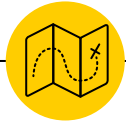


Building the Future:

**Rural Infrastructure & Regional
Economic Development
2018-2021**



The opportunity to invest in infrastructure *has never been greater.*

- Unleashing Productivity Through Infrastructure, Government of Canada Advisory Council on Growth, 2016

“



Building the Future:

Rural Infrastructure & Regional Economic Development

SNAPSHOT

Are rural Ontario communities capable of responding to infrastructure pressures and opportunities? How does that capacity – or lack thereof – affect a community's current and future long-term economic development? This research initiative will examine these questions and develop recommendations for addressing these issues through both immediate and long-term policy alternatives.

TIMELINE: 2018-2021

FUNDING AGENCY

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs

RESEARCH TEAM

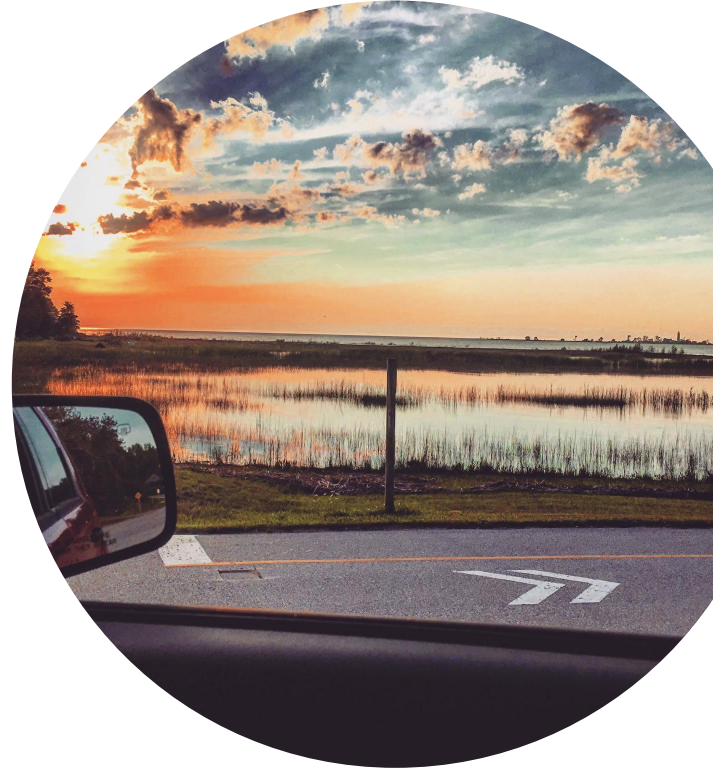
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More information about this research initiative can be found at www.ruraldev.ca/infrastructure or by contacting Ryan Gibson at gibsonr@uoguelph.ca, or Ashleigh Weeden at weedens@uoguelph.ca

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Why study rural infrastructure?

Informing evidence-based policy to support adaptive & effective infrastructure investments





Research **Questions:**

Are rural Ontario communities **capable of responding to infrastructure pressures** and opportunities?

How does that capacity – or lack thereof – affect a community's **current and future long-term economic development**?



Rationale for **this research:**

- Communities of all sizes must balance fiscal realities, changing economies, aging infrastructure, changing demographics, and a challenging climate
- Rural communities differ from urban communities – and each other
- Investment in productivity-enhancing infrastructure is perhaps the most powerful & critical mechanism for supporting immediate & long-term economic development, innovation, & community resilience
- Adaptive, responsive & evidence based rural infrastructure policy & investment frameworks are critical for addressing realities of rural development across all jurisdictions



Objectives for **this research:**

- Examine **how rural Ontario communities vary in their capacity to respond to infrastructure pressures**
- Investigate **how those varying capacities affect short- & long-term economic development**
- Provide OMAFRA recommendations on how to **develop rural infrastructure policy, programming & investments that will build rural community capacity & support economic development & growth**



Help shape our research & recommendations for OMAFRA

- Discuss one of the following topic areas:
 - Do rural communities face different infrastructure challenges (or opportunities) compared to urban communities? What are they?
 - Does your community connect infrastructure planning to economic development? How?
 - What are the biggest immediate challenges or opportunities that might affect rural communities long-term economic development opportunities?



Learn more:

Visit www.ruraldev.ca/infrastructure

Or contact us at:

- Ryan Gibson: gibsonr@uoguelph.ca
- Ashleigh Weeden: weedens@uoguelph.ca