

What Makes Good Provincial Rural Policy?

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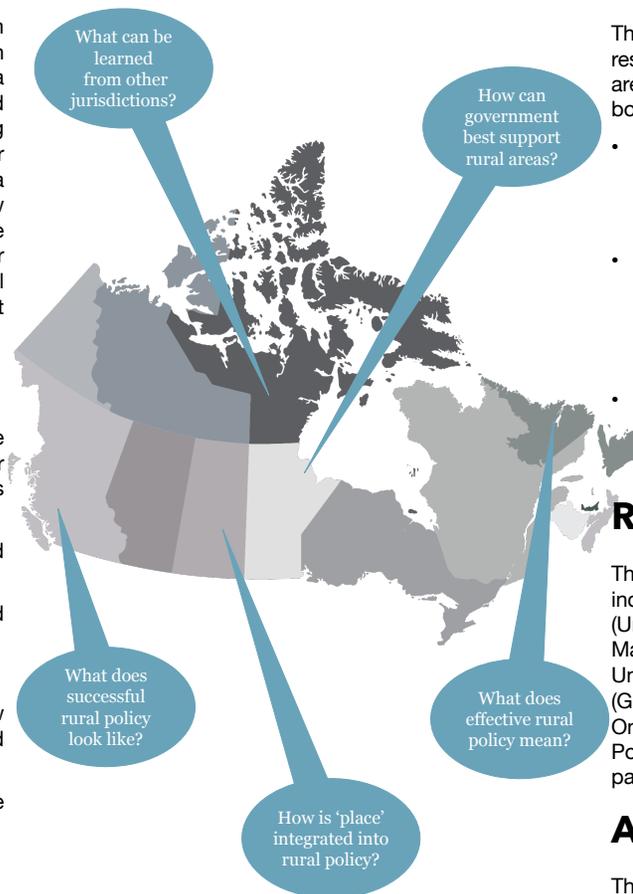
Introduction

How effective are provincial rural development policy and program interventions? How do we know if an intervention was a 'good' or an 'effective' investment of public funds? Governments across Canada are challenged to develop and implement robust, flexible, and effective rural policies and programs to meet the ever-changing contexts of rural communities. This poster outlines a three year research initiative examining how provinces and territories in Canada have defined rural development policies/programs, designed new initiatives, and evaluated their successes. The ultimate aim of the research is to provide evidence-based recommendations for designing, implementing, and evaluating successful rural development policies and programs to provincial government departments and agencies.

Research Objectives

The purpose of this research initiative, 2017-2020, is to provide the Government of Ontario evidence-based recommendations for constructing, implementing, and evaluating successful rural policies and programs. This research contains five primary objectives:

1. to examine how provinces define success in rural policies and programs;
2. to explore commonalities and divergences in the delivery and evaluation of rural policies and programs;
3. to build a network of provincial rural policy makers/analysts;
4. to provide the Government of Ontario recommendations on how to design and evaluate future rural development policies and programs; and
5. to build capacity building and skill set development for graduate students.



Key Activities

The research team will employ a comparative, multi-case study research design to understand provincial rural policies and programs are applied in practice and draw lessons from their application for both practice and theory. Three key activities of the initiative include:

- Creating an inventory of provincial and territorial rural development policies. The inventory will categorize information on when the program was initiated, the catalyst for the program, details of the program, and evidence of effectiveness.
- Conducting a series of key informant interviews with provincial governments to understand to rural policy objectives are created, how 'success' is measured, identification successful rural policies and programs, and discuss of why these programs were successful.
- Hosting an annual gathering of provincial and territorial policy makers to provide insights on the research collected and their implications.

Research Team

This research will be undertaken by a team from across Canada, including: Rob Greenwood (Memorial University), Al Lauzon (University of Guelph), Sheri Longboat (University of Guelph), Terri MacDonald (Selkirk College), Sean Markey (Simon Fraser University), Ruth Mealy (Government of Manitoba), Kelly Vodden (Grenfell Campus, Memorial University), Karla Uliana (Government of Ontario), Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation, and the Rural Policy Learning Commons. In the roll out of this initiative additional partners will be engaged across Canada.

Acknowledgements

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