## What is Rural? The Canadian Approach

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#### Outcomes

Understand rurality in Canada

Understanding rurality as applied in Canadian public policy

Examine rural broadband example of Canadian rural policy

### Understanding Rurality: Canada's rural

Rural Canada is:

**Substantial** as a part of Canada with 29% of the Canadian population and 27% of the GDP

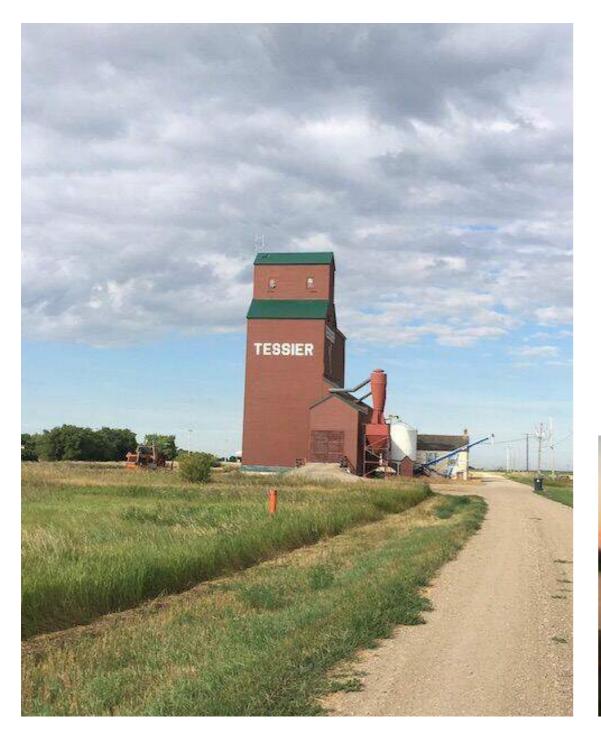
**Older** with an average age is in non metro Canada of 44.3 compared to 39.4 in metro

Making less income on average with a \$42,753 average income vs \$49,480 in metro Canada

**Growing** by .5% annually compared to 1.5% in metro areas

**Dependent on immigration** like metro Canada - projected zero natural growth in Canada is 2032 with many rural communities already at zero growth or decline

### Understanding Rurality: Canada's many rurals







# Rurality in Canadian Federal Policy

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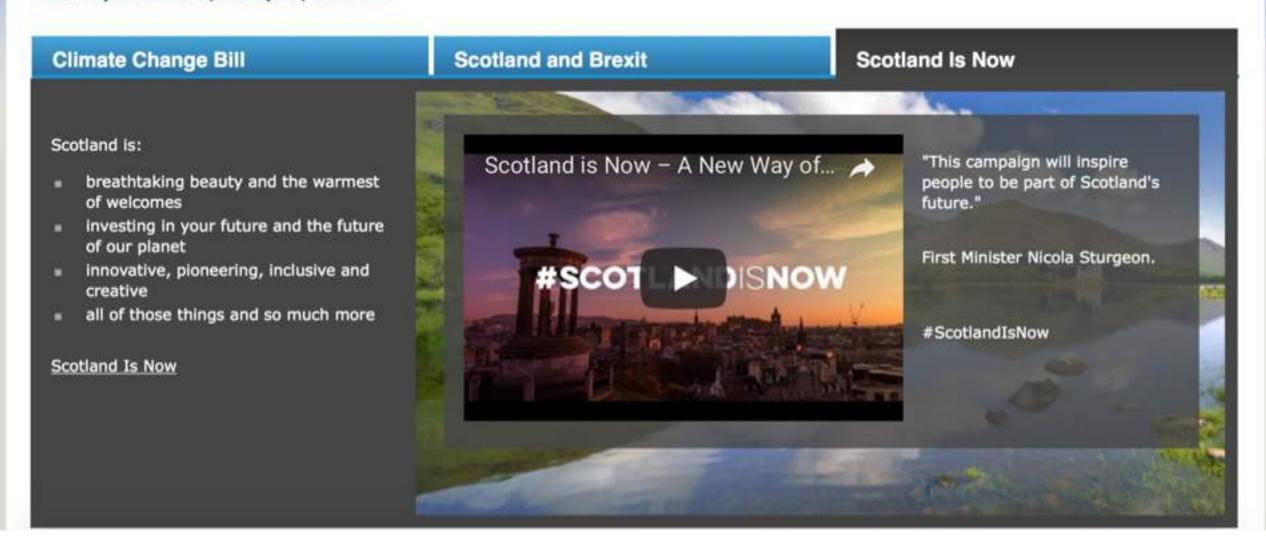
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Responsibilities include the economy, education, health, justice, rural affairs, housing, environment, equal opportunities, consumer advocacy and advice, transport, taxation.



### What is rural? State of Rural Canada 2015

- Recommendation 1 Provincial and Federal governments must develop new and robust visions and policy frameworks for rural Canada.
- Recommendation 2 Rural communities must be active participants in understanding, planning and investing in their own futures.
- Recommendation 3 All Canadians must participate in the window of opportunity that follows the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada to acknowledge and seek serious corrective steps to heal the "historical trauma" suffered by Aboriginal peoples in this country.



http://sorc.crrf.ca/recommendations/

#### What is rural?

### Rural Challenges, national opportunity: Shaping the future of rural Canada



- Key Recommendation Applying a 'rural lens' to all federal policies and programs aimed at empowering smaller communities to better support local needs.
- Key Recommendation Designing future rural infrastructure programs that provide long-term predictable funding with flexibility to account for rural realities.
- Key Recommendation Committing longterm predictable resources to expanding broadband internet access in rural, northern and remote communities.

https://fcm.ca/documents/issues/FCM-Rural-Canada-2018-EN.pdf

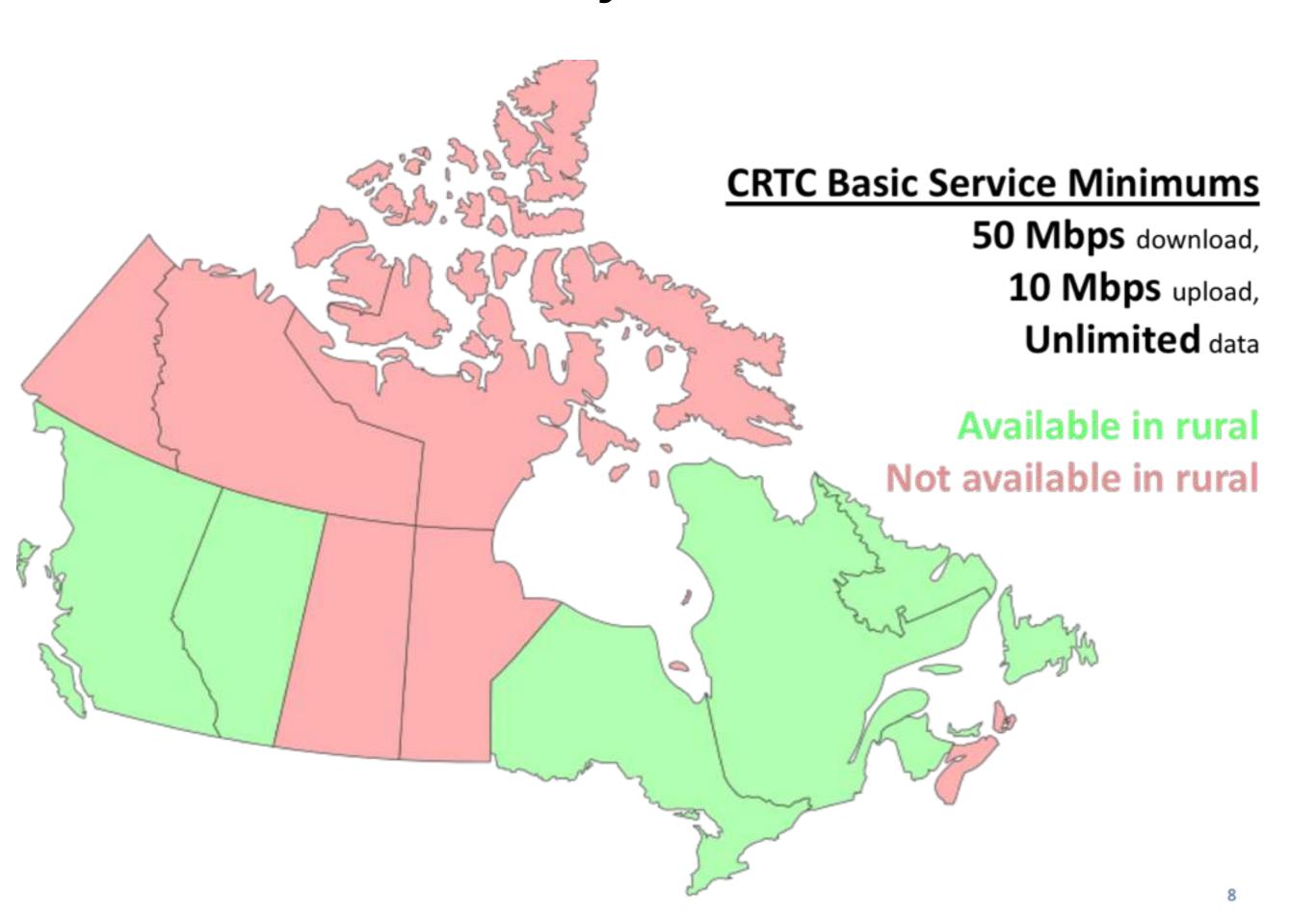
Photo adapted from FCM Report website

# Rural broadband policy in Canada

#### Rural Broadband Policy in Canada



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#### 3 Western Manitoba municipalities, school division form their own fibre optic internet service

High-speed internet essential to attracting business, retaining residents, Hamiota CAO says



Connecting communities: First Nations company plans to lay 3,600 km of fibre optics in Manitoba

Clear Sky Connections is working on bringing high-speed internet to remote First Nations
By Jillian Taylor, CBC Navas Posted: Apr 10, 2017 6:00 AM ET | Last Updated: Apr 16, 2017 3:59 PM ET

Winkler Fiber Optic Network Breaks Ground, Bringing 1,000 mb/s

Internet Speeds (VIDEO)

- Category: Local News
   Ø Published: Tuesday, 23 May 2017 05:39
   ✓ Written by Steven Sukkau
- VALLEY FIBER



#### **OECD Rural Policy**

OECD 2018		Rural 3.0 Policy Note		Pre-Conference Summary		Edinburgh Policy Statement			
Policy Capacity	•	Capacity building is a core investment for rural development.  Need to build the capacity of rural communities, including the ability to engage in the process of policy making	•	Need to build capacity in rural communities – this includes the skills to collaborate, adapt and communicate with one another, critical skills in policy making Need for technical support at national/regional level facilitating and building capacity at local level	•	Help build an understanding of local contexts and issues within the communities to help with community-led efforts			
Policy Conveni ng		Need to pool the resources and capabilities across a wide range of actors and multi-level government stakeholders	•	Need for brokers, enablers, champions, project leaders, multipliers Knowledge exchange needs to be facilitated between communities, policy makers and private sectors Need to stimulate local partnerships for planning Need to communicate successes up (vertical) and out (horizontal) Need to build trust at all levels – co-operation is essential as is ongoing dialogue					

OECD		Rural 3.0 Policy Note		Pre-Conference Summary		Edinburgh Policy Statement
2018						
Policy Tools	•	Investments, <b>addressing</b> <b>market failures</b>	•	Enable community level solutions with an institutional architecture that is flexible,	•	Need to adopt policies that leverage regional assets rather than
	•	Supporting Social Innovation	•	empowering, stable and clear One stop shop needed at local level for all	•	compensatory Focus on taking advantage of global
				policies, ministries and agencies		trends
Recomme ndations	•	Delivering improved well- being for rural dwellers	•	Cooperation and collaboration are essential	•	Emphasize social, economic and environmental well-being as objectives
	•	Understanding the growth dynamics of low-density	•	Brokers, enablers champions, project leaders, multipliers are needed	•	for rural policy <b>Take place-based view of rural</b>
	•	economies Deploying a range of policy	•	Knowledge exchange and capacity building should be facilitated		development that considers different conditions and needs of communities
	•	instruments Fostering a multisectoral	•	Enabling Infrastructures for community level solutions must be created	•	Place-based (a) maximize complementarities across policy sectors
	•	approach Integrating delivery to enable sectoral policies that match	•	Soft skills matter – creativity/flexibility/ adaptability/collaboration and can be taught		and replace top-down prescriptive with result-oriented policies with room for local experimentation
		the needs and circumstances of different	•	Territorial identity and cultural lifestyles are important assets and catalysts	•	Place-based (b) design and implement policies with a long-term perspective and
	•	rural regions Understanding that there is a	•	The digital territorial divide must be overcome quickly		promoting coherence between rural, sectoral, regional and national policy
		spectrum of rural regions	•	Public procurement has a role to play in market creation	•	objectives Develop Rural-Urban Linkages to
			•	Good governance is more important than money		improve regional performance and achieve effective public service delivery
			•	Performance orientation and results- based approach rather than ex-ante	•	Promote societal approaches based on social innovation with a proactive role for
			•	compliance auditing Future orientation – rural innovation		local communities contributing to climate change adaption
				means looking ahead	•	Empower communities to better
						understand and address the conditions and challenges they face in order to
					•	support community-led efforts Incorporate the effect of demographic
						trends in rural areas on the design of public services, the functioning of rural
						labour markets and commuting and migration patterns

#### **Canada's Policy Recommendation References**

- Federation Canadian Municipalities (FCM). (2018). Rural challenges, national opportunity: Shaping the future of rural Canada (p. 28). Retrieved from <a href="https://fcm.ca/documents/issues/FCM-Rural-Canada-2018-EN.pdf">https://fcm.ca/documents/issues/FCM-Rural-Canada-2018-EN.pdf</a>
- Markey, B., Lauzon, G., & Ryser, M. (2015). State of Rural Canada Report. Retrieved from <a href="http://sorc.crrf.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/SORC2015.pdf">http://sorc.crrf.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/SORC2015.pdf</a>
  - RPLC State of Rural Canada Webinar <a href="https://voutu.be/DwmagWpAEQY">https://voutu.be/DwmagWpAEQY</a>