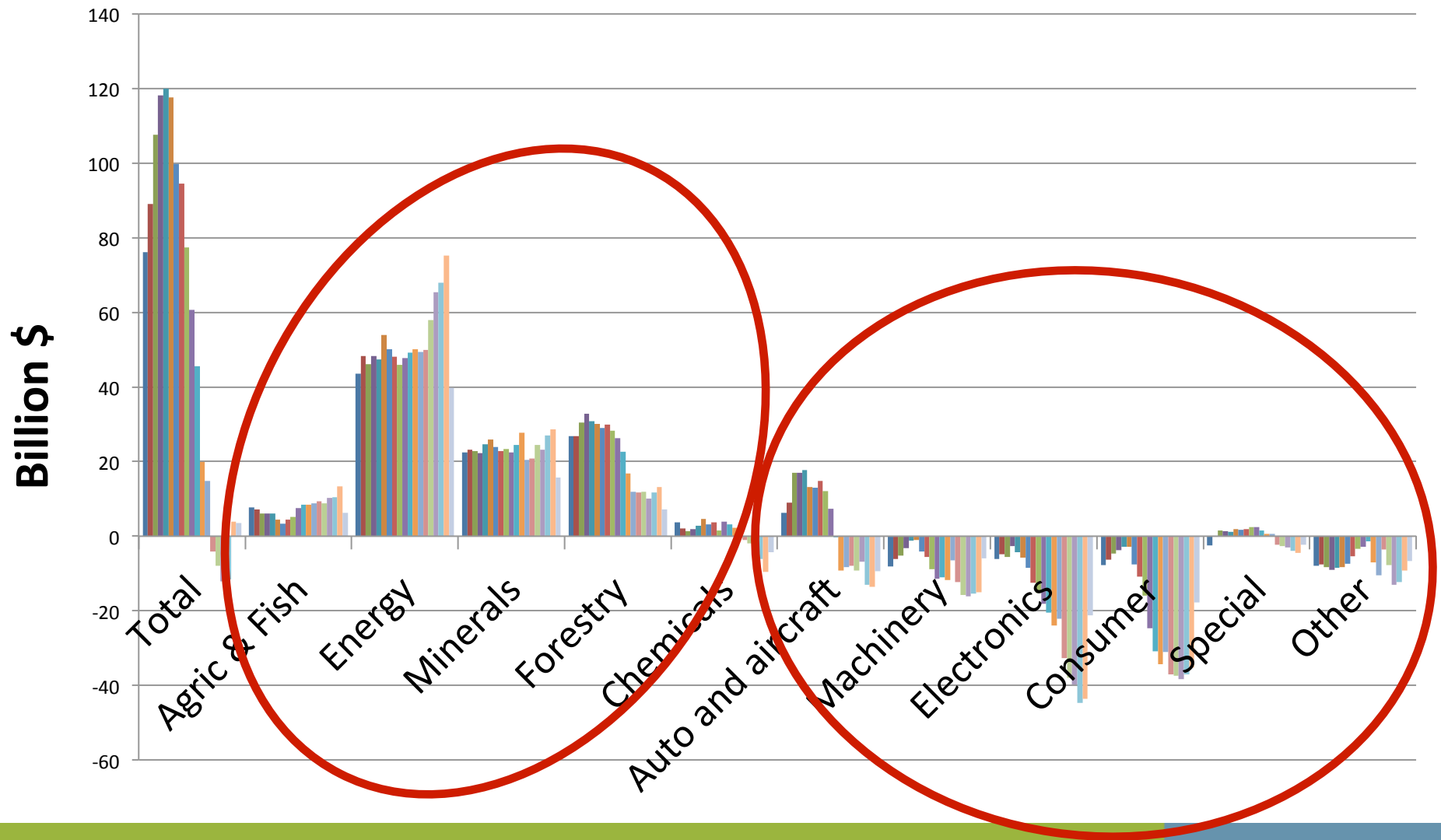
» endowed research chair funded by Libro Credit Union and private donors

» focus on regional economic development

# our new realities

- » economic restructuring
- » out-migration
- » retreat from rural and northern
- » focus on natural resources

# 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)

# 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](http://www.crrf.ca)

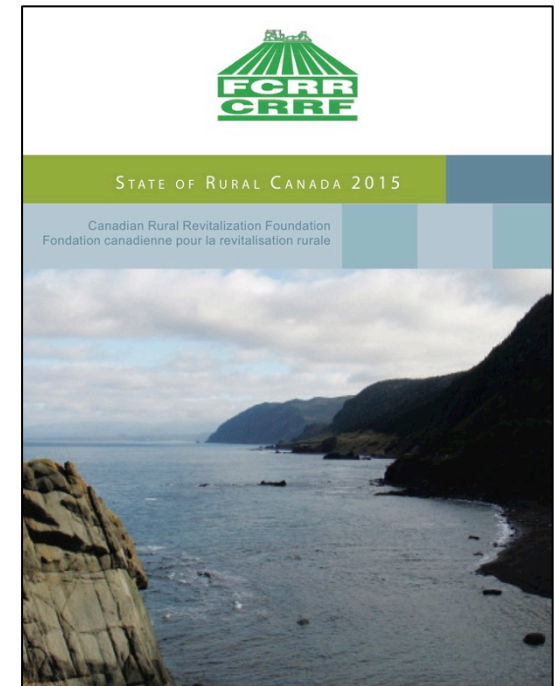


# State of Rural Canada

» examination of rural and northern policies and programs

» first comprehensive review of Canadian rural and northern policy

» [www.sorc.crrf.ca](http://www.sorc.crrf.ca)



# ontario

» “the future of rural and northern Ontario is uncertain”

» human capital deficits

» regional planning

## 2.5 Ontario

Al Lauzon, Norman Ragetlie, Wayne Caldwell, and David Douglas

### Introduction

The concept of rural is complex and has multiple meanings, depending upon the context in which it is used. Rural and remote Ontario is complex and diverse, with differing “rurals” facing their own unique set of opportunities and challenges. Ontario communities can be characterized by five types of rural regions/communities: urban fringe communities, agriculture communities, cottage country communities, the mining and mill towns of northern Ontario, and Aboriginal communities. Each of these regions/communities has their own socio-economic trajectory and are characterized by diverse cultural milieux and varying degrees of dependence on the performance of key economic sectors. Hence to make broad generalizations about the state of rural Ontario is problematic. This raises the challenge that is presented in Chapter 1 of this report where the idea of developing a ‘one size fits all’ rural policy is questioned. Rural, in many ways, is synonymous with diversity. Within non-metro Ontario there are 393 communities, 52 that have less than 100 residents and 288 with between 1,000 and 24,999 residents; the smaller the community the greater the challenges of providing services and maintain infrastructure for those citizens.





# recommendations

- » For senior governments, we need a new and robust vision and policy framework for rural Canada
- » Rural communities themselves must be active participants in understanding, planning and investing in their own futures
- » 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



# strategies for moving forward

- » natural resource wealth re-distribution
- » philanthropy as a tool for planning
- » innovative regional collaboration

**resource wealth  
re-distribution**

# fair share agreement

- » northeastern BC communities
- » 1994
- » agreement between province and local governments

<b>Total Fair Share Grants to Peace River Municipalities</b> <b>1994- 2019</b> <b>(in Millions)</b>							
	Fair Share 1 1994-97	Fair Share 2 1998- 2004	2005-One Time Grant	Fair Share 3 2005- 2012	Total Aug 2012	Fair Share 3 2013- 2019	Total Grants 1994-2019
Fort St. John	\$7.49	\$39.06	\$16.07	\$100.21	\$162.83	\$156.48	\$319.31
Dawson Creek	\$5.10	\$26.63	\$10.96	\$68.69	\$111.38	\$107.08	\$218.41
Chetwynd	\$1.02	\$5.35	\$2.20	\$13.93	\$22.50	\$21.62	\$44.12
Tumbler Ridge	\$0.67	\$3.51	\$1.44	\$9.71	\$15.33	\$14.73	\$30.06
Taylor	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.64	\$4.18	\$4.82	\$4.63	\$9.45
Hudson Hope	\$0.34	\$1.78	\$0.73	\$4.30	\$7.15	\$6.87	\$14.02
Pouce Coupe	\$0.40	\$2.07	\$0.85	\$5.49	\$8.81	\$8.47	\$17.28
Total Municipal	\$15.02	\$78.40	\$32.89	\$206.51	\$332.82	\$319.83	\$652.65
Peace River Rural	\$0.98	\$5.10	\$2.10	\$13.18	\$21.36	\$20.53	\$41.89
Total PRRD	\$16.00	\$83.50	\$34.99	\$219.69	\$354.18	\$340.36	\$694.54

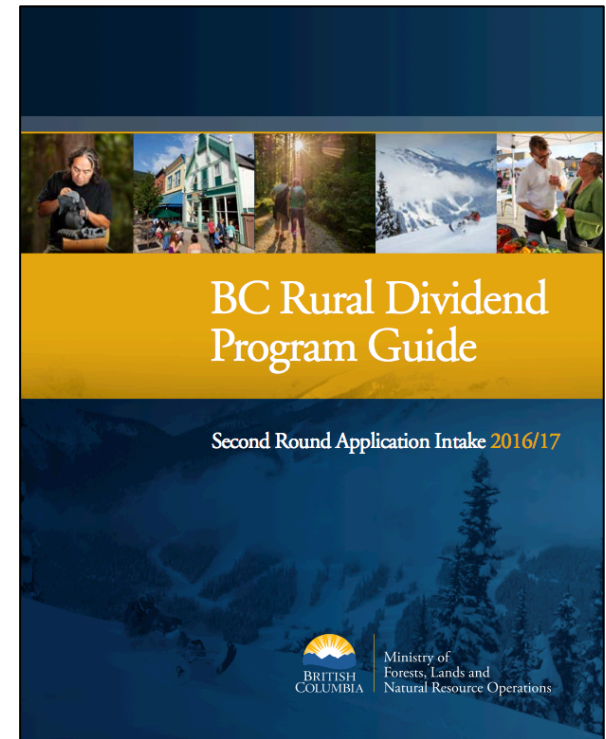
City of Fort St John (2016)

# rural dividends

» returns a portion of the revenue created by rural-based resource industry activity to the regions that supply the natural assets

» \$25 M annual program

» focus on economic growth and building prosperity



**philanthropy as a  
tool for planning**



# re-embedding wealth to place

» exploring platforms to re-embed wealth across  
Canada

» exploring processes to prevent loss from  
intergenerational transfers

# rural philanthropy

- Philanthropy in rural areas is not new
- Long history of contributions of rural residents to charitable causes
- Considerable wealth held in rural regions in the form of land, equipment, and rights

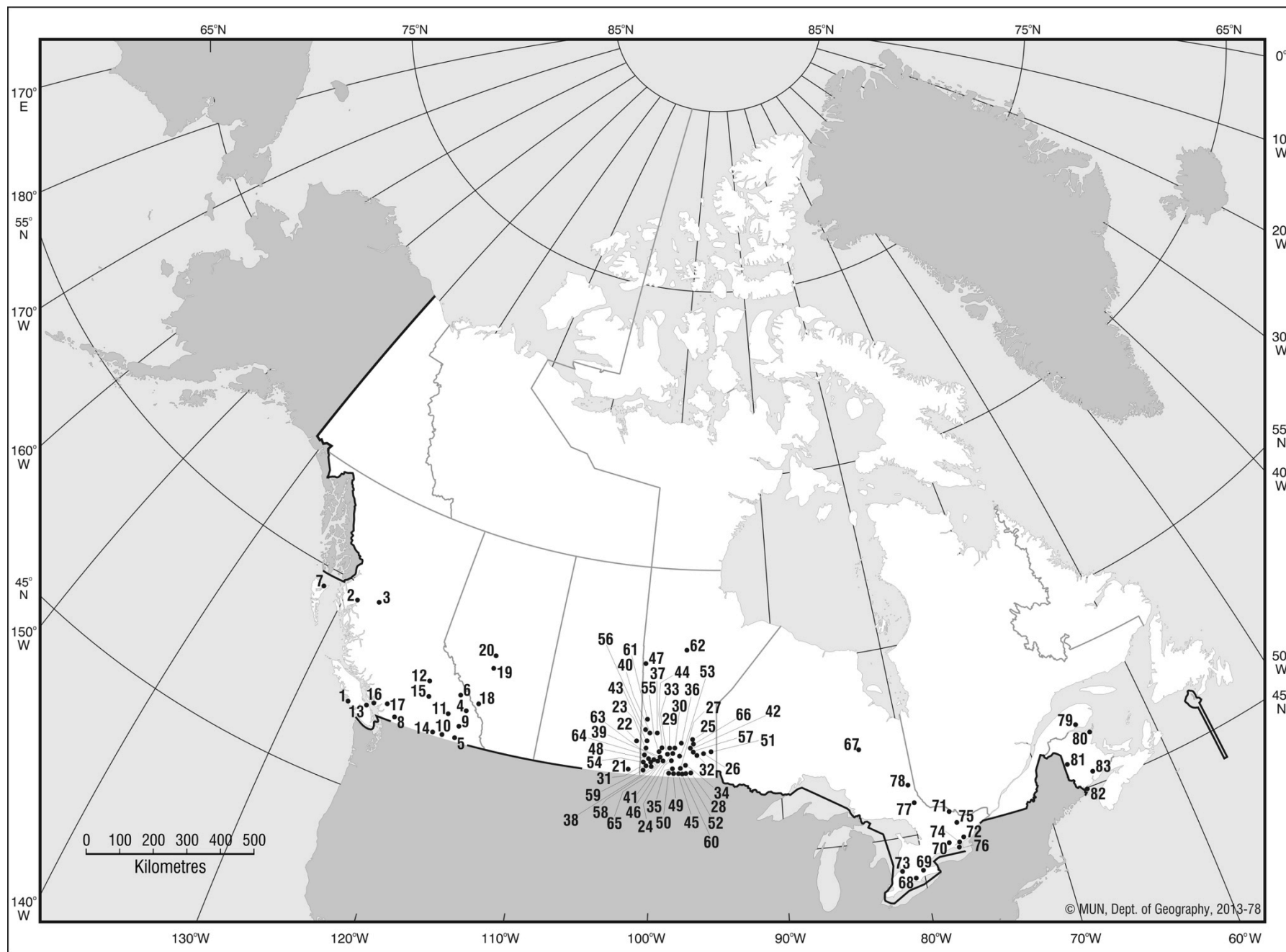
- 185 Community Foundations in Canada

- \$3.35 billion in assets
- \$143 million in grants



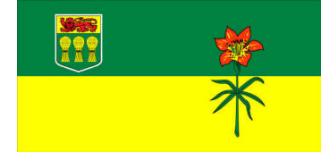
**92 community  
foundations in  
rural Canada**

**49% of all in  
Canada**

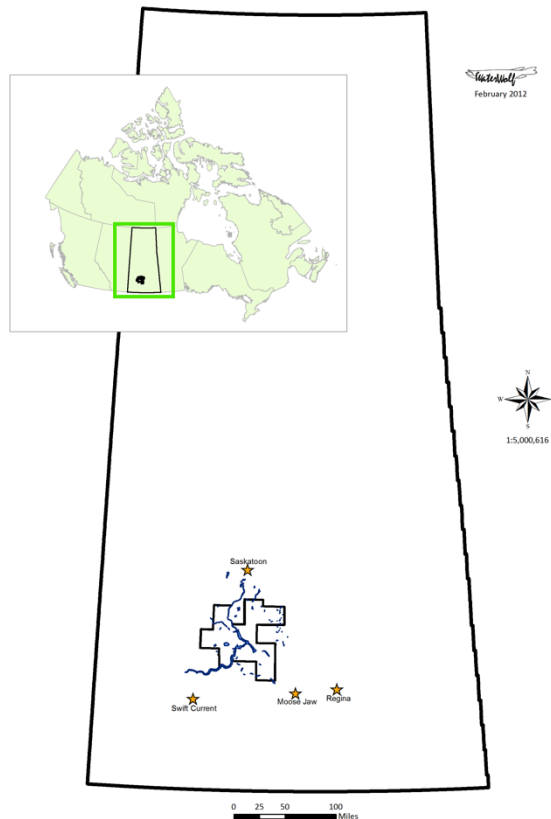


**innovative  
multi-community  
collaboration**

# waterwolf



Regional Context



» 36 rural communities and First Nations

» voluntary regional district planning body

» [www.waterwolf.org](http://www.waterwolf.org)

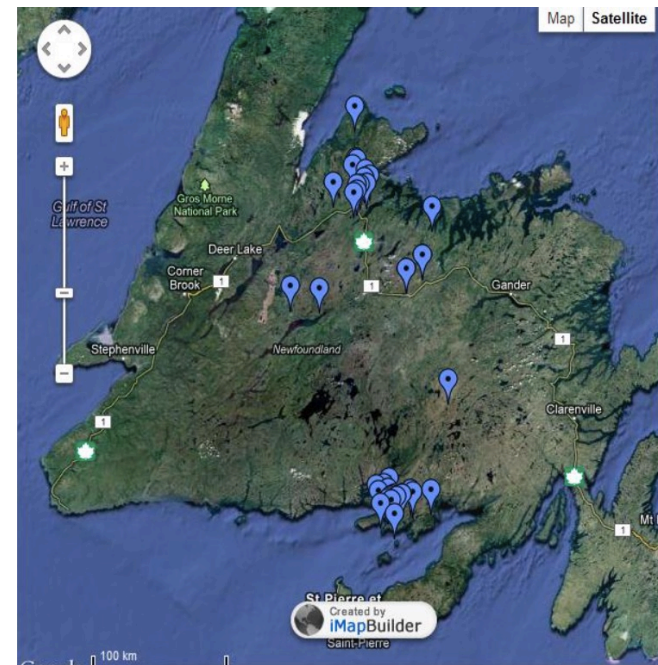
***Communities did not realize the power they held collectively.***

***This level of cooperation and working together is quite extraordinary.***

# central west planning

» Identify, discuss and prioritize potential solutions for current land use planning issues

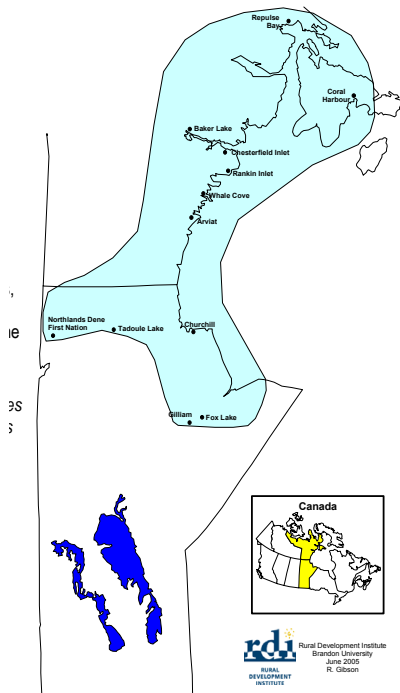
» Use innovative community engagement techniques to engage residents on land use planning



# 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



JOHN MAYNARD KEYNES

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



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[www.ruraldev.ca](http://www.ruraldev.ca)