

STATE OF RURAL CANADA: 2021 REPORT

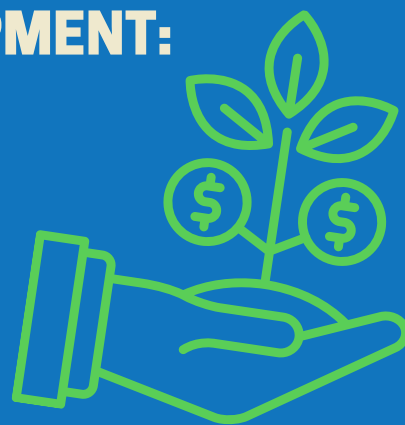
OPPORTUNITIES, RECOVERY, AND RESILIENCY IN CHANGING TIMES

The chapters in this report have provided insight into the state of rural in every province and territory across Canada. In order to navigate the pandemic and post-pandemic recovery (as well as future challenges), a strong understanding of resilience and how we can build and support capacity for adaptation and innovation in rural Canada are necessary

Supporting Rural Resilience:

1. INVEST IN RURAL POLICY & DEVELOPMENT:

Senior governments should invest in robust rural policy and development frameworks that recognize the diversity of rural communities. This should include applying a rural and northern lens when developing or adapting policies, programs, legislation or other government practices to ensure rural voices are engaged and heard. Federal and provincial governments should help fund, collect and analyze data on rural communities to ensure evidence-based policy development, program design and evaluation.



2. SUPPORT RURAL CAPACITY TO PLAN FOR RESILIENCE:

Governments should invest in rural capacity to plan for rural resilience. The ability of local governments and organizations to respond and facilitate processes of resiliency largely relies on the capacity they have to adapt to changes. This could include supporting staff and community development initiatives as well as creating alternative program delivery models and applications.



3. ENHANCE REGIONAL COLLABORATION:

Rethinking how rural governments and organizations work together is an important strategy to address shortcomings in policy development and service provision. This requires support from senior governments and efforts by local governments and organizations. Regional approaches can be effective ways to understand the assets, resources and gaps that communities – and regions – collectively possess.

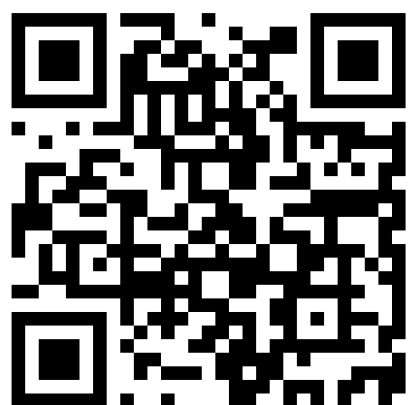


4. TAKE DECISIVE ACTION ON TRUTH & RECONCILIATION:

The resilience of rural places is largely intertwined with and dependent on relationships with Indigenous Peoples. Rural communities and policy-makers must engage in discussions of the history and ongoing impacts of colonization. Rural leaders at all levels of government should incorporate the Calls to Action and Calls for Justice into their policy and programming initiatives.

5. PLAN FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL FUTURES:

Rural communities, leaders and policy-makers need to leverage their intimate knowledge of rural places to actively plan for a range of changes and challenges. We need to consider possibilities that will be faced in the short and long-term future. Anticipating and planning for environmental, demographic, technological and socio-economic changes will be key factors in whether rural communities survive and thrive in increasingly uncertain times.



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT...

THE MANY WAYS IN WHICH RURAL PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATIONS HAVE DEMONSTRATED RESILIENCY, BOTH RELATED AND UNRELATED TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



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