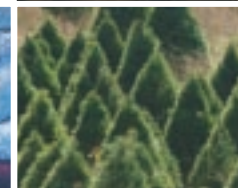
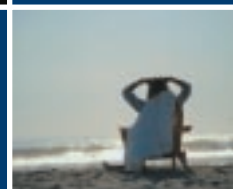




Enhancing the
Quality of Life
for Rural Canadians



Annual Report to Parliament
2000-2001



What is the Rural Secretariat?

The Government of Canada is committed to ensuring that rural Canadians share the opportunities and benefits of national prosperity, and experience an enhanced quality of life. As many solutions require the involvement of more than one department or agency, the mandate of the Rural Secretariat is to work across government lines.

The Rural Secretariat actively responds to the issues and unique needs of rural Canadians by working in partnership with residents of rural and remote areas to build strong, dynamic communities. It responds to rural issues and priorities through the *Interdepartmental Working Group* and provincial and territorial *Rural Teams*, and by co-ordinating a partnership approach to rural issues across the federal government.

Activities of the Rural Secretariat include:

- ❖ Promoting use of the *Rural Lens* to ensure that rural concerns are considered throughout federal government departments;
- ❖ seeking input of rural Canadians through the *Rural Dialogue* to help the federal government better understand and respond to local and regional issues;
- ❖ implementing the *Pilot Projects Initiative* to work with rural stakeholders on community-based projects that promote sustainable development;
- ❖ leading the *Information Outreach program* to promote awareness of federal programs and services for rural Canadians; and,
- ❖ conducting and supporting research and analysis of economic and social issues affecting rural Canada.

The Rural Secretariat works across government lines and with all departments to address the challenges of rural and remote Canada.



Enhancing the
Quality of Life
for Rural Canadians



Annual Report to Parliament
2000-2001



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This report is available electronically at: www.rural.gc.ca/annualreport/2001/index.phtml

AAFC No.: 2092/B

Catalogue No.: A1-18/2001

ISBN: 0-662-66133-8

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EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

Enhancing the Quality of Life for Rural Canadians and Building Strong Communities

Strong communities, both rural and urban, are the foundation for economic and social growth in Canada. In the 2001 Speech from the Throne, the government reconfirmed its commitment to rural Canada and rural Canadians to work with communities to develop successful solutions to the challenges they face. This second annual rural report to Parliament demonstrates the ongoing commitment of the Government of Canada to develop initiatives to support a higher quality of life in rural and remote Canada.

Building from the 1996 Speech from the Throne, the government continues to respond to rural issues by upholding a vision of successful communities making informed decisions to guide their own future. In the ensuing five years, sustainable rural community development has been a key element in ensuring rural Canadians have access to the opportunities and benefits of national prosperity. Through the application of the *Rural Lens*, the government ensures that new initiatives respond to the reality of rural Canada.

Key accomplishments highlighted in this report include: a dedicated rural portion (more than \$427 million) of infrastructure investments; \$125 million in Green Municipal Investment and Enabling Funds; enhancing access to federal services through Service Canada, Government On-Line and Connecting Canadians; improving access to financial resources for business and community development through a \$90 million infusion to the Community Futures Development

Corporations*; and testing innovative ways to improve rural health care through the Rural and Remote Health Innovations Initiative.

A Rural Portrait

Rural and remote Canada makes a vital contribution to the country's economy, quality of life and national identity. In 1999, according to Statistics Canada, 17 per cent of total national employment was in rural Canada, accounting for 15 per cent of total national Gross Domestic Product. Most of the contribution was from primary and natural resource sectors, which also contributed 40 per cent of total national exports. Rural and remote communities, broadly defined, accounted for about one third of Canada's population or approximately nine million people in 1996.

Approximately 90 per cent of Canada's land mass is rural and remote. The contribution of rural Canada to the nation cannot only be measured in economic impact. Its very existence has long defined Canada as a people and a nation. All Canadians benefit from tourism, environmental stewardship and attractions available in rural and remote Canada.

The Canadian Rural Partnership

The *Federal Framework for Action in Rural Canada* is the key policy framework supporting federal action in rural and remote Canada. Twenty-nine federal departments and agencies work in partnership with other levels of government and with non-governmental agencies to develop policies and programs that meet the specific needs of rural Canadians, providing knowledge, resources and expertise. Established in 1998, the *Canadian Rural Partnership* coordinates the efforts of federal departments engaged in social, economic and environmental areas. The *Canadian Rural Partnership's Pilot Projects Initiative* provides funding to rural

* Also referred to as Community Business Development Corporations in Atlantic Canada

communities, associations and organizations for projects that demonstrate creative and innovative approaches to community development in rural and remote Canada.

Rural Lens

This is a tool used within government to ensure that federal departments and agencies assess the effects of new policies, programs and services on rural Canadians before they are approved and implemented. The *Rural Lens* helps the federal government focus on issues related to specific geographical regions of Canada. This has enabled the government to make informed policy and program choices, and provide needed investments that reflect the unique social and cultural aspects of rural and remote Canada.

Successful application of the *Rural Lens* has resulted in a dedicated rural portion (more than \$427 million) of infrastructure investments, and improved access to federal tools and services through numerous Service Canada sites, 44 of which are located in rural and small communities. The establishment of the Office of Rural Health in Health Canada and an additional \$90 million in the Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDCs) are also a result of the application of the *Rural Lens*.

Rural Dialogue

The *Rural Dialogue* provides a voice for rural Canadians. Seven thousand Canadians contributed to the *Federal Framework for Action in Rural Canada* through the Dialogue process where they expressed their priorities and challenges. The Government of Canada is using the *Rural Dialogue* to act on its commitment to provide rural Canadians with the tools they need for community development. The Framework includes a vision for rural Canada, *11 Priority Areas* for action, and a set of principles that guide the federal approach to responding to the needs of rural and

remote Canadians. The Dialogue continued with regional rural conferences, hosted by the Secretary of State, in British Columbia, the Yukon Territory, Ontario and Nova Scotia, and through other regional events.

National Rural Conference – 2000

The first *National Rural Conference* was hosted by the Secretary of State Andy Mitchell in April 2000, in Magog-Orford, Quebec. About 500 participants, mostly from rural and remote communities across Canada, met with representatives from all levels of government. Delegates shared experiences and identified emerging trends, focussing on future opportunities as related to the Framework's Priority Areas. The results of the conference are being used to ensure policy and program decisions respond to the needs of Canadians living in rural and remote communities.

Rural Action Plan

The *Rural Action Plan* captures the key issues and lays out the next steps for government action in rural and remote areas. The issues are organized around the *11 Priority Areas* of the *Federal Framework for Action in Rural Canada*. At the *National Rural Conference*, the participants discussed progress on the framework and formulated 54 specific actions, many aimed at long-term, sustainable development strategies whereby communities develop solutions to meet specific local challenges.

The 11 Rural Priorities of the Federal Framework for Action

The Government of Canada is responding to issues identified by rural and remote Canadians. The Priority Areas have received focussed attention and the government action produced measurable results. This report provides a summary of many individual initiatives. The *11 Priority Areas* are presented here under six categories.

1. Improve Access to Services

Including Access to Federal Government Programs and Services, Health Care and Education

The Government of Canada strives to work with provincial and territorial governments to explore new ways to provide all Canadians with access to government programs, such as modern, efficient health and education services, at reasonable cost, regardless of where they live. The government is fulfilling its commitment to involve rural and remote Canadians in providing beneficial and supportive services and programs that are sensitive to the unique cultural diversity of all regions of Canada.

The Government of Canada is providing access to government programs and services by improving traditional technology routes, call centres and in-person services such as Service Canada access centres. The government established 44 Service Canada centres in rural areas, which will provide information on the full range of government programs and services. Through its network of 7,100 retail outlets, rural post offices ensured accessibility to a wide variety of services, while the Canada Business Service Centres, through its network of 382 regional partners, expanded its in-person access to many communities.

More than 75 national and regional rural health projects have been funded through Health Canada's Rural and Remote Health Innovations Initiative. In addition, Health Canada's two-year, \$80-million Canada Health Infostructure Partnerships Program is supporting collaboration, innovation and renewal in health care delivery. About \$49 million is directly supporting 17 programs to improve access to medical care in rural and remote areas.

Through the Canada Student Loans Program, the Government of Canada continues to assist rural Canadians with access to education. A partnership with Human Resources Development Canada and Canada Post has resulted in improved access to the Student Loans Program through 500 Canada Post outlets, many in rural areas. SchoolNet Network of Innovative Schools supports Canadian primary and secondary schools that have developed the ability to successfully integrate information and communications technology. Of the 85 schools in the program, 51 are from rural areas. Funding—up to \$10,000 annually for up to three years—is available to SchoolNet schools. In addition, the First Nations SchoolNet program has provided computers and Internet access to 420 First Nations schools and 113 communities without schools.

2. Promote Economic, Business and Community Development

Including Access to Financial Resources, Economic Diversification in Rural Canada, and Partnerships for Community Development

The federal government is committed to making its programs and services flexible, to meet the challenges of rural business and community development. With programs that develop skills and technology, the government is helping Canadians take advantage of new and future opportunities in the global, knowledge-based economies. By working with rural and remote Canadians where they live, the Government of Canada is assisting the development of community and grassroots networks, and helping to develop strong communities through sustainable local initiatives.

Farm Credit Canada served 44,700 customers, issuing \$1.8 billion in 13,289 loans last year. With a net income of \$31.6 million, it experienced its eighth consecutive year of growth. The Farm Income Safety Net program is providing \$5.5 billion in assistance over three years, while last year, the Canada Small Business Financing Act supported 17,667 small business loans, totalling \$1.351 billion and creating 55,238 new jobs. Business Development Programs assist developing businesses, while Canada Post has teamed up with several financial institutions to offer rural and remote Canadians a wide variety of financial services. The Aboriginal Business Development Initiative has committed \$14.6 million to investments over the next four years.

The Agricultural Policy Framework calls for a broad approach to managing the renewal of Canadian agriculture through the framework approved in principle by federal, provincial and territorial ministers in June 2001. The federal government supports the agriculture and agri-food sector in assisting development and meeting the risks of a rapidly changing industry. With the focus on an integrated approach to on-farm food safety, protection of the environment, farm income safety nets, and innovation and renewal of the agricultural sector, farmers acquire the tools they need to assess their situation and make the best choices.

In May 2000, the Government of Canada increased its commitment to the Community Futures Program by allocating \$90 million for the next five years. The Matching Investment Initiative (MII) offered \$29.7 million in 975 agri-food research projects in the fiscal year 2000–2001 to

help diversify agricultural and agri-food markets, products and production.

Government partnership initiatives for rural and remote Canada include: Interdepartmental Partnerships with Official-Language Communities; Canadian Centre for Public-Private Partnerships in Housing; Integrated Coastal Zone Management Community Projects; and Reaching Out to Aboriginal Peoples. Rural Teams have greatly assisted rural Canadians in developing these partnerships.

3. Upgrade Rural Infrastructure

Including Rural Infrastructure for Community Development, Rural Telecommunications and the Use of the Information Highway

Through increased access to infrastructure resources, telecommunications and Internet services, opportunities for growth can achieve long-term economic security. The Government of Canada is acting on its commitment to support innovation and help rural and remote communities to adapt and grow. Through a wide network of partners, many at the local level, the government assists with innovative solutions to maintaining and developing infrastructure.

Under the Treasury Board Secretariat, the Government of Canada is investing more than \$2 billion in Infrastructure Canada, and \$600 million in the Strategic Highway Infrastructure Program of Transport Canada. With investments from provincial/territorial, municipal and private-sector partners, more than \$427 million is available specifically for investment

in rural and remote Canada. In addition, the Airports Capital Assistance Program has committed \$190 million to finance capital projects from 2000 to 2005.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation continues to support the needs of rural and remote Canadians through public-private housing partnerships, rural and Native housing programs, on-reserve non-profit rental housing assistance, emergency repair support and residential rehabilitation assistance.

4. Provide More Targeted Opportunities for Rural Youth

Young people are the key to sustaining long-term social and economic development, and are an integral part of our rural communities. This priority responds to educational needs, work experience opportunities and entrepreneurship among all rural youth, including Aboriginal youth.

The Government of Canada's Youth Employment Strategy supports a wide variety of initiatives in rural and remote Canada. Many offer hands-on experience in setting up and running a business. Through the Canada Economic Development's Youth Strategy Program, more than \$16 million was invested in entrepreneurship, generating total investments of \$102 million in Quebec. In Atlantic Canada, Open for Business centres have attracted 2,600 clients, while the First Nations and Inuit Youth Employment Strategy has created more than 24,000 opportunities, with a federal government investment of \$24 million.

5. Assist Leadership and Community Capacity Building

The Government of Canada is helping Canadians to build on their achievements, and to use existing skills to take advantage of new opportunities. With a focus on self-reliance and entrepreneurship, strategies and programs are assisting rural and remote Canada in sustaining itself over the long term.

Non-profit groups across the country continue to benefit from the EcoAction Community Funding Program. More than 1,000 projects have been funded since its inception, with a total value greater than \$5 million annually. The Pacific Resource Rebuilding Strategy has supported the preservation of West Coast salmon with a five-year, \$100-million federal government commitment. The Canadian Agricultural Rural Communities Initiative (CARCI) is enhancing the viability of agricultural rural communities, particularly those undergoing change as a result of adjustment in the agricultural sector. CARCI funding is provided under the Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development Fund, which will amount to \$9.3 million over three years. The Canadian Rural Partnership Pilot Projects Initiative funds creative approaches to development in rural and remote communities. During the 2000-2001 fiscal year, 100 projects with a total funding of \$2.96 million, were supported.

6. Promote Rural Canada

The Government of Canada is committed to ensuring that rural and remote Canada is a great place to live, prosper and raise a family. The federal government remains a dedicated and helpful partner for rural and remote communities to achieve their potential.

The federal government is further developing its rural Web site at <http://www.rural.gc.ca> into a "Rural and Remote Services" portal, an integral part of the main Government of Canada Web site at <http://www.canada.gc.ca>. The improvements will create a single-window access to services available to rural and remote communities. Through this site, citizens in rural and remote Canada will continue to be able to express their views on federal programs and policies, and be kept informed of ongoing government activities.

Rural and remote areas contain Canada's vast natural resources. The government, through National Parks, provides financial assistance for 25 of the 39 distinct natural regions in the country. The overall impact on the economy in 2000–2001 was about \$1.75 billion and 43,450 jobs.

The Virtual Museum of Canada provides rural museums and galleries with the opportunity to have a presence on the World Wide Web. The Virtual Museum was launched in March 2001, and there are over 630 actively participating museums, providing interested parties with information on cultural institutions and attractions across Canada. Through

the Canadian Heritage Information Network, rural and remote Canadians have World Wide Web access to Canadian heritage information. Similarly, Statistics Canada's Rural Information Service helps communities access information and services to find local solutions to local challenges. The Heritage Forum assists heritage professionals with world-wide access to resources, providing 2.8 million Internet clients last year with 650 information-based resources. Through Artifacts Canada, museums can share collections information.

Preparing for the Future – Supporting Local Solutions to Local Challenges
In the 2001 Speech from the Throne, the federal government stated that it would "strive to ensure that, wherever possible, its actions and programs are coordinated to help build local solutions to local challenges."

Many initiatives are planned for the next year. The *Rural Lens* will help integrate the needs and interests of rural and remote Canada into all new and renewed government initiatives. Pilot projects and the *Canadian Agricultural Rural Communities Initiative* will support innovative solutions to local challenges. An evaluation of the first four years of project-level experience will be carried out in 2001–2002, to share the lessons learned and improve future programming. The federal government is continuing to report back to citizens on the 54 areas for action identified following the *2000 National Rural Conference*.

Rural Dialogues and a second *National Rural Conference* in 2002 will further define the path of the federal government in responding with initiatives to support sustainable development of our rural and remote communities. The rural policy and research agendas will focus on key assets and opportunities to provide greater support for community

capacity building. The *Rural Teams* will continue to evolve and coordinate federal programs at the rural level through provincial *Rural Action Plans*.

Through the use of the *Rural Lens* and direction from the *Rural Dialogue*, the *Federal Framework for Action in Rural Canada* will continue to improve rural and remote Canadians' access to government programs and services, and to achieve positive, measurable results in 2001–2002.

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER



As the *Canadian Rural Partnership* nears the end of its first four years, this is a good time to look back and review the progress we have made and to set our course for the future in rural and remote Canada.

The partnership began as a new way of doing business for the federal government—an experiment based on dialogues, pilot projects, partnerships, an information outreach program and the *Rural Lens*, the government's process of seeing the impact of issues through the eyes of rural Canadians. From the outset, our objectives have been to reconnect the federal government with rural and remote Canadians, and to strengthen the economic and social foundations of rural and remote Canada.

The partnership got off to a strong start, leading to the creation of the *Federal Framework for Action in Rural Canada*, and it has continued to engage citizens in rural and remote communities in building a more sustainable future for themselves and their children. Through it all, the Government of Canada has been there as a partner with local citizens, helping communities find local solutions to local problems.

My own department, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, is working to the benefit of rural and remote Canadians by broadening the traditional focus of agricultural policy in a more comprehensive and integrated way. A new Agriculture Policy Framework will ensure the prosperity of the agriculture and agri-food sector by making Canada the world leader in safety, innovation and environmentally responsible production.

The Government of Canada is committed to addressing the needs of rural and remote Canadians and involving these citizens in decisions that affect their future.

Last year, *Working Together in Rural Canada*, the first annual rural report to Parliament, outlined our progress on the file over the first three years. *Enhancing the Quality of Life for Rural Canadians* highlights our achievements over the last year and indicates where we are headed. As Minister Coordinating Rural Affairs, I am very pleased to join my colleague, Andy Mitchell, Secretary of State (Rural Development) (Federal Economic Initiative for Northern Ontario) in presenting this report to Parliament.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lyle Vanclief', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Lyle Vanclief
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
Minister Coordinating Rural Affairs

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE



In 1996, the Government of Canada stepped up its strong commitment to partner with Canadians in rural and remote communities to meet the unique challenges they face. This commitment reflects the conviction that a strong Canada can only exist when all its component parts—rural and urban—are healthy and all its citizens have the opportunity to share in the wealth of the nation.

Rural and remote communities make a vital and significant contribution to the economy, society and well-being of all Canadians, including those who live in cities. Rural businesses account for 17 per cent of Canada's employment and 15 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP). More important still, resource industries, including agriculture, fishing, forestry, energy and mining, based in rural and remote regions, produce about 40 per cent of our exports.

Rural and remote Canada is a source of much of the energy that drives urban industries. It extracts the natural gas and generates the electricity that heat and light homes and businesses. It produces the wood to build houses, the food that goes on the nation's tables, and the paper on which this report is printed. Rural and remote communities are also home to industries that add value to our natural resources.

The contribution of rural and remote Canada to the nation is more than simply a question of dollars. It is part of the fabric of the nation that has shaped our past and defines us as a country. It adds to the tapestry of our culture and its sense of community strengthens our society. In addition, we all enjoy the benefits of the pristine wilderness and wide-open spaces that rural Canada preserves for us. These resources benefit rural and remote citizens by attracting a growing

number of tourists each year, contributing to the long-term stability of communities.

All Canadians—rural, remote and urban—can contribute to making our country a world leader, both as a place to live and as a place to work. As we strive for excellence in all aspects of our economy and society, it is important to harness the energy and enthusiasm of people living in rural and remote communities. With appropriate investments and the right tools, they can contribute even more to our national prosperity.

This second annual rural report to Parliament shows how the Government of Canada is working with rural and remote Canadians to provide those investments and those tools.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Andy Mitchell". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue background.

Andy Mitchell
Secretary of State
(Rural Development) (Federal Economic Development Initiative for Northern Ontario)

INTRODUCTION

About one third of all Canadians reside in rural and remote communities. They work and live in rural towns such as Peace River, Alberta; Pictou, Nova Scotia; Kenora, Ontario; Riviere-du-Loup, Quebec; and remote areas such as Tuktoyaktuk, Northwest Territories. Like most Canadians, they are concerned about their quality of life, and how economic, social and environmental changes will affect their future. However, many of their challenges are particular to the smaller communities in which they live.

These challenges of rural and remote Canadians have been heard by the Government of Canada. In the 1996 Speech from the Throne, the government made a commitment to assist these Canadians by taking steps to renew the rural economy. Working with rural and remote Canadians, the government recognized the challenges and put in place initiatives, programs and services to serve the unique needs of the people.

In 1997, the *Think Rural* report of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources provided the basis for a federal rural economic development policy and future investments. It stressed the importance of ensuring a “bottom-up” citizen-driven approach to rural development. This philosophy was put into practice in 1998 when the federal government allocated \$20 million over four years for the *Canadian Rural Partnership* and, subsequently, gave the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food responsibility for cross-government coordination of rural affairs.

In four short years, using innovative approaches, the partnership has produced positive results. The *Rural Dialogue*, a major component of the partnership, confirmed the key issues, concerns and challenges of rural and remote Canadians while identifying ways the government could help them achieve solutions that would lead to sustainable development of their communities. One result was the creation of the *Federal Framework for Action in Rural Canada*, announced in April 1999, which provided

the federal policy response to the issues identified by rural Canadians through the *Rural Dialogue*. Along with a vision for rural Canada, the framework lists *11 Priority Areas* for action that guide the federal approach in responding to rural needs. Detailed results and achievements under each priority area are outlined in the body of this report.

Also in 1999, the Prime Minister appointed a Secretary of State for Rural Development, tasking him with a mandate to improve the quality of life in rural Canada through a focus on rural development. In doing so, the government established a full-time focal point for Cabinet-level policy coordination and rural advocacy, and strengthened its capacity to manage relations with rural Canadians and other partners.

The government has made several significant national investments that are addressing priorities outlined in the framework. Examples include: a dedicated rural portion (more than \$427 million) of infrastructure investments; \$125 million in Green Municipal Investment and Enabling Funds; enhancing access to federal services through Service Canada, Government On-Line and Connecting Canadians; improving access to financial resources for business and community development through a \$90 million infusion to Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDC); testing innovative ways to improve rural health care through the Rural and Remote Health Innovations Initiative; a three-year agreement on farm safety nets worth \$5.5 billion. Continuing its commitment to rural and remote residents, in the 2001 Speech from the Throne, the government stated it would “strive to ensure that, wherever possible, its actions and programs are co-ordinated to help build local solutions to local challenges.” Additionally, the government is leading the way to enhance technology in these areas through programs “critical to Canada’s effort to close the digital divide, particularly in rural, remote, Northern and Aboriginal communities.”

A citizen-centered federal rural development agenda means that government actions and programs are coordinated to help communities identify their own goals and futures, and deliver practical tools to bring substantial results in these communities.

The Government of Canada is accountable to Canadians for its responses to issues and for program results. It is establishing a system to measure how the government is working with rural and remote Canadians to assist them in improving their quality of life in the 21st century. Accountability can be measured through this annual report, *Enhancing the Quality of Life for Rural Canadians*. It highlights government achievements and results to date, and outlines future directions for priority areas.

In partnership with rural and remote residents, other levels of government, the private sector and stakeholders, the Government of Canada continues to work diligently to ensure the sustainability of rural and remote communities.

A Global Portrait

Rural and remote Canada occupies over 90 per cent of Canada's land mass and is the source of most of the country's natural resources and environmental assets. Rural Canada accounted for 31.4 per cent of the population or approximately nine million people in 1996, based on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) definition¹. Using Statistics Canada's "Rural and Small Town" definition, which includes communities with a population of 10,000 or less—outside commuting zones of large metropolitan areas and cities—22.2 per cent of Canada's total population in 1996 was in rural and remote communities.

Rural areas are different from urban in four fundamental ways:

- ❖ Geography;
- ❖ distance from markets;
- ❖ population density; and
- ❖ reliance on traditional primary or natural resource sectors.

The diverse terrain of rural and remote areas presents social and economic development challenges for many communities—particularly due to constraints of climate and location. Distance from markets results in higher transport and business costs, while low population density can present challenges to marginal tax bases and smaller returns from private-sector investment. In some areas, reliance on a single resource-based industry leaves many communities vulnerable to

resource depletion and economic downturns, often dictated by global market forces outside the control of the local community.

Dynamic Rural Economy

Despite challenges and obstacles, the Canadian rural economy remains dynamic and a new, vibrant rural enterprise is gradually emerging. Some areas are growing away from traditional dependence on a primary, resource-based economy. Their new rural environment has created more innovative and valuable resource-based industries as well as many new business opportunities.

Rural and Small Town Canada continues to make a significant contribution to the country's economy. In 1999, it accounted for 15 per cent of total national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and 17 per cent of total national employment. Most of the GDP contribution was still from the primary and natural resource sectors, which also accounted for approximately 40 per cent of total national exports.

Overall, the rural economy is growing and diversifying. From 1995 to 1999, rural employment grew by 7.7 per cent and new industrial sectors are becoming more significant. Employment in producer services increased close to 12 per cent from 1995 to 1999 and personal services by over 14 per cent in the same period. Rural areas still account for the highest concentration of employment in primary industries, with over 15 per cent of employment in 1999, compared to two per cent in urban areas.

¹The OECD defines a predominantly rural region as a region with more than 50 per cent of its population living in rural communities. A rural community has a population density of less than 150 persons per square kilometre. In Canada, regions refer to census divisions and communities to census consolidated subdivisions.

However, it must be noted that national figures can overlook significant regional and local differences in the industrial structure of rural economies. Due to the broad scope, it is less evident how rural Canada is coping with change. Rural areas are not always comparable for a myriad of reasons.

Canada is a land of diversity. Rural economies from east to west and north to south—as well as within regions—reflect the mosaic of the nation. The type of resources, income levels, employment opportunities, unemployment, and other economic and social indicators generate regionally unique development concerns and constraints.

The remote and northern communities of Canada face very different realities than rural communities near large urban areas. Against this backdrop are cultural and social differences across regions. Ultimately, while some rural and remote communities have embraced a new economy, others have untapped potential that needs to be developed.

Tourism

Rural tourism is an emerging growth industry, in terms of both demand and supply. From 1996 to 1998, tourism demand (measured as number of visits) increased by 9.9 per cent in Rural and Small Town Canada compared with 5.2 per cent in urban areas. Employment in tourism-related sectors in Rural and Small Town Canada grew by 7.4 per cent compared with 3.4 per cent in urban areas during 1995–1998.

Small Business

Rural Canada is entrepreneurial. It is fuelled by small businesses—widely recognized as the engine of economic growth and job creation. Statistics Canada indicates that 35 per cent of people living in communities of less than 20,000 account for 38 per cent of all businesses in Canada. Small businesses are the bread and butter of the nation, with over 80 per cent employing less than 10 people.

Population Changes

From a national perspective, rural and small town population is increasing. However, in Newfoundland and Saskatchewan, rural numbers have been steadily decreasing for decades. That decline is offset by rural population growth in all other provinces.

Population growth for many rural communities has been generated by economic growth in nearby cities. However, rural populations in many regions away from metropolitan centres are growing more slowly or, in many cases, are declining. Rural areas that have grown most are on the outskirts of major cities.

Other rural areas that experienced population growth are those with attractive tourism, recreation and retirement destinations—primarily for urban populations. For many rural areas—particularly those outside the commuting zones of major urban centres—population out-migration remains a major concern. Between 1971 and 1996, all provinces sustained a considerable outflow of youth from rural areas, with the greatest losses in Saskatchewan and the Atlantic provinces.

The population changes are different for Canada's Aboriginal people. In 1996, 65 per cent of Canada's Aboriginal people lived in rural regions. This included 93 per cent of all on-reserve Aboriginal people (based on the OECD rural definition). The rural Aboriginal population is a young population, with 37 per cent under the age of 15 in 1996. Many social and economic indicators—employment rate, education, income level and health status—reveal the Aboriginal population is below the average for the Canadian population.

New Economy Requirements

Many rural regions do not have the necessary infrastructure and social amenities to capitalize on opportunities created by the new knowledge-based and technology-driven economy. For example, though Internet access for rural and remote Canadians increased from 20 per cent to 35 per cent from 1997–1999, the increase in urban areas was from 30 per cent to 47 per cent over the same period. As take up of Internet access is increasing at a faster rate in urban than in rural areas, the gap between urban and rural access is also widening.

Only 10 per cent of the rural workforce has a university degree (compared with 20 per cent in cities) and 30 per cent of rural Canadians have less than a high school diploma. Rural communities are also losing their educated leaders of tomorrow—university-trained youth. In 1996, 40 per cent of rural youth with a university degree left their community compared with 25 per cent in urban communities. Studies show that only 20 per cent of youth, whether urban or rural, are likely to return to their community as residents after they complete university-level studies elsewhere.

Health Care Access

Rural residents consider access to health services a critical factor affecting both social and economic development. Maintaining an adequate supply of health care professionals is a major challenge in rural and remote areas. Between 1991 and 1996, the proportion of physicians working in Rural and Small Town Canada decreased, while the population during that time increased.

The Rural Commitment

Rural Canada's ability to overcome economic and social challenges and to build upon its wealth of assets will depend upon local capability and innovation. This includes support from, and partnership with, various levels of government to provide appropriate programs, services and information.

The Government of Canada is committed to ensuring that rural Canadians share in the opportunities and benefits of national prosperity and quality of life. This commitment to rural and remote Canadians has grown over time. The 2001 Speech from the Throne reaffirmed the government's commitment, promising to "bring the benefits of our prosperity to all communities, whether urban, rural, northern or remote." Recognizing that Canadian communities, "whether urban or rural, Aboriginal or multicultural, face unique challenges and have unique needs," the Speech from the Throne further committed the government to ensuring that its "actions and programs are coordinated to support local solutions to local challenges."

Federal Framework for Action in Rural Canada

During the 1998 *Rural Dialogue*, rural residents identified their needs, reflected in the *Federal Framework for Action in Rural Canada* in April 1999. The framework defines the vision and goals of the federal response to the challenges and priorities facing rural and remote Canadians. It involves citizens making informed decisions about their own future, and all Canadians sharing the benefits of a global knowledge-based economy and society—taking full advantage of opportunities for personal and community development.

The framework lists *11 Priority Areas* for action and sets out principles to guide the federal approach to responding to rural needs. An essential commitment of government is to maintain a bottom-up approach to rural development, recognizing that rural Canadians should determine their own future. It is also committed to developing a more concerted response to help address rural needs. This means involving rural people in decisions that affect their future and keeping rural citizens informed of actions taken. This second annual report to Parliament, which reports on progress to date, is part of this commitment.

Working Together

Working with 29 federal departments and agencies through an *Interdepartmental Working Group (IWG)*, and through *Rural Teams* in every province and territory, the Government of Canada has established a more integrated approach to address rural residents' priorities and for working in partnership with rural and remote communities.

While responsibility for specific program and service delivery continues to rest with each federal department or agency, there is increasing emphasis on horizontal coordination and partnership.

Through information sharing, enhanced coordination and key horizontal cross-government initiatives, new methods to help rural communities are being developed.

Rural Lens

The Government of Canada uses the "*Rural Lens*" for new policies, programs and services to better respond to rural realities. By using the *Rural Lens* checklist, and the vision, priorities and principles of the *Federal Framework for Action in Rural Canada*, the government can estimate effects of new federal services, policies and programs before they are established. Where needed, the government can make adjustments to ensure the initiatives respond accordingly. This approach helps the government ensure new initiatives are appropriate for rural and remote Canadians, and that the affected citizens are involved in the decision-making process.

The *Rural Lens* has helped the federal government make policy and program choices and needed investments in rural and remote Canada, such as:

- ❖ A dedicated rural portion (more than \$427 million) of infrastructure investments;

- ❖ improved access to federal tools and services through 44 Service Canada sites in rural and small urban communities and the *Pocket Directory of Rural Programs and Services*;
- ❖ established the Office of Rural Health in Health Canada; and
- ❖ infused \$90 million in the Community Futures Development Corporations.

Partnerships

The Government of Canada fully recognizes that the development of rural and remote Canada is a shared responsibility of all four levels of government (federal, provincial/territorial, First Nations and local) and with rural Canadians. While this annual report reflects the collective actions of the federal government, many of these initiatives are collaborative efforts with other levels of government, local stakeholders and private sector partners.

Rural citizens across Canada are proud of their communities. They are ready to take on the challenge of the new rural economy. By working together, we can more effectively help rural and remote communities strengthen their own future and take greater advantage of their wealth of assets.

RURAL DIALOGUES AND TEAMS

Dialogue

Federal government action and initiatives are designed to help communities identify their own specific goals and futures—and deliver practical tools that will work well in each community. Launched in 1998, the *Rural Dialogue*, which includes surveys, workshops, regional and national conferences, provides a way for rural and remote citizens and stakeholders to discuss issues directly with the federal government. The federal rural development agenda is citizen-centered.

National Rural Conference

The first *National Rural Conference*, hosted by Andy Mitchell, Secretary of State (Rural Development) (Federal Economic Development Initiative for Northern Ontario) was held April 27–30, 2000, in Magog-Orford, Quebec. More than 500 participants from mostly rural and remote communities across Canada met with representatives from all levels of government.

The conference provided an opportunity for rural and remote Canadians to showcase their communities, share initiatives and experiences. Delegates had the chance to look ahead, identify emerging trends and focus on future opportunities as related to the *11 Priority Areas* of the *Federal Framework for Action in Rural Canada*.

Issues raised during the conference were:

- ❖ Providing more government services on-line;

- ❖ increasing rural youth participation in community development;
- ❖ empowering community leaders and organizations to pursue economic and community development initiatives;
- ❖ providing affordable housing in rural areas, particularly in the north;
- ❖ providing rural and remote communities with telecommunications infrastructure;
- ❖ strengthening the *Rural Lens*; and
- ❖ broadening the *Rural Dialogue* to recognize and acknowledge the contribution of rural Canada.

The conference was also a time to take stock of the federal government's collective efforts to deal with the unique challenges of living in rural Canada. The results of the conference are being used to ensure policy and program decisions respond to the needs of Canadians living in rural and remote communities.

Rural Action Plan

The Secretary of State made a commitment at the *National Rural Conference* to develop an action plan to guide the federal government in each of the *11 Priority Areas*. Gleaned from the priorities of rural and remote Canadians, the *Rural Action Plan* was drafted, then validated by conference participants to ensure their essential points were captured.

It was published and distributed in April 2001 to all conference participants and those who contributed to past *Rural Dialogue* events. It was also shared with key rural stakeholders—including other levels of government—to work as partners to provide coordinated delivery of the plan's initiatives.

Some of the issues raised at the conference, or in response to the proposed action plan, require new policy directions and/or additional funding. The Secretary of State is committed to raising these issues with his colleagues to determine how best they can be addressed.

Throughout the *Rural Dialogue* and at the *National Rural Conference*, rural Canadians made it clear they are willing to be active and supportive partners in achieving their own vision for rural and remote Canada. They also want to continue to influence decision making on federal government policies, programs and services. They want to be kept informed of ongoing government activities that affect them. Accordingly, at the *National Rural Conference*, the Secretary of State committed to a second conference in 2002. In the meantime, *Rural Teams* in each province and territory will arrange for citizens to participate in regional rural dialogue activities.

Regional Activities

Since the conference, the government has conducted telephone surveys with citizens in Alberta and the Yukon. It has hosted dialogue sessions in Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, and held four regional rural conferences in Vernon, British Columbia (April 2001); Haines Junction, Yukon (June 2001); North Bay, Ontario (August 2001); and Cornwallis, Nova Scotia (October 2001).

A number of messages came out of these regional sessions and conferences. Youth expressed an interest in mentoring support, more access to education and counselling. Rural citizens wanted more participation between all levels of government on health care and easy access to information on government programs and services, particularly in a language that is understood. First Nations issues and concerns for persons with disabilities were raised.

The need for more federal government training and leadership skills development to better promote rural Canada, and to maintain and improve local infrastructure to encourage economic development was also expressed. Communities wanted to share information on development approaches, apply for government support more easily, and develop local capability to deal with issues. They wanted local control over their own resources and to accept responsibility for community development.

Rural Dialogue Tools

The *Rural Dialogue* is moving ahead with the help of a variety of communications tools put at the disposal of citizens and communities in rural and remote areas.

For example, the *Rural Dialogue On-Line Discussion Group* enables interactive discussions on a variety of issues and concerns that affect rural and remote Canadians. The *Rural Fairs and Exhibits Program*, which was part of more than 560 fairs, trade shows and municipal conferences across Canada over the last five years, brings important information on federal government programs and services to rural and remote communities. *The Rural Times* newsletter, which features news

and success stories from rural areas across the country, continues to be distributed quarterly.

As well, the on-line discussion group will be enhanced over the next year to include electronic town hall meetings as indicated in the *Rural Action Plan*. Additional regional dialogue activities with partners were conducted through 2001 and more will follow. Increased youth participation will form part of future regional and national dialogues.

Rural Teams

Established in 1998, *Rural Teams* in each province and territory provide a forum for the federal government to work in a coordinated manner with other community stakeholders to respond to rural development issues and priorities. The *Rural Teams* enhance government's ability to network and address important priorities and challenges at the local level.

The following are recent examples of *Rural Team* activities across Canada:

In New Brunswick, the *Rural Team* was involved with the Acadian Peninsula community of Centre Péninsule (Concertation rurale Centre Péninsule) to pilot-test a horizontal model for responding to rural communities.

In Prince Edward Island, an ongoing dialogue with the community of Kensington gave the PEI *Rural Team* an example of how a community is challenged to build capacity to access government programs and services, and be equipped with the right tools to support sustainable community development.

The Nova Scotia *Rural Team* was a sponsor of the East Coast Conference on Community Development in Sydney, Cape Breton. As well, it helped develop and coordinate the Nova Scotia Sustainable Communities Initiative and was instrumental in the Nova Scotia Regional Rural Conference October 2001.

In Newfoundland and Labrador, the Futures in Newfoundland and Labrador Youth (FINALLY) worked with the *Rural Team* to promote youth entrepreneurship, enterprise development, community involvement, and social and economic opportunities.

In Quebec, the Bas-Saint-Laurent *Rural Team* and the Community Futures Development Corporations organized an awareness week called "Connected to Their Communities," which dealt with issues such as information technology in rural areas. During the event, a local Internet discussion group was launched. The Eastern Townships *Rural Team* hosted "Canada At Your Doorstep," a showcase of programs and services provided by the Government of Canada. The event also demonstrated how partnerships between rural Canada and federal departments can help communities meet their needs more effectively.

In Ontario, six dialogue sessions and a youth forum were held in June and July 2001. Discussions focussed on the assets that rural communities could use to build on their strengths and resources to secure sustainable development. The meetings culminated in the August 2001 Ontario Regional Conference where government actions and strategies were discussed in the context of using them to build upon the key assets of rural Ontario. In northern Ontario, a dialogue with community leaders in Chapleau advanced discussions on the development of sustainable rural and remote communities.

In the Prairies, about 50 rural Manitobans attended the dialogue session organized by the provincial *Rural Team*. In March 2001, the Saskatchewan *Rural Team* gathered about 40 people from across the province in Saskatoon to exchange information and ideas about rural sustainability.

In Alberta, the *Rural Team* conducted a provincial survey of more than 400 people to rank the *11 Priority Areas* for action, identify specific needs, suggest actions, and identify roles for both communities and government. Based on the results of the survey and the national *Rural Action Plan*, the *Rural Team* is identifying individual and collaborative follow-up actions.

In British Columbia, the *Rural Team* organized the Regional Rural Conference in April 2001. In addition, the *Rural Team* held a series of youth dialogues. As a result, three communities decided to establish youth councils so they could participate in the local decision-making process and develop projects.

In the Yukon, the *Rural Team* conducted a telephone survey of 900 residents to determine their priorities, needs and suggested actions. The results were used during the Yukon Regional Conference in June 2001.

In the Northwest Territories, the *Rural Team* worked with Service Canada to establish a pilot project that would improve access to government programs and services in Fort Simpson, Fort Providence, Rae-Edzo and Fort McPherson. The *Rural Team* also prepared a compendium of youth programs and services. As well, youth from across the territories were brought together to a NWT Youth Council conference to discuss opportunities and barriers that exist for young people.

In February 2001, the Nunavut *Rural Team* organized a workshop on issues of community wellness. It was found that communities generally lacked an awareness and a capacity to access available resources. The *Rural Team* agreed to help improve the delivery of government programs and services so that communities could access these resources. The Team's recommendations and strategies were endorsed by a joint meeting with senior officials of the Government of Nunavut and the Nunavut Federal Council.

ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR RURAL CANADIANS

Priorities and Achievements

The Government of Canada is listening and responding to the issues identified by rural and remote Canadians. Each of the *11 Priority Areas* has received specific and unique attention, emphasizing grassroots solutions and long-term development. This section summarizes many initiatives that respond to these priorities. A complete list of programs and services can be found in Annex C.

Priority: Access to Federal Government Programs and Services

The Government of Canada strives to work with provincial and territorial governments to explore new ways to ensure that all Canadians, regardless of where they live, have access to government programs and services. The government continues to meet its commitment to consult, work with and learn from rural and remote Canadians, and to provide services and programs that are both meaningful and beneficial, while being sensitive to the unique cultural diversity of all regions of the country.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Rural Exhibits Program

The Government of Canada Rural Exhibits program is expected to visit between 100 and 115 locations in rural and remote Canada this year. In the last five years, the program has visited over 560 locations, including fairs, conferences, trade shows and malls.

Pocket Directory

The Rural Secretariat, through the *Canadian Rural Partnership*, publishes the *Pocket Directory of Rural Programs and Services*. This directory is distributed through the Rural Exhibits Program, the Community Access Program (CAP), Service Canada Centres, rural municipalities and organizations, public requests and other means. It is also available electronically on the *Canadian Rural Partnership's* Web site at <http://rural.gc.ca>.

Canadian Rural Information Service (CRIS)

This service responds to the information needs of rural and remote Canadians by providing guides to information resources, customized information packages on specific queries, a Web site of rural development sources, referrals to expert sources of information, and customized bibliographic searches. The CRIS Web site can be found at <http://www.agr.ca/cris>.

The exhibits program, directory and CRIS all provide information to Canadians living in rural and remote communities on how to access government programs and services.

Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency

ACOA Web Site

The Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) continues to maintain a Web presence that provides its clients with a description of its programs and eligibility criteria, as well as an easy on-line form. The usefulness of this mode of access to information has been demonstrated by the 10,000 to 15,000 client visits per week. These clients are currently accessing 4,000 to 6,000 electronic files each week. The Web site is <http://www.acoa.ca>.

Canada Customs and Revenue Agency

NETFILE/TELEFILE Service

The agency is striving to make it easier for rural Canadians to access information and services, and to provide the support they need to meet obligations or receive entitlements. The agency continues to expand the services that it provides electronically and by telephone to Canadians. In the 2000 tax-filing year, NETFILE was made available to all Canadians, and more than 1.4 million Canadians filed their taxes on-line. This is just one of the many products and services available on the agency's Web site.

Recognizing that not everyone has Internet access, the telephone-based system for filing returns has also been expanded. The TELEFILE service, already available for income tax filing, is now available for sales and harmonization taxes (the Goods and Services Tax [GST] and provincial sales taxes blended together for collection by the federal government). Also, employers can now use the new toll-free telephone service to report payroll information when their remittance amount is nil. The national 1-800 telephone system allows the flexibility to route calls to available agents from anywhere in Canada, providing equitable and balanced telephone access to all Canadians.

Canada Post

Rural Post Office Services

Canada Post is working to improve the financial viability of rural post offices and ensure that Canadians have both retail postal services and a federal presence in their community for the long term. Many important

services are offered in rural and remote areas through Canada Post's network of 7,100 retail offices. They include Canadian Firearms Application forms, passport application forms, the Passport Receiving Agent Program, Atlantic Recreational Fishing Licences, and Canada Customs and Revenue Agency T1 non-personalized guides and forms.

Human Resources Development Canada

Employment Assistance Services

The Human Resources Development Canada Investment Fund invested about \$600,000 last year to provide employment information and counselling services to the 69,000 rural people of Middlesex County, Ontario. Five employment resource centres in Middlesex contact on average 26,000 clients annually. Each centre offers its own unique blend of services, as warranted by the needs of individual communities. As the centres develop and grow, so will the range of municipal, provincial and federal partnerships involved.

Industry Canada

Canada Business Service Centres (CBSC)

In 2000–2001, the government expanded the CBSC in-person access to a network of 382 regional access partners. This network extends access to business information resources to many communities, including Aboriginal communities, across the country. Most regional access partners are located in rural or remote areas, with a mandate to provide service to small businesses in their communities.

The CBSCs are operated by the Industry Portfolio on behalf of the federal government, and include Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, Industry Canada, Federal Economic Development (Northern Ontario), Canada Economic Development (Quebec regions), and Western Economic Diversification (working in partnership with provincial and territorial governments and non-government business service organizations).

The Canada/Manitoba Business Service Centre initiated a Mobile Business Service Centre, while the Canada/Newfoundland and Labrador Business Service Centre administers electronic resource collection available to entrepreneurs and to 30 regional access partners. CBSCs help entrepreneurs with business questions regarding their own communities. The Canada/New Brunswick Business Service Centre organized training sessions in 19 Community Access Centres to build local on-site awareness of CBSC's Web-based business resources. The Canada/Yukon Business Service Centre and Service Canada joined forces to provide one-stop access to federal and territorial information on programs and services.

Talk to Us!

The CBSCs have completed four successful pilots of an innovative service enhancement called *Talk to Us!*, which integrates the telephone and the World Wide Web to help business clients find the right information. Particularly useful to rural entrepreneurs, *Talk to Us!* provides personalized service right in the community. The pilot was tested in Alberta, Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick in 2000–2001. More than 500 early users clicked on the *Talk to Us!* button at the CBSC Web site <http://cbsc.org> and more than 80 per cent felt the service greatly enhanced their ability to find the information they need.

Aboriginal Business Service Network

A key part of the Aboriginal Business Development Initiative, the Aboriginal Business Service Network (ABSN) builds on the structure of existing CBSCs, tailoring the services to meet the unique requirements of Aboriginal clients.

The network of CBSCs has established 72 service network partnerships in communities with significant First Nations and Métis populations. Each ABSN site has access to a core resource collection geared to Aboriginal people. A national ABSN toll-free number (1-877-699-5559) and an Internet site <http://www.cbsc.org/absn> provide one-stop access to business information.

Public Works and Government Services Canada

Public Access Program

The Government of Canada made a commitment to make Canada “the most connected country in the world.” Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) leads the development, operation and improvement of systems that deliver information to the public. It also continues to provide public access to the Government of Canada by improving traditional technology routes, call centres, and in-person services such as Service Canada access centres.

Most recent figures indicate that 1.3 million calls have been made to 1 800 O-Canada, and 468.2 million hits have been received on the Canada Site. About 38.1 million pages of information have been requested from the Canada Site (an increase of 37 per cent in one year),

with 30,390 e-mail messages received from Canada Site users (an increase of 57 per cent in one year).

Canada Site*

Public Access services for rural Canadians include the Government of Canada's primary Internet site <http://www.canada.gc.ca>. PWGSC leads the development of the site, in collaboration with the Treasury Board Secretariat's Canada Information Office. The site is a portal for the delivery of services, new initiatives and information products to Canadian citizens and organizations. This year, the site was redesigned to make navigation easier and information more accessible. Three new gateways (services for Canadians, non-Canadians and Canadian business) were introduced.

The Service for Canadians Gateway*

The Service for Canadians Gateway is a second-level portal that operates under the broader main-entry Canada Site portal. It has been designed and built to reflect a strong Internet presence for the government's programs and services, and to provide an innovative approach to making information useful and easy to find. Information is organized by subject of interest, user patterns on the Canada Site, feedback received through the site's on-line feature, and focus group sessions with citizens to determine precisely which information they most often seek. As part of the government's rural initiative, the *Canadian Rural Partnership* has created a specific cluster "Rural and Remote Services," which is a directory of services put together especially for rural and remote communities. The Web site is <http://www.rural.gc.ca>.

1 800 0-Canada*

PWGSC continues to manage the national toll-free call centre. Operators answer queries from Canadians looking for information, programs and

services, new initiatives and products, or redirect calls to the appropriate departments.

Blue Pages Redesign

PWGSC, in collaboration with provinces and municipalities, has established common government telephone listings that make it easier for citizens to find out about government services. The project, organized with the Treasury Board Secretariat, is a citizen-centered keyword listing for the combined federal/provincial/municipal government telephone directory services. Some directories have already been dispensed and a total of 152 directories will be distributed across the country by the end of 2001.

** (Note: On September 1, 2001, the Government of Canada launched Communication Canada to group together the communications coordination activities of Public Works and Government Services Canada with those of the Canada Information Office.)*

Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Information Resources

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) detachments in rural and remote Canada serve as service centres for the municipal, provincial and federal government. Through their Web site <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca>, the RCMP offers information about employment opportunities and links to learning materials.

Young people receive access to federal government initiatives through the RCMP Web site created by and for youth at <http://www.deal.org> (English) or at <http://www.choix.org> (French).

Treasury Board Secretariat

Service Canada

The Service Canada Initiative is a direct result of the government's commitment to improve public access to information and services. The initiative aims to develop one-stop access to a wide range of government information and services through integrated access channels that include telephone (1 800 O-Canada), Internet (Canada Site and Canadians Gateway) and in-person services. The Initiative is citizen-centered and built on partnerships with a range of federal departments and agencies, as well as community organizations and some provincial governments.

A network of numerous in-person access centres was established for the pilot project to test a range of service delivery models. The initial priority in locating access centres for the pilot project was to improve services to rural and remote areas. The majority of access centres are located within communities of less than 25,000 people.

More than 195,000 Canadians visited Service Canada Centres from December 1999 to March 2001. Most clients came to request a publication, seek personal assistance or visit the Canada Site. Frequent enquiries included questions about personal taxation, passports, employment programs and pensions, and business programs and services.

Priority: Access to Financial Resources

The federal government is committed to making its programs and services flexible to meet the specific needs of people living in rural and remote communities.

By providing better access to financial resources, the Government of Canada assists in long-term, sustainable growth to bring economic security and development to rural and remote Canada.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Farm Improvement and Marketing Cooperatives Loans Act

Producers and marketing cooperatives can get financial help through guaranteed government loans. The *Farm Improvement and Marketing Cooperatives Loans Act* offers credit to improve farm assets, strengthen production or improve financial stability, resulting in market expansion, farm innovation, value-added processing and environmentally sustainable farming. Under the Act, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada provides a loan guarantee to designated lending institutions. These loans can be granted for up to 80 per cent of the purchase price or appraised value of property.

The Act provided more than \$1.7 billion in loan guarantees during the last five years. For the fiscal year ending March 31, 2001, 6,304 loans totalling \$189 million were guaranteed under the Act. The majority of loans were issued in the province of Saskatchewan (more than 61 per cent), followed by Alberta and Ontario (12 and 11 per cent respectively). Many loans were issued in the grains and oilseeds sector, which comprised 48 per cent of the portfolio, followed by the beef sector with 29 per cent.

Safety Net Programs

In July 2000, a three-year framework agreement with the provinces was signed on farm income safety nets worth \$5.5 billion. This agreement

includes fall cash advances, the Net Income Stabilization Account Program, crop insurance, province-specific companion programs and the national Canadian Farm Income Program (CFIP), which provides assistance to Canadian producers who have experienced a sudden and severe drop in farming income due to reasons beyond their control. The CFIP cost is shared 60/40 per cent by the federal and provincial governments. A total of up to \$2.2 billion has been made available to farmers over the 2000–2002 period.

Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency

Business Development Program

Focussing on small-to-medium-sized enterprises, this program offers access to capital in the form of interest-free, unsecured, repayable contributions. It is designed to help set up, expand or modernize businesses. Non-profit organizations providing support to the business community may also qualify.

During the 2000–2001 fiscal year, 933 enterprises received assistance under the Business Development Program (BDP) for a total of \$123 million in authorized assistance. Of these, 110 were new businesses. It is expected that this direct support will result in the creation and maintenance of more than 6,400 jobs. Approximately 65 per cent of the BDP assistance is directed toward rural areas.

Community Business Development Corporations

Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency continues to support 41 Community Business Development Corporations (CBDCs) located in rural communities throughout Atlantic Canada. This network provides

access to lending and business counselling services to all rural Atlantic Canadians.

During the 2000–2001 fiscal year, CBDCs issued over 1,100 loans from their community-based investment funds, totalling \$29 million in support for business establishments and expansions throughout Atlantic Canada. It is anticipated that these loans will create or maintain 2,600 jobs. During this period, the CBDCs responded to more than 11,000 enquiries and information or counselling requests.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

Mortgage Loan Insurance

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's (CMHC) insurance program promotes affordability and choice, financial access and efficiency, and protects the adequate supply of low-cost funds for housing. This leads to increased competition and the general well-being of the housing sector in Canada's economy. Through its public, private and non-profit partners, CMHC improves the quality, accessibility and affordability of housing in Canada, including rural and remote areas. CMHC home owner mortgage loan insurance can cover up to 95 per cent of the value of an owner-occupied home. It is also available for up to 85 per cent of the lending value of qualified rental properties to help landlords and developers access low-cost financing, thereby ensuring a supply of mortgage funds for the rental market.

Canada Post

Partnerships for Financial Services

Canada Post has teamed up with several of the country's financial institutions to offer rural and remote Canadians access to a wide variety of financial services.

- ❖ The Northern Banking Alliance teamed up Canada Post with the Bank of Montreal in a pilot project that enables Canada Post to offer basic financial services to its customers in Nain, Labrador. A similar project is being piloted in Moose Factory in northern Ontario.
- ❖ Canada Post and Bank of Montreal have also entered into an agreement to provide banking services to the community of Inuvik, NWT, through the local post office. The bank has installed a full-service automated bank machine in the post office.
- ❖ The National Bank of Canada and Canada Post entered into a service agreement in 1998 to offer on-site counselling services in five postal outlets in Quebec.
- ❖ Canada Post and the Bank of Nova Scotia are currently offering basic banking services at selected small community post offices in Newfoundland.

Department of Finance

Bill C-8 – Financial Consumer Agency of Canada Act

With Royal Assent in June 2001, the legislation contains measures to meet the needs of rural and remote consumers. The legislation strengthens the credit union movement, and requires banks to provide notice of branch closures and to consult with affected communities.

Through lower minimum capital requirements, Bill C-8 encourages new entrants into Canada's financial services sector. This will make it easier to create smaller banks with a regional or community focus. Rural and remote Canadians will also benefit from other consumer protection measures.

Environment Canada

EcoAction Program

Environment Canada's community funding program EcoAction provides financial support to community groups for projects with measurable, positive results on the environment. The program is available to environmental groups, Aboriginal groups and First Nations councils, service clubs, associations, and youth and seniors' organizations. During the last fiscal year, community groups implemented 182 projects valued at more than \$19 million, with government assistance of approximately \$6 million.

Operation Clean-up 2000

The tributaries of the Saint-François River run through the rugged green valleys of the Sherbrooke region in Quebec, winding their way through

communities that depend on them for recreation and quality of life. The tributaries have long been a focal point of development, which resulted in the accumulation of garbage and trash on their banks. Through EcoAction and with the support of Olympique Métal and the City of Sherbrooke, the community group Action Saint-François mobilized 225 volunteers who worked several weekends to make their community a cleaner place. The volunteers collected a total of 30 tonnes of garbage, which was sent to disposal and recycling facilities.

Farm Credit Canada

The Farm Credit Canada (FCC) mission is to enhance the quality of life in rural Canada by providing specialized financial services to farming operations, including family farms and small-to-medium-sized agribusinesses. Its 900 employees in 100 offices across Canada serve 44,700 customers. The corporate office is located in Regina, Saskatchewan.

FCC's loan portfolio totalled \$6.9 billion for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2001. During the same period, FCC approved 13,289 loans for a total of \$1.8 billion.

Farm Credit Canada Act

Passed in June 2001, *The Farm Credit Canada Act* allows FCC to gradually implement a number of changes that will make programs more flexible to meet the needs of rural and remote Canadians. The new act will allow FCC to provide financial services to all farm-related businesses on the input or output side of primary production, provided that they benefit primary producers.

FCC will also be able to offer a range of business management services across rural Canada. The Corporation will have the ability to extend lease and equity financing to producers and farm-related businesses, either directly or in partnership with others.

Developing Aboriginal Business

According to the latest census, about 65 per cent of Aboriginal people in Canada live in rural areas, and 68 per cent of them are under 30 years of age. This is the fastest growing demographic group in rural Canada. Agriculture can enhance the livelihood and economic growth of Aboriginal peoples and communities. FCC has established an Aboriginal business function, which contributes to the financing of Aboriginal agriculture.

Industry Canada

Canada Small Business Financing Act

The *Canada Small Business Financing Act* facilitates asset-based debt financing for up to \$250,000 for the start-up or expansion of small-and medium-sized enterprises with annual revenues of up to \$5 million. A network of 1,500 private-sector lenders offers access to the program in all provinces and territories. The Government of Canada covers 85 per cent of the net losses incurred by lenders on defaulted loans.

In the last fiscal year, 17,667 small business loans totalling \$1.351 billion were made under the act. Borrowers anticipate that these small business loans will create an estimated 3.1 new jobs for each loan, for a total impact of 55,238 new jobs across Canada. The industry sectors taking advantage of the loans were mostly accommodation, food and beverage services, and retail trade.

Canada Community Investment Plan

The Canada Community Investment Plan (CCIP) is a five-year partnership program that helps 22 non-metro communities to improve local entrepreneurs' access to risk capital. Examples of the best practices and lessons learned by the CCIP demonstration projects are provided on-line to help others operate an investment facilitation service for their fast-growth small and medium-sized enterprises, and to help entrepreneurs become investor-ready.

CCIP is a grassroots program and the investment facilitation strategy developed by each community represents the unique needs of the community. As of June 2001, these strategies have helped 297 small and medium-sized enterprises to obtain about \$170 million in risk capital from private investors and non-federal sources. As a result of this injection of capital, these firms expect to create more than 2,500 new jobs. The ratio of private dollars invested per dollar provided by the government/community partnership is now over 14 to 1.

Aboriginal Business Canada

Under direction from the National Aboriginal Economic Development Board, Aboriginal Business Canada (ABC) provides business services, information and financial support to Aboriginal entrepreneurs in all regions of Canada, including rural areas. It concentrates its support on small businesses and focusses on Aboriginal youth entrepreneurship, innovation, trade and market expansion, Aboriginal tourism and strengthening Aboriginal financial organizations. The program objectives are to increase the number of viable Aboriginal businesses, leading to increased employment, income and productivity, and to improve leveraging of funding from non-government sources for projects proposed by ABC clients.

In the fiscal year ending March 31, 2001, ABC invested \$30 million in 1,079 business projects under its strategic priorities and assisted 660 clients. Contributions to clients are about \$30,000 per project. As well, these businesses have contributed significantly to job growth. The program is seeking to increase investments in Aboriginal economic development, including business development. These investments are the key to building self-reliance and improving the quality of life for Aboriginal people.

Western Economic Diversification

Aboriginal Business Development Initiative

The Western Economic Diversification contribution of \$3 million to the Alberta Indian Economic Developers Network and the Council of Aboriginal Native Development Officers supported the provision of computers and training to more than 400 Aboriginal Community Economic Development Officers in western Canada.

Priority: Access to Health Care

Rural and remote Canadians need access to quality health care services. Through a wide variety of programs and services, and in collaboration with provinces, territories and others, the government is helping to ensure that all Canadians have access to health care services.

Health Canada

Canada Health Infostructure Partnership Program

The Canada Health Infostructure Partnership Program is a two-year, \$80-million, shared-cost, incentive program announced on June 12, 2000. It is aimed at supporting collaboration, innovation, and renewal in health care delivery through the use of information and communication technologies. It will invest in model implementation projects in two strategic areas: telehealth and electronic health records.

Approximately 30 projects are funded across Canada, of which 17 are directly or indirectly related to rural health concerns. About \$49 million supports projects that will improve access to medical care in rural and remote areas. Areas covered include remote screening for diabetic complications for First Nations people living on reserves in Alberta, as well as patient information available remotely to homecare workers in Quebec. The program has also supported the provision of telemedicine services in over 30 disciplines to 47 northern Ontario communities, along with tele-psychiatry using video-conferencing to access remote communities in Ontario and British Columbia. The telehealth network links remote communities in Nunavut, and is connected to referral centres in the Northwest Territories, Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario.

Health Infostructure Support Program

Completed on March 31, 2001, this \$10-million cost-shared contribution program was designed to support efforts to test and assess the use of new information technologies and applications through pilot projects in areas such as public health, health surveillance, pharmacare, First Nations health, homecare and telehealth. Six projects, totalling \$1.3 million, had a direct impact on rural health care. These projects

included homecare for terminally ill patients in rural Prince Edward Island using video-conferencing for ongoing monitoring.

Rural and Remote Health Innovations Initiative

This two-year, \$11-million program was designed to help address the health concerns of rural citizens and communities, with an emphasis on access to health care. Over 75 national and regional rural health projects were funded through the program. Projects address a wide range of rural health concerns through innovative solutions, including: establishing a telephone call centre for the north to obtain health advice and information; developing a continuing education course for nurse practitioners in rural and remote areas; supporting a partnership between four Canadian universities to help improve care for terminally ill patients; helping rural communities support children with speech difficulties; and increasing awareness of the importance of early language development.

Commission on the Future of Health Care

Health Canada is continuing to support collaboration, innovation and renewal in health care delivery. The government has also formed the Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada to recommend policies and measures that will provide Canadians with a sustainable and universally accessible health care system over the long term.

Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative

The Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative is one of four components of the Canadian Diabetes Strategy—a five-year, time-limited strategy to help prevent and control diabetes in Canada. The Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative will allocate \$58 million over the five-year period 1999–2004.

The program is divided into two parts, each with a separate framework and funding formula: the First Nations On-reserve and Inuit in Inuit

Communities (FNOIIC) program; and the Métis, Off-reserve Aboriginal and Urban Inuit Prevention and Promotion (MOAUIPP) program. All First Nations Canadians living on-reserve and in northern communities, and Inuit living in Inuit communities are the target populations for the FNOIIC program. All Métis, urban Inuit and off-reserve Aboriginal people are the target populations for the MOAUIPP program. The MOAUIPP process creates diabetes prevention and health promotion programs in the communities (care and treatment, and lifestyle support programs are part of the FNOIIC program only). As of June 8, 2001, 19 projects were approved for MOAUIPP, with another 20 expected to be approved in the near future.

Industry Canada

FedNor Healthcare Support

Through its telecommunications and economic development initiatives, FedNor supports new and innovative ways to improve access to health-care services throughout rural northern Ontario. FedNor is a key partner in the development of “Smart Community” telehealth service initiatives in partnership with six First Nations communities in northwestern Ontario. Community Futures Development Centres often work with community partners to develop strategies for taking full advantage of these technologies to improve access to healthcare services.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Health Services Support

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) provides hospital transportation services in remote communities where no other medical

service provider exists and where medical help is distant. The RCMP also supports the Suicide Intervention Program and Victims Services Program, and offers referrals to family violence counselling and services.

Priority: Access to Education

The Government of Canada is committed to ensuring the availability of quality education to all Canadians. By working in conjunction with provincial and other levels of government, programs are being developed and implemented to support rural and remote Canadians' access to new learning and training opportunities. By using new technology, the government can assist communities in developing educational strategies and services that will meet local community needs.

Canada Post and Human Resources Development Canada

Canada Student Loans Program (CSLP)

Rural Canadians feel that assisting the career development of young people in rural and remote Canada is imperative to improving quality of life. Canada Post partnered with Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) to test the feasibility of having Canada Post administer the CSLP for part-time students in rural and remote areas.

Canada Post signed separate agreements with private business partners, Business Data Services Ltd. and EDULINX, to act as their agents.

Approximately 500 Canada Post outlets provide identity authentication and certificate validation for the full-time student loan program.

In British Columbia, Canada Post has joined forces with Business Data Services Ltd., which administers the student loan program. Acting as their agent, Canada Post performs identity authentication, certificate validation and distribution services for an estimated 50,000 students. The British Columbia government expects to issue about \$19 million in loans this year.

Industry Canada

First Nations SchoolNet

SchoolNet provides First Nations schools with computers and software necessary to connect to the Internet. A network of regional help desks managed by First Nations people has been established to provide the technical support First Nations communities require to maintain Internet access.

The objective of the initiative is to provide a telecommunications infrastructure, and to promote information and communications technologies to support skills development to effectively compete in the knowledge-based economy. This will accelerate the development of stronger communities, people and economies. First Nations *SchoolNet* has helped to connect over 420 First Nations schools, and 113 First Nations communities without schools, to the Internet. Many of these schools and communities are located in very remote areas across Canada.

SchoolNet Network of Innovative Schools

In collaboration with evaluation committees, *SchoolNet* identifies Canadian primary and secondary schools that have demonstrated the

ability to successfully integrate information and communication technology. *SchoolNet* contributes \$10,000 per year for up to three years to each school. These schools are selected to act as models and support others in increasing the use of information and communication technology in the learning community.

The *SchoolNet* Network of Innovative Schools is entering the third year of a three-year pilot. As of September 2001, there were 85 schools participating in the network, which will contribute a total of \$980,000 to 51 rural schools.

Justice Canada

Training and Education in Nunavut

Justice Canada is helping the north to bring new legal expertise to the area. The Nunavut-based Akitsiraq Law School Society and the Faculty of Law at the University of Victoria began a law program in Iqaluit in September 2001. Justice Canada has worked closely with the University of Victoria/Akitsiraq Law School group, and expect that the students will continue their careers in the north to help Inuit communities meet their legal needs in a culturally appropriate way.

Justice Canada is also funding the Carleton University Centre for Initiatives in Education. The Centre and Nunavut Arctic College will offer the first year of a three-year Nunavut Bachelor of Arts pilot project in Iqaluit, September 2001. Justice Canada is also providing financial assistance for the training of justices of the peace, legal interpreters, court workers and for other positions in the Nunavut courts.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Crime Prevention Programs

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police actively supports crime prevention programs and education initiatives delivered to community groups, parents and students in rural and remote communities in Canada. It also coordinates drug awareness programs.

Priority: Opportunities for Rural Youth

The Government of Canada recognizes the important role young people play in making our country prosperous for generations to come. Rural and remote Canadians are in the best position to identify the issues facing youth in their communities. Through consultation and partnership networking, the government helps communities meet the needs of young people to ensure that rural and remote Canada can provide a good quality of life and be a great place to live.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Science Horizons in Agriculture and Agri-Food

The Government of Canada's Youth Employment Strategy includes the Science Horizons Program, which funds science and technology internships that are designed to help young graduates bridge the gap between education and employment through work experience in scientific and technological fields, and help them obtain longer-term employment.

The Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Science Horizons Program contributed \$1.08 million to research projects that employ up to 200 recent graduates in agri-food science and veterinary medicine. Each project is eligible to receive a program grant of up to \$12,000, which is matched by an industry sponsor.

Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency

Open for Business (OFB)

OFB is a network of storefront, walk-in centres for aspiring young entrepreneurs in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick where the first centre in the province was opened in Campbellton, September 2001. With a youth-friendly environment, these centres provide help with the "how to's" and "next steps," helping young people who are exploring entrepreneurship.

These centres have attracted 2,600 clients and more than 15,000 visits. The centres took part in more than 35,000 presentations, workshops, seminars, tours and other activities. These activities generated 165 new business start-ups and helped to create 290 full and part-time jobs.

I Want To Be A Millionaire

In Prince Edward Island, the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency provides support to the Central Development Corporation to deliver this program. The project is directed at young people 8-to-16 years of age, and provides hands-on experience in setting up and running a business. The program has enabled 87 young people in the past year, including those in rural communities, to learn how to plan and run a business.

The Newfoundland (NF) Youth Ventures Program

This program develops entrepreneurial skills in youth by supporting summer enterprises initiated by students. In the past year, the program expanded to 20 sites involving 390 youth. The success of the NF program emphasizes the government's commitment to provide knowledge, resources and expertise to enable rural and remote areas to become stronger over the long term.

Young Entrepreneurs, ConneXion Seed Capital and Counselling Initiative

Young entrepreneurs, including those in rural and remote regions, have benefitted from this government program designed to stimulate the development of small and medium-sized start-up businesses. ConneXion Seed Capital and Counselling helped to increase new business survival rates by providing access to business information and unsecured personal loans to entrepreneurs aged 18 to 29. The Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) provides up to \$2,000 in counselling and training for each ConneXion loan applicant. To maximize access to this initiative in rural areas, ACOA entered into a third-party delivery partnership with the 41 Community Business Development Corporations located across Atlantic Canada.

Canada Economic Development

Youth Strategy Program

The goal of the program is to reduce the migration of rural young people to major urban centres. The program is designed to help young local entrepreneurs develop their business plans within their communities. It provides entrepreneurs with technical assistance and management follow-up, and financial aid in the form of personal loans up to \$15,000.

The young entrepreneurs' enthusiasm about the program has not waned since its creation. The Youth Strategy Program has provided funding to 1,516 entrepreneurs, resulting in the launch or expansion of 1,244 businesses. More than \$16 million was invested in entrepreneurship, generating total investments of \$102 million in the Quebec regions.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

Housing Internship Initiative for First Nations and Inuit Youth

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation works in partnership with sponsor organizations to develop housing employment projects to meet specific community needs. The internship provides financial support towards the wages of First Nations or Inuit youth living on First Nations reserves and in Inuit communities. To be eligible, the young people must be 17-to-29 years of age.

Farm Credit Canada

4-H Council

Farm Credit Canada (FCC) invests not only in agriculture, but also in the people who make up rural communities. Again this year, FCC was proud to partner with the Canadian 4-H Council to offer young rural Canadians the opportunity to win scholarships enabling them to pursue post-secondary education. Through the scholarship program, the FCC can help young people become tomorrow's community leaders.

Human Resources Development Canada

Rural Youth Dialogues in B.C.

Rural youth dialogues were organized in Vernon, Castlegar, Houston, Port Hardy/Port MacNeil, Prince Rupert, Quesnel, Fort Saint John and Salt Spring Island, to better identify concerns and issues of rural youth in communities across British Columbia. The dialogues concluded that young people want better access to education and work in their communities. They also want to contribute to their communities in a positive way through involvement in youth councils and youth projects. A report detailing the results of the dialogues is available on the Web at <http://www.communityfutures.ca>.

Youth Employment Initiative (Manitoba)

The funding for this initiative was provided through Human Resources Development Canada. The project was managed and supervised by the sponsoring agency, Southwest Manitoba Métis Federation Inc., a non-profit organization that provides internal services and programs to meet the needs of its 2,600 members. The participants named the project Team H.O.P.E. (Heroes Of a Positive Environment). The focus of the project was to provide groups of 12 Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal at-risk youth with different employment experiences. The project took place over a 25-week period.

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

First Nations and Inuit Youth Employment Strategy (FNIYES)

The Government of Canada's Youth Employment Strategy helps First Nations and Inuit youth acquire the skills and experience they need to participate in the labour market, and to make the transition from school to

work. During the 2000–2001 fiscal year, the government invested \$24 million, creating more than 24,000 opportunities for First Nations and Inuit youth.

Industry Canada

FedNor Youth Internship Initiative

FedNor's Youth Internship Initiative provides financial support to northern Ontario youth allowing them to gain work experience in the areas of business and economic development. The Community Futures Development Corporations in northern Ontario have targeted their investment and development strategies toward youth.

National Defence

Canadian Cadet Movement (CCM)

This dynamic and structured program is offered free of charge to all rural and urban young people between 12 and 18 years old in Canada. The CCM aims to develop attributes of leadership, good citizenship and mutual respect in youth. Cadets may participate in sailing and seamanship activities with Sea Cadets, hiking expeditions and rappelling with Army Cadets, and flying and gliding exercises with Air Cadets. Successful cadets are eligible for financial scholarships, provincial and international exchanges, and other advanced training courses. More than 55,000 young Canadians, located in more than 1,100 communities across the country, benefited from the program during the 2000–2001 academic year. Nearly half of them attended one of the 28 Cadet Summer Training Centres, most of which are located in rural areas.

The Junior Canadian Ranger Program

The program offers free, community-based activities for young people living in remote and isolated communities. It improves the participants' self-esteem, teaching them how to handle increased responsibility, and encourages participants' interest in and understanding of their communities. The program is open to anyone 12 to 18 years of age living in remote and isolated communities across Canada. There are more than 2,000 Junior Canadian Rangers in 73 communities to date.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Experience Programs for Youth

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Auxiliary Constable Program provides work-related experience to youth in rural and remote Canada. The RCMP also offers cadet recruiting or referrals and RCMP volunteering opportunities in all detachments. Through its National Youth Strategy, the RCMP offers a co-ordinated local detachment response to issues facing rural and urban youth.

Transport Canada

Employment Equity Initiatives

Through practical work experience and mentorship, Transport Canada's Prairie and Northern Region working group is helping northern Aboriginal youth to develop the skills necessary to enter the field of aircraft maintenance engineering. Working group members include Transport Canada employees, northern air operators and educational institutions. Participation in career fairs in Alberta and the Northwest Territories has

also helped to develop an awareness of education and employment opportunities in rural and remote areas. The career fairs are very popular, attracting more than 1,500 rural and urban youth.

Priority: Leadership and Community Capacity Building

The government is committed to building a higher quality of life for rural and remote Canadians. Creating stronger communities through partnerships helps Canadians take advantage of new opportunities. They build on existing skills to achieve stability and to sustain themselves economically, environmentally and socially over the long term.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development (CARD) Fund

The \$60 million-per-year CARD fund was created in 1995 to foster the increased long-term growth, employment and competitiveness of Canada's agricultural and agri-food industry and agricultural rural areas. By providing the skills and knowledge necessary to become more competitive, CARD assists the sector in adapting to structural changes and capturing market opportunities.

Programs and projects are delivered through both national programs and industry-led adaptation councils in each territory and province. Creating partnerships and new alliances among industry groups and between industry and government is a key feature of many CARD-assisted projects. CARD's six adaptation priorities, determined in consultation with industry, include:

- ❖ Research and innovation;
- ❖ human resource capacity-building;
- ❖ capturing market opportunities;
- ❖ environmental sustainability;
- ❖ food safety and quality; and
- ❖ rural development.

CARD recognizes the need to develop a balance among economic growth, food safety and environmental sustainability. The emerging life sciences economy offers opportunities to address all of these issues. CARD plays an important role in helping the sector take advantage of these opportunities and thereby contribute to the strength and vitality of Canada's agriculture and agri-food sector for future generations.

Some of the CARD National Programs that have an impact on rural Canada include the Canadian Agricultural Rural Communities Initiative (CARCI), the Canadian Farm Business Management Program, the Farm Debt Mediation Service and the Farm Consultation Service.

Canadian Agricultural Rural Communities Initiative (CARCI)

CARCI's objective is to enhance the viability of agricultural rural communities, particularly those undergoing change as a result of adjustment in the agricultural sector. CARCI's projects are aimed at improving the capacity of regional rural organizations to develop responses to agricultural community issues. Funding for CARCI is provided under the CARD Fund and totals \$9.3 million over the next three years.

Canadian Farm Business Management Program (CFBMP)

The CFBMP is a partnership among the Canadian agricultural industry and the federal, provincial and territorial governments. The program is designed to upgrade the farm business management capacity of Canada's farm managers, leading to an enhanced ability to compete more effectively in domestic and international markets, and to an improvement of the financial viability of farm operations. The CARD Fund provided \$15 million in funding to this program.

Farm Debt Mediation Service (FDMS)

Insolvent farmers and their creditors can get help with mediation services, pursuant to the *Farm Debt Mediation Act* and its regulations. FDMS can help parties arrive at a mutually satisfactory arrangement. Insolvent farmers who apply to FDMS receive a stay of proceedings or a financial review and mediation. Eligible applicants include insolvent individuals, corporations, partnerships, co-operatives, and other associations or persons engaged in farming for commercial purposes.

FDMS offices across Canada received 687 applications in the 2000–2001 fiscal year. Of the 487 applications that received a financial review and mediation, 392 resulted in a signed arrangement between the farmer and creditors, and 95 resulted in no arrangement between the parties.

Farm Consultation Service (FCS)

The FCS is confidential financial management counselling to farmers, with an emphasis on future planning, managing change and maximizing profits. For a \$100 fee, eligible farmers consult with a qualified financial manager who provides a financial review of the farmer's affairs, identifies problems and proposes alternatives. When the farmer chooses a course of action, the consultant helps with the development of a two or three-year operational plan.

FCS offices received applications from 786 farmers in the 2000–2001 fiscal year. Out of 632 completed applications, 618 farmers received a financial review statement and a two-to-three-year operational plan, while 14 others received a financial review and statement.

A number of programs and projects have been approved under the CARD II Human Resource Capacity-Building priority which include the Aboriginal Farm Business Management Program, the Canadian Young Farmers' Forum, the Canadian 4-H Council, the Canadian Agricultural Safety Program and farm women initiatives. In addition, under the Rural Development priority, CARD II is funding the Co-operatives Initiative entitled *Agricultural Adaptation: A Co-operative Approach*.

Pilot Projects Initiative

The *Canadian Rural Partnership Pilot Projects Initiative* funds creative approaches to community development in rural and remote communities. At a national level, the initiative provides a total of \$12 million in funding over four years. Approximately \$9.8 million has been approved in the first three years, for a national total of 239 projects. The Pilot Projects Initiative in the 2000–2001 fiscal year supported 100 projects, with total funding of \$2.96 million.

The *Pilot Projects Initiative* fosters entrepreneurial spirit in rural communities and supports Canadians living in rural and remote communities as they pursue creative, community-based responses that promote self-sufficiency and independence. The projects are extremely diverse, ranging from youth and Aboriginal development to environmental conservation programs.

On Manitoulin Island in northern Ontario, for example, funding is being used to enable young people to complete their high school diplomas at

home, through the use of technology-based distance-learning and other tools. Another example is a pilot project in the Powell River region of B.C., where the project funding is bringing together First Nations groups, aquaculture organizations and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans in an effort to create sustainable abalone fish farms and to begin rebuilding this depleted fish stock.

Citizenship and Immigration

Business Immigration Programs

These programs have provided a steady stream of entrepreneurs, investors and self-employed individuals interested in operating rural enterprises in Canada. To be a business immigrant, applicants must meet the selection criteria of the business immigration category. For information, contact the departmental Web site at <http://www.cic.gc.ca>.

Provincial Nominee Program

This program provides participating provinces with the opportunity to nominate up to 150 individuals for immigration based on their skills and entrepreneurial assets that are required in various community economies. The program was used in Manitoba to help in the development of its agricultural community.

Environment Canada

EcoAction Community Funding Program

EcoAction encourages projects that protect, rehabilitate or enhance the natural environment, and build the capacity of communities to sustain these

activities into the future. Projects require matching funds or in-kind support from other sponsors. Support is available to groups for up to a maximum of \$100,000.

Non-profit groups and organizations are eligible to apply to the EcoAction Community Funding Program. Eligible groups include community, environmental and Aboriginal groups, First Nations councils, service clubs, associations, and youth and seniors' organizations. With an annual budget of \$5 million, the program has funded over 1,000 projects since its inception in 1995.

Manitoba's Community Collaboration Project

The Community Collaboration Project (CCP) is helping communities to explore and implement processes geared toward becoming resilient, healthy and sustainable. The project is a collaboration among communities, the Brandon University Rural Development Institute, and federal and provincial agencies that provide services and programs to communities.

Participants include Health Canada, Environment Canada, Rural Secretariat (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada), Western Economic Diversification, Community Futures Partners of Manitoba, Manitoba Intergovernmental Affairs, and Manitoba Community Connections (Industry Canada). Since 1998, the CCP has initiated three pilot projects which include the Northern Vision Regional Round Table, the Southwest Regional Round Table and the Franco-Manitoba Community Collaboration Project.

Atlantic Coastal Action Program

With a network of 14 community-driven, watershed-based ecosystem initiatives located across four Atlantic provinces, the Atlantic Coastal Action Program (ACAP) helps communities define common objectives and plans for environmentally-friendly use of resources. The fundamental

principle guiding the ACAP program is that local communities are the most effective proponents of positive action for sustainable development. Environment Canada contributes to project funding, while community stakeholders contribute resources through volunteer labour, in-kind contributions and financial support.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Resource Rebuilding Strategy – Pacific Region

This strategy forms part of the Pacific Fisheries Restructuring Program. It is a five-year, \$100-million resource rebuilding strategy aimed at conserving and protecting West Coast salmon and their habitat. The strategy consists of four key components which include the Habitat Conservation and Stewardship Program (HCSP), the Habitat Restoration and Salmon Enhancement Program, a new Strategic Stock Enhancement Program and a new, independently operated Long-Term Habitat Fund. A Stewardship Centre Web site has been established with staffing of 103 stewardship positions under the HCSP.

Justice Canada

A System for Nunavut

Justice Canada made a commitment to help Nunavut Territory develop a justice system to meet the needs of residents of this new territory. As a small and dispersed population in a remote, isolated and vast geographical area, Canadians living in Nunavut face considerable challenges in the development of an effective and efficient justice system. The government of Nunavut will develop a justice system that emphasizes

local institutions of justice and reflects local culture. General guiding principles in Nunavut include emphasizing community justice approaches, building capacity in communities to address justice issues at a local level, and engaging the community to ensure that all voices are heard in any community-based justice project.

National Strategy on Community Safety and Crime Prevention

The national strategy is investing in projects that address risk factors in the lives of people, including abuse, violence, poor parenting, and drug and alcohol abuse. It is directed at removing those personal, social and economic factors that lead some individuals to engage in criminal acts or to become victims of crime. The National Strategy has three components: the Safer Communities Initiative, the Promotion and Public Education Program and the National Crime Prevention Centre. During the fiscal year 2000–2001, the Safer Communities Initiative supported 189 crime prevention projects in rural and remote communities, with a total investment of \$4.8 million. For more information on the National Strategy, please visit <http://www.crime-prevention.org>.

The Aboriginal Justice Strategy

The Aboriginal Justice Strategy provides 50 per cent of funding to 89 community-based justice programs, serving 298 Aboriginal communities across Canada. The strategy supports alternative justice programs in the areas of mediation, diversion and community sentencing.

These programs encourage and empower Aboriginal communities to take greater responsibility for the administration of justice, and to help reduce crime and incarceration rates in Aboriginal communities. Of the 89 current programs, 69 provide services to 232 rural and remote communities that are located more than 50 kilometres from the nearest service centre or are without year-round road access.

The following are examples of rural and remote area programs that are funded by the Aboriginal Justice Strategy:

Atikamekw Communities, Quebec – Conseil de la Nation Atikamekw Youth Justice Initiative

The Conseil de la Nation Atikamekw is developing a Youth Justice Initiative for the Atikamekw communities of Manouane, Obedjiwan and Weymontachie. The communities have a population of approximately 5,000. This initiative represents a culturally appropriate alternative to the mainstream child protection and young offender systems.

Big Cove First Nations, New Brunswick – Big Cove Restorative Advisory Committee

Since 2000, the Big Cove First Nations of New Brunswick has been developing an alternative justice program, overseen by a 15-member community justice committee. Members represent the full spectrum of internal agencies, services and programs, as well as community members, including elders, youth and women.

National Defence

The Canadian Ranger Program

The Canadian Rangers are part-time reservists who provide a military presence in remote, isolated and coastal communities of Canada. Rangers are responsible for protecting Canada's sovereignty by reporting unusual activities or sighting, collecting local data of significance to the Canadian Forces, and conducting surveillance or sovereignty patrols. There are currently 3,500 Canadian Rangers in 144 communities across Canada.

Western Economic Diversification

Community Economic Development Opportunity Initiative (CEDO)

Western Economic Diversification launched the CEDO in early 2001, providing \$2.7 million to Western Canada Business Service Network organizations to develop community-based adjustment strategies, assess and develop responses to local development opportunities, and aid community economic development projects.

The initiatives will build community capacity, create long-term economic impact, engage the community, and build community partnerships. Funding of up to \$30,000 per organization is available to support eligible activities.

Priority: Rural Infrastructure

Maintaining and developing infrastructure is fundamental to the long-term ability of rural and remote communities to adapt and grow. The Government of Canada recognizes the importance of infrastructure and is acting on its commitment to build future stability. There are many programs, initiatives and services that the government supports with a wide network of partners, many at the local community level, to fulfill its commitment to support rural infrastructure.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Canada Agriculture Infrastructure Program (CAIP)

As a component of the Western Grain Transportation Adjustment Fund, CAIP is designed to assist the transition to an unsubsidized transportation environment by promoting greater diversification and value-added activities in western Canada's agri-food sector. Since the inception of the program, CAIP Saskatchewan has committed more than \$25 million to upgrade or construct approximately 300 kilometres of provincial highways, \$47 million to upgrade or construct 1,643 kilometres of municipal roads, and \$1.7 million to 31 transportation planning studies.

CAIP Manitoba has allocated approximately \$3.5 million to roadway research and development, \$14 million to infrastructure for value-added enterprises, \$7.6 million to water infrastructure and \$500,000 to human resource training. CAIP Alberta has committed more than \$20 million to upgrade or construct provincial and municipal roads, approximately \$5 million to water and wastewater projects, and more than \$3 million to commercial technology projects.

Prairie Grain Roads Program

This new \$175 million federal initiative was established to improve municipal grain roads and provincial secondary highways used for transporting grain in the Prairie provinces and the Peace River region of British Columbia. Combined with provincial and municipal contributions, the Prairie Grain Roads Program (PGRP) will generate about \$334 million in road construction over a five-year period, from 2001-2002 to 2005-2006.

Rural Community Forests

A new tree planting project was initiated by the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada at Shelterbelt Centre, Indian Head. This project helps smaller rural communities in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta improve the quality of life of its inhabitants, both human and wildlife. Thus far, 12 rural community forests have been established in various towns and villages in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta.

Regional Groundwater Initiative

In partnership with more than 25 rural municipalities, the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration is continuing to support regional groundwater assessment studies in southern Alberta. The assessments provide an overview of groundwater resources in municipalities, including potential yield and quality, and map the location of regional aquifers. To date, 23 assessments have been completed in Alberta.

A series of dams, diversion works and irrigation projects in southwest Saskatchewan serve six federal irrigation projects, seven provincial irrigation projects, and a number of private water agreements, providing reliable water for irrigation, livestock and community water domestic needs. In 2000–2001, Southwest Saskatchewan Water Supply Systems projects provided water to 464 irrigation patrons.

Rural Water Development Program

The Rural Water Development Program (RWDP) enhances the viability of agricultural areas in the Prairies by promoting and supporting sustainable development, and protecting water resources. Typical activities assisted under this program include the planning, investigation design and construction of water infrastructure. The RWDP provides technical information and \$5.6 million annually to rural residents to plan and

develop reliable water supplies that support economic or environmental sustainability. The RWDP provided assistance to about 4,000 rural residents, 1,400 farm operations and 20 businesses in 2000.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

On-Reserve Non-Profit Rental Housing Program

Assistance is available to First Nations to build or purchase suitable, adequate and affordable rental housing on reserves. The assistance is in the form of subsidies, financing the difference between eligible project expenses and project revenues.

Emergency Repair Program

The program helps eligible rural and remote homeowners repair their homes. It covers urgent repairs to heating systems, chimneys, doors and windows, foundations, roofs, floors, plumbing and other essential repairs. Non-repayable contributions to carry out emergency repairs are available to homeowners living in rural and remote areas off-reserve. Under this program, 80 per cent of nation-wide funding is targeted at Aboriginal peoples.

Home Adaptations for Seniors' Independence Program

One-time, non-repayable contributions of up to \$2,500 are available for on-and-off-reserve projects that make it easier for seniors to continue living in their own homes. Applicants who are 65 and older, and whose household income is less than the maximum established for their area, may apply.

Shelter Enhancement Program

Capital contributions are available both on and off reserve to groups operating shelters for women and their children, and youth who are

victims of family violence. These contributions are dedicated to repairing and upgrading the existing facilities or the construction of new units. The CMHC contributions are in the form of forgivable loans.

Housing Research and Information Transfer—Healthy Housing

Based on more than a decade of research (by CMHC and others) into many aspects of housing and sustainable development, Healthy Housing promotes the health of its occupants while protecting the environment and maintaining affordability. Completed in 2000, the Eagle Lake First Nations Healthy House in Ontario is one of five examples of innovative solutions to housing durability, costs, water quality and safety for northern and remote locations.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency

Environmental Assessment

Environmental Assessment is an important planning and decision-making tool that allows federal departments and agencies to identify the effects of their projects on the environment before they are undertaken. It can help reduce risks and liabilities through early identification of potential environmental problems. Assessments help Canadians integrate society's environmental goals with its economic, social and cultural values. Under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, the federal government conducts 6,000 environmental assessments annually. Environmental assessments occur across Canada, and many involve rural areas.

Environment Canada

Meteorological Service of Canada

By providing accurate and accessible information on daily weather, water and ice conditions, the service contributes to the health and economic prosperity of Canadians. Annually, it issues roughly 14,000 severe weather warnings and 3,500 ice hazard warnings, and provides about 500,000 public weather forecasts, 200,000 marine weather forecasts and 400,000 aviation forecasts.

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

Canada–Yukon Infrastructure Program Agreement

Infrastructure Canada is a six-year program aimed at improving rural and remote Canadians' quality of life through investments that enhance the quality of the environment and community infrastructure. Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) is responsible for federal delivery of the Canada–Yukon Infrastructure Program Agreement. The Treasury Board Secretariat is responsible for the Infrastructure Canada Program, which has allocated \$2.48 million to the Yukon. With contributions from territorial and municipal partners, the total infrastructure investment in the Yukon over the duration of the program could be up to \$7 million.

Industry Canada

FedNor Economic Development

Since northern Ontario is primarily rural and remote, the majority of FedNor funding initiatives and services provide direct support for the *11 Priority Areas* of the *Federal Framework for Action in Rural Canada*. FedNor provides a wide range of tools and services to encourage economic development and diversification in northern Ontario.

FedNor invests in community economic infrastructure to stimulate growth and economic development in rural communities throughout northern Ontario. During the 2000–2001 fiscal year, 24 projects totalling \$4.8 million dollars were approved. FedNor investments are often based on strategic planning carried out by the local Community Futures Development Corporation.

Natural Resources Canada

Renewable Energy Deployment Initiative (REDI)

In cooperation with renewable energy industry associations and other partners, REDI develops market development strategies for renewable energy systems. In 2000–2001, 26 projects were completed under the initiative, involving \$1.9 million in investments in renewable energy projects and almost \$400,000 in REDI contributions. These projects include the installation of a solar wall for a recreation centre in Fort Smith, NWT, a solar wall for an elementary school in Yellowknife, NWT, a solar water heater for a demonstration home in Kahnawake, Quebec, a solar wall for an apartment building in Iqaluit, Nunavut, and a solar water heater for a municipal pool in Haines Junction, Yukon.

Energy Sector – Ontario and Nova Scotia

Natural Resources Canada continues to promote the adoption of energy-saving technologies and processes. In the residential sector, the target of 10,000 house retrofits for the 2000–2001 fiscal year has been exceeded, and 12,132 existing houses were evaluated and labelled under the R-2000 program. Of all R-2000 homes certified in Ontario, 73 per cent were built in rural communities. In addition, 65 new R-2000 homes were registered in Nova Scotia. In the businesses and institutional sector in the 2000–2001 fiscal year, the Commercial Building Incentive Program contributed \$2.5 million to 58 projects, many of these in remote and northern locations, such as restaurants in Slave Lake and Fort McMurray, schools in Aboriginal communities and an eco-tourism lodge in Moose River where it empties into James Bay.

Public Works and Government Services Canada

Remedial Work at Contaminated Sites—Infrastructure Upgrades

Public Works and Government Services Canada continues to help clean up contaminated sites as well as upgrade and expand diverse community infrastructure and services, including schools, and water and sewage facilities.

Transport Canada

Airports Capital Assistance Program (ACAP)

This program assists eligible airports with the financing of capital projects related to safety, asset protection and operating cost reduction. Since its inception April 1995, ACAP has assisted 122 airports through

240 projects. For the period April 1, 2000 to March 31, 2005, the ACAP budget is \$190 million, an average of \$38 million per year.

Maintaining Air Service to Small Communities

When Transport Canada approved Air Canada's acquisition of Canadian Airlines, it was in part contingent upon the airline's commitment to the federal government that for a three-year period it would continue air services to all communities previously served by Canadian Airlines and its wholly-owned subsidiaries. This commitment was incorporated as amendments to the *Canada Transportation Act* and came into effect in July 2000. Air Canada continues to fully meet this commitment by maintaining services to 69 communities across the country mostly served by its regional and affiliated carriers to the benefit of many rural and remote localities.

Port Programs and Divestiture

As part of the National Marine Policy, Transport Canada Port Programs and Divestiture is transferring ownership and responsibility for its regional ports to local communities. Many rural communities are better placed to manage these facilities in the best interests of the local community. As of September 30, 2001, a total of 411 of the 549 public port sites had been transferred, demolished or had their public harbour status terminated.

Highway Funding Agreements

Canada has a large network of roads and highways, with 1.4 million kilometres of roads connecting communities all across Canada. Although highways are under provincial/territorial jurisdiction, Transport Canada supports the provinces' and territories' efforts to have the safest, most efficient and tourism-friendly roads by assisting them with highway improvements through cost-shared financial contribution agreements.

The Strategic Highway Infrastructure Program, the most recent contribution program, has allocated \$600 million for highway-related improvements.

Treasury Board Secretariat

Infrastructure Canada

Infrastructure Canada is the municipal component of a six-year physical infrastructure program. The Government of Canada is investing more than \$2 billion, and with investments from provincial/territorial, municipal and private sector partners, it will generate \$6 billion in infrastructure funding, more than \$427 million of which will be available for infrastructure improvements in rural and remote Canada.

Priority: Economic Diversification

The competitive challenges of a global marketplace demand innovative solutions. The Government of Canada contributes to the economic growth and business stability of rural and remote Canada through investment in programs that help industry adapt to achieve sustainable development and create strong communities.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Agricultural Policy Framework

At their June 2001, Whitehorse meeting in the Yukon, federal, provincial and territorial Ministers of Agriculture reached an agreement that sets

out a vision for Canadian agriculture to be the world leader in food safety, innovation and environmental protection. The agreement represents a significant redefinition of federal–provincial collaboration in agriculture. The Agricultural Policy Framework calls for a broad approach to managing the risks in Canadian agriculture, through an integrated approach to on-farm food safety, protection of the environment, farm income safety nets, and innovation and renewal of the agricultural sector.

The objective is to use our science, food safety and environmental efforts to brand Canada in international markets as a safe, innovative, environmentally responsible producer of agricultural goods. Being environmentally responsible and producing safe food will continue to ensure the sustainability of the natural resource base on which the sector and many rural communities depend. Innovation, through areas such as life sciences, has the potential to bring more value-added production and investment to rural areas, and new products and markets for industry.

Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development (CARD) Fund

The \$60 million-per-year CARD Fund was created by the Government of Canada to foster the increased long-term growth, employment and competitiveness of Canada's agricultural and agri-food industry, and agricultural rural areas. CARD supports change by assisting the sector in adapting to structural changes, and capturing market opportunities by providing the skills and knowledge necessary to become more competitive.

Matching Investment Initiative

The Matching Investment Initiative (MII) stimulates economic activity, creates job opportunities and strengthens industry's position in global markets. Many of the project results provided immediate benefits in rural communities. In fiscal year 2000–2001, the MII provided

\$29.7 million in matching funds for 975 projects. MII projects have provided new knowledge, new products and production methods, new markets and increased sales, primarily within rural communities. MII is partially funded by CARD (\$27.5 million in 1999–2003).

Support for Co-operatives

Co-operatives play a significant role in rural and remote areas by providing needed services, creating and maintaining local jobs, and taking a citizen-driven, community-based approach to economic development. The Co-operatives Secretariat of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada plays an ongoing coordinating role within government, liaising with the co-operative sector, supporting research, collecting and disseminating information, and acting as a centre of expertise.

The Co-operatives Secretariat supports partnership projects between the federal government and the co-operative sector. One such partnership is the Co-operative Sector Initiative entitled *Agricultural Adaptation: A Co-operative Approach*, funded by CARD. To date, \$500,000 has been provided to the co-op sector to examine critical barriers to sustained growth. The initiative also examines the development patterns of agricultural co-operatives in Canada to develop strategies that will allow the sector to compete and thrive in a changing agricultural environment.

Some of the CARD national programs that have an impact on rural Canada include the Canadian Agricultural Rural Communities Initiative (CARCI), the Canadian Farm Business Management Program, the Farm Debt Mediation Service and the Farm Consultation Service. (A complete description of CARD programs can be found in the Leadership and Community Capacity Building section of this report.)

Canada Economic Development

Regional Strategies Initiative

The Regional Strategies Initiative (RSI) of Canada Economic Development (CED) develops and implements strategies and action plans, which promote a social and economic environment that will reinforce the assets and competitive advantages of the Quebec regions. The RSI program supports major initiatives that are likely to have a strategic impact on the regional economy. As of March 31, 2001, 167 permanent jobs had been created or maintained by this initiative.

Outaouais RSI

In April 2000, CED announced the implementation of a RSI for the Outaouais region. Under the banner *Fine-tuning Our Rural and Urban Partnerships*, the Outaouais RSI action plan provides, among other things, an investment of \$1 million to promote the expansion of entrepreneurial activities in a rural setting, and boosts economic activity in rural areas in the Outaouais region by building on local human and material resources.

Bas-Saint-Laurent RSI

In April 2001, CED announced that it would renew the RSI for the Bas-Saint-Laurent Rural Enterprises component, and contribute \$1.5 million to the program over the next three years. The initiative was launched in 1997, with a goal to encourage the growth of small businesses in rural areas. It puts particular emphasis on the development of technological and niche products and services. As of March 31, 2001, 167 permanent jobs had been created or maintained thanks to this initiative.

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

Community Economic Development Program (CEDP)

CEDP assists First Nations in identifying economic priorities, and helps plan business opportunities by providing funding for more than 500 Community Economic Development Organizations (CEDOs). First Nations and Inuit communities utilize CEDOs to receive development advisory services, economic development planning services, and assistance in accessing a range of federal government programs and services.

Contributions from CEDP provided 557,137 training days to 15,499 First Nations, Inuit and Innu citizens, and supported 1,112 business expansions. This created 2,321 jobs and assisted 1,244 individuals in creating new business that resulted in additional 2,390 new jobs.

Major Business Projects Program

The program assists business start-ups or expansions that offer significant benefits to the community. It is designed to strengthen the economic development of First Nations, Inuit and Innu communities through improved access to economic opportunities, both on-and-off-reserve.

In the Northwest Territories, contributions were provided for the construction and operation of two drilling rigs. More than 60 employment opportunities will be created by these initiatives, and employment spin-offs are expected in such areas as trucking, camp catering, construction, mechanical maintenance, fuelling, supplies and services.

Resource Access Negotiations Program

The program helps First Nations, Inuit and Innu communities enhance employment and business benefits from resource-based opportunities.

Consistent with community needs and the principles of sustainable development, it strives to operate in an environmentally responsible manner.

The most recent total program commitments were \$38.35 million, supporting 1,210 projects. Benefits included 287 part-time fixed-duration jobs, 279 full-time fixed-duration jobs, 219 part-time permanent jobs, 344 full-time permanent jobs, \$46.9 million in contracts, 293 persons trained and 40 business start-ups.

Industry Canada

Federal Economic Development Initiative for Northern Ontario (FedNor)

FedNor is a regional development initiative designed to promote economic development in northern Ontario to strengthen the national economy and contribute to the successful development of business and job opportunities. Promoting sustainable self-reliant communities, including the strengthening of Aboriginal communities and their economies through partnerships, is an inherent priority of FedNor. During 2000–2001, FedNor increased its presence and now maintains offices in all five major centres in northern Ontario. FedNor invested more than \$31 million in 600 projects to stimulate community economic development throughout northern Ontario.

Through its Youth Internship Initiative, FedNor committed more than \$3.6 million during 2000–2001, helping approximately 127 young people gain education-related work experience in northern Ontario. FedNor also invests in community economic infrastructure to stimulate growth and economic development in rural communities throughout northern Ontario. In the 2000–2001 fiscal year, 24 projects totalling

\$4.8 million dollars were approved. Partnerships among non-profit organizations, private-sector suppliers and FedNor support the development of telecommunications infrastructure and the creation of new applications for the information highway. To support these activities, FedNor authorized spending of more than \$23 million for 374 projects.

Community Futures Program

The Community Futures Program supports community economic development by assisting communities to develop and diversify through strategic community planning, business services and access to capital. It provides operating funds and investment capital to 52 Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDCs) in Ontario. The CFDCs are federally funded, non-profit, community-based economic development corporations that provide financing to rural small businesses. The 236 CFDCs, located in and serving most rural areas, provide small businesses and would-be entrepreneurs with counselling, mentoring, technical advice, and access to financing through loans or loan guarantees.

During the fiscal year ending March 31, 2001, Ontario CFDCs invested a total of \$45,738,231 in 1,148 businesses and provided business counselling to 661 businesses. Together, the CFDCs investment and business counselling activities assisted 1,809 existing or new businesses, created or maintained 5,449 jobs and leveraged \$51,751,583 in additional investments from other sources. During 2000–2001, through the Community Futures Program, FedNor contributed approximately \$15 million to support community economic development and small business in northern and rural communities in Ontario.

Through a network of 90 CFDCs, Western Economic Diversification provided 11,419 loans for a total value of \$271.6 million, and created and maintained 32,766 jobs across the four western provinces.

Natural Resources Canada

Canada's Model Forest Program

Model Forests are local, non-profit partnerships of volunteer representatives from all levels of government, Aboriginal communities, industry and academia. Their purpose is to develop and demonstrate innovative sustainable forest management practices.

Bas-Saint-Laurent Model Forest

In the Quebec project, private woodlot owners changed their land management practices to include the protection and conservation of wetlands, wildlife habitat, water quality and fish stocks. The program staff biologist brought together community groups promoting more sustainable forest management. These community members worked with technical experts to increase the land owners' awareness of the wetlands and habitat resources on their land and collaborated with each owner to devise new management practices to meet the owners' objectives and to conserve their ecologically important wetlands.

Western Economic Diversification

Western Economic Partnership Agreement

Western Economic Partnership Agreements are federal–provincial agreements that promote economic growth and employment opportunities in Western Canada. With \$160 million in federal and provincial contributions over five years, agreements have been signed with British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

Western Economic Diversification provides \$20 million in funding to each western province. With matching provincial contributions, each

agreement will invest up to \$40 million to create new employment opportunities, support economic infrastructure and promote entrepreneurship. Projects cover a wide range of activities related to federal priority areas, such as innovation, urban development and small business development, and provide the agency, in partnership with provincial governments, with an avenue for addressing key rural issues and opportunities. For example, Western Economic Diversification and the provincial government of Manitoba each contributed \$200,000 to enable 14 officially bilingual municipalities to develop strategic plans for economic revitalization and development.

T-Rex Centre

The discovery of Scotty the T-Rex has brought international attention to the community of Eastend, Saskatchewan. In 1994, archeologists uncovered the fossilized remains of this Tyrannosaurus rex at a site near this small community in southwestern Saskatchewan. Western Economic Diversification (WD), through the Canada–Saskatchewan Western Economic Partnership Agreement, assisted the development of this archeological discovery into a significant tourist attraction.

WD contributed \$600,000 toward the construction of the \$2-million T-Rex Centre at Eastend. The centre now attracts 44,000 visitors annually and provides a valuable educational resource for schools in the surrounding area. The economic benefit of the \$2-million investment is estimated to be \$3.5 million per year of direct and indirect benefits to the community.

Community Economic Adjustment Initiative

To address the impacts of changes in the Pacific fishery, the federal government launched the \$400 million Pacific component of the Canadian Fisheries Adjustment and Restructuring Program. The program attempts to restructure the commercial fishing industry by moving to

selective harvesting; helping people and communities to adjust; diversifying fishing opportunities and further reducing the salmon fleet; and increasing efforts to protect and rebuild salmon habitat.

WD's Community Economic Adjustment Initiative (CEAI) addressed the second component, helping people and communities adjust. In its two years of operation, the CEAI steering committee approved 102 community projects totalling \$19,526,273, and leveraged more than \$48 million in additional local, federal and provincial investments.

Harbourfront Revitalization Project

An example of the program's success can be seen in the Village of Alert Bay. This Vancouver Island community received a \$250,000 non-repayable CEAI contribution towards the \$800,000 harbourfront revitalization project. The project will become a key part of the community's plans to make Alert Bay more inviting to tourists.

Priority: Partnerships for Community Development

Success comes when federal departments and agencies work together with other levels of government and non-government groups for the betterment of rural and remote Canada. By developing policies and programs to meet specific needs identified at the community level, the Government of Canada helps to provide knowledge, resources and expertise in these communities.

Canada Economic Development

Canada At Your Doorstep

This was the first ever event in Quebec to present the programs and services of the Government of Canada for rural and remote Canada. *Canada At Your Doorstep*, hosted by the Eastern Townships *Rural Team* at East Angus, also demonstrated that partnerships between federal departments and rural Canada can help communities meet their needs more effectively.

Connected to Their Communities

Community Internet Access Centres (CIACs) Week in Bas-Saint-Laurent featured a full week of activities, with the participation of nearly 40 centres, to acquaint people from rural areas in Quebec with modern technology. The Bas-Saint-Laurent Rural Team and the Community Futures Development Corporations organized the event under the theme of *Connected to Their Communities*.

Community Futures Program (CFP) – Quebec

This program supports local economic development by helping rural areas promote and diversify their communities. In Quebec, CFP funds 56 Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDCs) in designated rural areas. The goal of CFDCs is to encourage communities to participate in managing their future, and to support job creation at the local level by providing technical and financial services.

In March 2001, CED announced that it would renew its agreement with the CFDCs for a five-year period. Since September 2000, CFP has expanded its coverage to include all Quebec communities, thus making access to information on the Government of Canada programs and

services available across the province. The total investment of \$103 million over five years will help the CFDCs create and maintain 35,000 jobs, which will have a major impact on the development of local communities.

Independent surveys are carried out every year to determine the satisfaction of CFDC clients and partners. The latest survey shows a 94 per cent level of satisfaction with regards to all services offered by the CFDC; 93 per cent of partner organizations believe that without the help of the CFDC they would not have been able to carry out their projects.

Canadian Heritage

Interdepartmental Partnership with Official-Language Communities

The partnership is a five-year initiative that provides complementary funding to other federal contributions to encourage the sustainable development of the official-language minority communities (Francophones outside Quebec and Anglophones in Quebec). The mandate is also to facilitate access to programs and services offered by federal organizations. Funding agreements target activities linked to arts and culture, economic development and tourism, human resources development, new technologies, and health and social services.

Partnership agreements were signed with four federal organizations which included the Canada Council for the Arts, Health Canada, Industry Canada and Telefilm Canada. These agreements supported four projects in rural Canada, amounting to more than \$263,000.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

Canadian Centre for Public–Private Partnerships in Housing

The Centre is comprised of a community-focussed, experienced team of the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). Its network of housing partnership experts helps communities make informed decisions about affordable housing development. Among its services are Proposal Development Fund Loans for community groups to carry out some of the pre-development work on projects that offer affordable housing for seniors, the disabled and low-income households, including First Nations, through innovative partnership arrangements. The Centre also facilitates the financing of projects through the CMHC mortgage insurance program.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Integrated Coastal Zone Management Community Projects

In 2000–2001, Fisheries and Oceans Canada made a significant contribution to the success of two new local integrated coastal zone management initiatives in Quebec—the integrated management of the five inland bodies of water in the Magdalen Islands, and the integrated management of Gaspé Bay, in the Gaspé Peninsula. Active initiative participants include Aboriginal communities, inshore fishers, aquaculturists, environmentalists and the tourism industry. Other concerted initiatives in coastal zones are being pursued, including the integrated coastal zone management from Les Escoumins to the Betsiamite River on the Upper North Shore. Cooperation also continued on Cascapédia and Bonaventure Bay projects.

Human Resources Development Canada

Reaching out to Aboriginal Peoples (Ontario)

Service delivery gaps were identified through the Ontario Seniors' Advisory Committee of the Canada Income Security Programs. The Reaching Out to Aboriginal Peoples project addresses these gaps in remote Aboriginal communities in northern Ontario. Project dollars from rural strategies funds were provided for Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) information displays in remote communities. The Income Security Program Branch of HRDC worked in partnership with the Kenora and Thunder Bay Human Resource Centres of Canada to complete the project in March 2000, while HRDC employees continue to provide service, develop local partnerships and capacity to assist residents with their benefits and applications. The federal government has paid over \$1 million in benefits and HRDC staff have visited more than 100 communities. These payments reduce dependency on local funds.

National Defence

The Canadian Primary Reserve Force

The reserve not only improves the readiness of the Canadian Forces by assisting them when called upon, but it also supports peacetime activities. Primary reservists are members of the Canadian Forces who usually serve on a part-time basis and are paid for their services. Throughout the country, 307 reserve units employ about 30,000 people, many from rural communities. They are divided into four elements: the army reserve (also known as the militia), the naval reserve, the air reserve and the communications reserve.

Natural Resources Canada

Canadian Forest Service – British Columbia

With unemployment rates reaching 80 per cent or more by the mid-1990s, the traditional fishing community of the Kitsoo First Nation saw forestry as their economic future. However, there were few band members with forest-related training or experience, and their reserve forests were too small to be economically self-sufficient. By forming partnerships with governments (\$95,000 in funding from the First Nations Forestry Program, a joint Natural Resources Canada and Department of Indian and Northern Development program) and industry (Western Forest Products Ltd.), communities like Kitsoo can now actively participate in viable and sustainable long-term forestry ventures.

In five years, the Kitsoo have secured access to timber, hired a community forestry coordinator, set up the Kitsoo Forestry Office and developed a community-driven, long-term forestry plan. Western Forest Products Ltd. has altered its harvesting plans in response to Kitsoo concerns.

Earth Science Sector – Alberta

Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) recognizes the challenges of delivering programs to widely dispersed populations in rural and remote Canada, and has launched a number of initiatives to enhance awareness and to inspire Aboriginals to enter disciplines that are expected to experience future workforce shortages. Through NRCan's Sustainable Communities Initiative, partnerships have been developed with First Nations communities to provide tools, practical support, information, contact networks and advice. In Alberta, NRCan has assisted the

development of emergency response programs on the land of the Blood Tribe. The program is also supporting the identification of other land uses, mineral mining, oil and gas exploration to explore partnership opportunities to resolve issues affecting resources.

Earth Sciences Sector – Northwest Territories

Natural Resources Canada Legal Surveys Division has partnered with Aurora College and the School of Community Government in the Northwest Territories in a two-year Community Land Administration Certificate Program for Aboriginal land administrators in the Arctic. NRCan also provides training in legal surveying to Aboriginal communities to prepare them to provide technical and support services associated with land survey contracts.

This cooperative program has led to partnerships with the School and the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs in the areas of environment and waste management.

NRCan invested \$300,000 in developing and supporting this program, which has been delivered to over 50 community land management officers. Other areas have expressed interest in the course, and it is now being expanded to include participants from the Government of Nunavut, Department of Community, Government and Transportation.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Community Initiatives

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police detachment in rural or remote communities is sometimes the only professional service provider, and is

often asked to lead many community initiatives to improve social or economic conditions. Services provided include Victims Services, Aboriginal Liaison, Drug Awareness, Crime Prevention and Restorative Justice.

Priority: Promotion of Rural Canada

The Government of Canada is committed to ensuring that rural and remote Canada is a great place to live, work and raise a family recognizing the value of rural Canada to the identity and well-being of the nation. The promotion of rural Canada is designed to help communities, businesses and individuals achieve their potential.

Canadian Heritage

Canadian Heritage Information Network

Canadian Heritage Information Network is the electronic gateway to the museum community in Canada and beyond. It offers effective access to Canadian and international heritage information for public education and enjoyment, and for the collective benefit of Canadian museums through the following services:

The Virtual Museum of Canada

The Virtual Museum of Canada (which includes information from the Great Canadian Guide) provides rural museums and galleries with the opportunity to have a presence on the World Wide Web. The service provides Canadians with on-line information, in both official languages,

on cultural institutions and attractions across Canada, as well as the stories and treasures they hold. Launched in March 2001, there are currently over 630 museums actively participating in the Virtual Museum of Canada. Museums across Canada, including museums in rural and remote areas, have received contracts totalling approximately \$2.5 million to date. The Great Canadian Guide received approximately 3.2 million Internet hits last year.

The Heritage Forum

The Heritage Forum offers rural heritage professionals access to worldwide resources, including on-line courses and reference databases. Professionals—including staff from rural area museums—entered over 650 resources in The Heritage Forum to be shared with colleagues across the country. The Forum receives about 2.8 million hits each year.

Artifacts Canada

Artifacts Canada allows museums in rural areas to share collections information with museums across Canada. Over 170 Canadian museums, including many in rural areas, currently contribute collections information to Artifacts Canada, which receives around 1.2 million hits per year.

The Centre for Exhibition Exchange

The centre advances the development and movement of travelling exhibits in rural areas by bringing together borrowers and lenders to share information about available exhibits. The centre currently offers more than 100 exhibitions for circulation, and receives about 94,000 hits per year.

Learning with Museums

Learning with museums provides access to on-line educational resources to educators, students and parents living in rural or remote areas. Created by Canadian museums and heritage organizations, including those in rural areas, Learning with Museums currently includes more than 300 on-line educational resources.

Parks Canada

System Expansion – National Parks

Parks Canada represents 25 of the 39 distinct natural regions of Canada in the national parks system, and during 2000–2001 advanced toward its goal of representing the 14 remaining regions. The economic impact of Parks Canada's national system was \$1.75 billion, with 43,450 jobs for 2000–2001. Progress was made in establishing new national parks or national park reserves in the southern Gulf Islands in British Columbia, Wager Bay in Nunavut and the Torngat Mountains National Park Reserve, Newfoundland.

Parks Canada – Major Initiatives

Canada's national parks, national historic sites and national marine conservation areas are symbols of our national identity, and are there for each of us to understand, appreciate and enjoy. Parks Canada has developed a communications strategy to reach and engage Canadians. In 2000–2001, more than 100 partners from the mountain national parks (Banff, Kootenay, Yoho and Jasper) and surrounding communities partnered in naming 2001 The Year of the Great Bear. The national historic significance of Grand-Pré National Historic Site of Canada in Nova Scotia will benefit from an innovative partnership with the Tauck

Foundation, which has offered the Société Promotion Grand-Pré a matching grant of \$120,000 (US) over three years to be used toward the new interpretation centre at Grand-Pré.

Outreach Innovation Fund

Parks Canada initiated the Outreach Innovation Fund, which dispersed \$200,000 between ten projects involving local outreach and support for school curricula in all provinces from Newfoundland to Alberta. The participating parks and sites leveraged this money by contributing funds and finding partners so that the total value of the work carried out was \$673,500.

Statistics Canada

Rural Information Services

During the past year, Statistics Canada has continued to publish the *Rural and Small Town Canada* bulletin on its Web site. In total, 17 bulletins have been produced, nine in the last year. Recent rural topics have included employment, income indicators, housing conditions, youth migration and demography. The site also includes working papers on other rural topics such as agriculture, First Nations, defining rural in a geographical context, a geographic profile of manure production, and the distribution and concentration of livestock. Statistics Canada also publishes a wide variety of rural publications. A full list can be found at <http://www.statcan.ca>.

Priority: Rural Telecommunications and the Use of the Information Highway

With modern technology connecting rural and remote Canada to the world, the Government of Canada recognizes the opportunities available to assist communities to develop and grow, regardless of where they are located. Through its commitment to achieving improved access to the information highway, government is helping rural and remote Canadians take advantage of coming opportunities in a global, electronic marketplace.

Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency

E-Commerce Activity – Aboriginal Business Service Networks

The Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency funded an awareness initiative that provided e-commerce seminars in rural communities in Atlantic Canada. It also supported the establishment of an Internet-based business information network (The Aboriginal Business Service Network) for Aboriginal Economic Development Officers in Atlantic Canada.

Canada Post

Community Access Program

The Community Access Program (CAP) provides rural, remote and urban communities with affordable public access to the Internet, creating new

opportunities to communicate, learn and do business. Administered by Industry Canada, the original CAP project pilot was introduced in six post offices in Prince Edward Island in January 2000. It showed a high level of satisfaction with both customers and employees. Canada Post and the Government of Manitoba have partnered to install 24 Community Access (CAP-Manitoba) sites in rural communities. This is part of an agreement signed between the Government of Manitoba and Industry Canada.

Industry Canada

Community Access Program

By partnering with provincial and territorial governments, municipalities, educators, libraries, schools and the private sector, the program has established public access to the Internet at over 8,800 locations. More than 5,500 of these are located in rural areas in Canada. A number of CAP sites in rural areas in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland are involved in the Service Canada pilots designed to improve access to Government of Canada information and services.

Smart Communities Program

The program assists communities by creating opportunities for learning through the sharing of information, communication technology activities, experiences and lessons learned. It has helped to provide new business opportunities domestically and internationally for Canadian companies in the area of application and service development. Of the 12 recent demonstration projects, seven took place in rural communities.

Voluntary Sector Network Support Program

Voluntary Sector Network Support Program (VolNet) is designed to expand the technological capacity of the voluntary sector by providing access to computer equipment, Internet access and Internet skills development to help voluntary organizations further their missions.

VolNet presently has 10,000 participating voluntary organizations, of which 8,800 are already connected and over 12,000 staff and volunteers received training. About 45 per cent of VolNet services recipients are in rural Canada.

FedNor Telecommunications Support

Through partnerships with non-profit organizations and private-sector suppliers, FedNor supports the development of telecommunications infrastructure and the development of new applications for the information highway. FedNor authorized more than \$23 million in 374 projects in support of these activities. Community Futures Development Corporations continue to promote the use of telecommunications and the Internet as a communications tool throughout rural Ontario, and in most locations provide public access and support for users such as the Community Access Program, the Canada–Ontario Business Service Centres and Aboriginal Business Service Network sites.

Natural Resources Canada

Canadian Forest Service

The Canadian Model Forest Network recently launched the Socio-Economic Indicators for the Model Forest Network (SIMFOR), a Web site where visitors can map and compare forestry-related socioeconomic information for

Canada's model forests. There are six indicators which include population, employment, income, education, poverty and real estate.

SIMFOR is a national data set. This allows people to get a clear picture of the health of a community, and some of the issues affecting its long-term sustainability. Plans are underway to develop SIMFOR as a clearinghouse of socioeconomic information for each model forest by adding links to local publications, research journals and other relevant sites.

which 453 are Canada listings and 932 are Human Services Directory (Saskatchewan) listings. The site has about 800 hits per month, and links to the national Aboriginal portal.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Community Access Web Site

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police program <http://www.deal.org> offers space on its national Web site where communities can create their own local pages. This Web site is primarily for youth, but is also open to parents and educators.

Western Economic Diversification

Aboriginal Services Kiosk (ASK)

The Aboriginal Services Kiosk is an Internet portal that provides information on Aboriginal programs, services and contacts in Saskatchewan at <http://www.ASKSask.sk.ca/>. It contains links to other relevant sites, features an events calendar, and has a directory of services and programs for Aboriginal people in Saskatchewan. The ASK Web site, which is the product of joint working groups represented by a variety of federal departments, has 1,385 listings in its directory, of

ACCOUNTABILITY, PROCESS AND RESULTS

Public Accountability

Two-way Communication from Process to Results

Government management practices have been traditionally more about process than results. The focus was on resources spent, activities and outputs. Although important, they did not give Canadians a complete picture of the relevance and effectiveness of programs and services being delivered. In 1995, the Government of Canada committed itself to implementing results-based management in all federal departments and agencies.

Performance Measurement

The Government of Canada is committed to reporting to Canadians on how it responds to issues in rural Canada. It is important to determine whether programs are achieving results that Canadians value. The government needs to know if it has made a difference in improving the quality of life. When a federal initiative is put in place, it is followed by a system to measure and report on performance. In this way, government reports on and is responsible for the actions it undertakes and how it uses public funds.

Federal departments and agencies are now developing a cross-government performance framework for rural initiatives, linking actions to expected outcomes, practical indicators and relevant measurements. At an interdepartmental working session in March 2000, representatives of many government departments developed performance indicators for the *11 Priority Areas*. In March 2001, workshop delegates reviewed and narrowed down the indicators under consideration to a manageable list, taking into account feasibility, meaningfulness and practicality. Examples include:

- ❖ Number and proportion of rural Canadians having Internet access; and
- ❖ number and proportion of rural communities with various levels of approved hospital beds to 1,000 population.

The final selection of key performance indicators to adequately reflect an improved quality of life in rural communities is still to be decided. Once these indicators are selected, an implementation plan will be developed and will contribute to a cross-government performance management system.

Interactive Process

Citizens to Government

While government reached out to communicate with people in rural and remote Canada, it also listened. Citizens brought concerns directly to the Government of Canada through national, regional and local forums. As an example, the *2000 National Rural Conference* in Magog-Orford, Quebec, gave rural citizens a chance to express their opinions to influence decision-makers on policies, programs and services. Government committed action on 54 issues raised at the conference, contained in the *Rural Action Plan* released April 26, 2001.

The Rural Times, a quarterly tabloid newspaper issued by the Rural Secretariat, is an indirect conduit, providing articles, reports and valuable information on rural communities and their residents. Many rural Canadians have written articles for the publication, which is overseen by an advisory board of citizens from rural and remote communities. The Internet also offers rural citizens instant, direct, on-line opportunities to

discuss concerns, through Web sites such as the Rural Secretariat's, among others. The *Rural Fairs and Exhibits Program* brings information on federal government programs and services to rural and remote communities.

All this input and sharing of information helps government identify emerging issues and define a role for itself in addressing key rural concerns.

Government to Citizens

The Government of Canada demonstrated its commitment to Canadians living in rural and remote communities with its first Annual Report to Parliament on Rural Canada in May 2000, *Working Together in Rural Canada*. The *Canadian Rural Partnership* Web site at <http://www.rural.gc.ca> and the *Pocket Directory of Rural Programs and Services*, which contain information on government programs and services, are other examples of that commitment.

Supporting Local Solutions to Local Challenges

As stated in the 2001 Speech from the Throne, the government would,

“strive to ensure that, wherever possible, its actions and programs are coordinated to help build local solutions to local challenges.”

The *Federal Framework for Action in Rural Canada* will continue to guide federal government intervention in rural and remote Canada to enhance the quality of life.

The *Rural Lens* will apply to all new and renewed government initiatives and will include economic, social and environmental issues.

Pilot Projects will continue to support innovative solutions to local challenges. These projects will strengthen the capacity of rural and remote communities to maximize their development potential and take advantage of opportunities. An evaluation of the first four years of project experience will take place in 2001–2002 to share lessons learned and improve future programming. Over the next three years, \$9.8 million will be made available through the Canadian Agricultural Rural Communities Initiative to assist agricultural rural communities undergoing change.

The *Rural Dialogue* helps the federal government better understand rural opportunities while providing a forum for rural citizens to learn from each other. By discussing options, governments and communities can make the best use of opportunities. Four rural conferences were held across the country at the local/regional levels. These conferences will

feed into the second *National Rural Conference* in 2002, which will further define the federal government path in developing responses to the issues and challenges of Canadians in rural and remote communities.

Communications is the key to increasing awareness of what the federal government has to offer rural Canadians and improving access to its programs and services. For example, through the Government On-Line initiative, the rural Web site at <http://www.rural.gc.ca> will be enhanced to facilitate access to information and rural government services in 2002.

A rural policy agenda can help the Government of Canada respond more effectively to rural needs. It is committed to addressing issues in a results-oriented fashion. Specific approaches will focus on:

- ❖ Improving access to programs and services within the context of long-term sustainable strategies;
- ❖ developing strong community capacity; and
- ❖ helping communities with initiatives such as Community Futures Development Corporations and the Community Access Program.

Research is also key to a better understanding of rural Canada. The federal government will need to explore a variety of issues in more depth to continue improving policy choices and decisions. As issues affecting rural and remote Canada vary from region to region, the government will respond to issues in a regionally sensitive manner. The way in which all governments are responding to the challenges of rural communities is an integral element of the rural policy perspective. The relationship between rural and urban Canada must also be considered as a key policy question as both presently coexist and are mutually dependent. However, there

are issues and challenges which must be examined to create an avenue to better public policy decisions. Important policy questions to pursue are:

- ❖ What are the key success factors and best practices for future rural development?
- ❖ To what extent can urban economic development be the driver of a healthy rural economy and how far do such economic zones of influence extend?
- ❖ How do we harmonize the potential benefits of urban economic development and the requirements of our rural communities?
- ❖ What lessons can we learn from the experience of other countries?

The Rural Secretariat will continue to lead the horizontal coordination of the rural file. *The Interdepartmental Working Group (IWG)* will maintain a key role. At the same time, the regional *Rural Teams* will continue helping communities address key rural issues through innovative collaborative ways of increasing access to government services and putting government resources to work for rural communities. Implementation of the *Regional Rural Action Plans* with “report cards” will be issued in 2002 to outline in detail the government response to the 54 areas for action identified at the *2000 National Rural Conference*.

An evaluation of the past four years of the *Canadian Rural Partnership experience* is underway to demonstrate progress in the working partnership with federal government departments, other levels of government, non-profit community organizations, the private sector and rural citizens. Through support of partnerships, the government continues to enhance community capacity building for long-term, sustainable growth.

Through the continued application of the *Rural Lens*, and with input and direction from the *Rural Dialogue*, experience and momentum gained over the last few years is allowing the *Federal Framework for Action in Rural Canada* to achieve positive measurable results in 2001–2002.

APPENDICES

Annex A: List of Canadian Rural Partnership (CRP) Pilot Projects 2000–2001

For additional information on the following CRP Pilot projects, please contact the Rural Secretariat at 1-888-781-2222 or visit the rural Web site at <http://www.rural.gc.ca>.

Newfoundland and Labrador

- Aboriginal Arts and Crafts Organization
- Beaches Shipbuilding Project
- Developing Community Leadership Capacity
- Northern Sustainable Industry
- Labrador Communities Research
- Strait Talk: A Regional Clear Language Newspaper
- Taking Our Places

Prince Edward Island

- Community Use of Basin Head Lagoon
- Making History – Building Futures: PEI Women of the Twentieth Century
- West Prince TeleHospice
- Promoting Partnerships to Educate
- Western Malpeque Co-operative Community-based Development Initiative
- Leadership 2000 — “New Hope”

Nova Scotia

- A Community Vision of Sustainable Forest Resource Management
- Mushamush Watershed Management Planning Project

- Community Genuine Progress Index (GPI) Development Project
- Integration Through Theatre For At-Risk Youth
- Library Links
- The Muir-Cox Shipyard Project
- Western Valley Tourism E-Guides
- Women’s Cooperatives: A Local Solution to Women’s Economic Needs
- A Clearinghouse for Rural Community Capacity Building

New Brunswick

- Apprenons en famille région Alnwick (Family Learning in the Alnwick Region)
- Building a Sustainable Tourism Community, Bouctouche N.B. Best Practice Model
- Club Fun-Famille
- Community Connections and Communications Technology for Youth
- Transfer of Local Knowledge into Harvey High School Curriculum
- Using Associated Species as Potential Indicators of Environmental Change Related to the Harvest of Rockweed

Quebec

- Integrated Management of D’Alembert Intramunicipal Lots
- Establishment of Petites Écores Rural Cooperative
- Evaluation of Potential of the Sea Buckthorn in the Matane Region
- Saint-Pascal Diaspora Network
- Development of Policy Instruments for Protecting and Developing the Rural Heritage of the Kamouraska Region
- Establishment of a Pilot Ride-sharing Project
- Incentives for and Barriers to Rural Self-development
- Establishment of a Multicriteria Participatory Approach for Basin Management
- Nigasimon Drop-in Centre
- Traditional Skills Network

Ontario

Collaborating Alliance Communities Access
Community Law School Rural Initiative
Farm Succession Skills Development for Rural Business Professionals
First Nations Economic Development Network
Itinéraires touristiques produits par les jeunes ruraux
(Tourism Itineraries Produced by Young People in Rural Areas)
Manitoulin Rural Youth Education Project
Minoyawin Distributed Homecare Resources Pilot Project
Northern Ontario's Online Outreach Initiative
Rural Enterprise Loan Fund Technical Assistance Program (TAP)
The Farm Line (for farmers, farm families and rural dwellers)
Volunteer Youth in the Millennium (VYM)

Manitoba

Rural Computer Access Training Seminars (R-CATS)
Vision et champions régionaux (Development of a Regional Vision)

Saskatchewan

Carlton Trail Tourism Initiative
Getting Your Buffalo
Saskatchewan First Nations/Computers for Schools Repair Centre
The Water Watchdog Project

Alberta

Beaver County C-Disc
Creating Opportunities for Rural Women
Driftpile River Riparian Land Management
Government Services – On Line
Jasper Community Outreach Services
Restorative Justice
Rural Contact Office and Community Liaison
Rural Youth Education and Harm Reduction Project

British Columbia

Aquaculture Techniques for the Northern Abalone
Building Community Health and Strength
Cariboo–Chilcotin Preschool Partnership
Community of Horsefly: Tourism Plan for Economic Diversification
Community Economic Development Initiative
Comox Valley Links Community Network – Baynes Sound Geo'Net
Farmers' Perceptions of Their Role in Rural Communities
Marketing Plan Development
Tourism Transition Project – A Community Voice
Women and Community Safety in British Columbia
Youth Technology Development Project

Yukon Territory

First Nations Furbearer Monitoring Project
LSCFN Farming Enterprise
Partners in Independence: Yukon Territory
Rural Community Development and World Heritage
Yukon CHR Peer Monitoring Pilot Project
Yukon Rural Business Mentorship Service
YUWIN Pilot Project

Northwest Territories

Capacity Building and Skills Development Project
Community Employment Officer
“Gateway Towards Self-Empowerment”
Human Resource Development Coordinator
Just Add Water
Restitution Peace Project
SahtuNet — A Sahtu Community Web Portal
The Dogrib Youth Addictions Peer Training Project
The Hay River School Community Connector
The Inuvik Community Garden Project

Training Needs Assessment System for Community and
Aboriginal Governments
Virtual Classroom Pilot Project
Youth Development Officer

Nunavut

Netsilik Miniature Collection
The Health of Nunavut Website
Tools for Community Building
Videoconferencing, Education and Community Development:
A Demonstration Project

National

Jeunes entrepreneurs au Mondial de l'entrepreneuriat jeunesse
Regional Consultations of Rural Women with Breast Cancer

Annex B: Membership List of the Interdepartmental Working Group

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
<http://www.agr.ca>

Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency
<http://www.acoa.ca>

Canada Customs and Revenue Agency
<http://www.ccr-aadrc.gc.ca>

Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions
<http://www.dec-ced.gc.ca>

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
<http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca>

Canada Post
<http://www.canadapost.ca>

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
<http://www.ceaa.gc.ca>

Canadian Heritage
<http://www.pch.gc.ca>

Canadian Tourism Commission
http://www.canadatourism.com/index_ct.html

Citizenship and Immigration
<http://www.cic.gc.ca>

Department of Finance
<http://www.fin.gc.ca>

Department of Justice Canada
<http://canada.justice.gc.ca>

Department of National Defence
<http://www.dnd.ca>

Environment Canada
<http://www.ec.gc.ca>

Farm Credit Canada
<http://www.fcc-sca.ca>

Federal Economic Development Initiative in Northern Ontario (FedNor)
<http://www.fednor.ic.gc.ca>

Fisheries and Oceans Canada
<http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca>

Health Canada
<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca>

Human Resources Development Canada
<http://www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca>

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
<http://www.inac.gc.ca>

Industry Canada
<http://www.ic.gc.ca>

Natural Resources Canada
<http://www.nrcan.gc.ca>

Privy Council Office
<http://www.pco-bcp.gc.ca>

Public Works and Government Services Canada
<http://pwgsc.gc.ca>

Royal Canadian Mounted Police
<http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca>

Statistics Canada
<http://www.statcan.ca>

Transport Canada
<http://www.tc.gc.ca>

Treasury Board Secretariat
<http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca>

Western Economic Diversification Canada
<http://www.wd.gc.ca>

Annex C: List of Government Initiatives Affecting Rural Canada

Enhancing the Quality of Life for Rural Canadians

Further information on the following federal government initiatives addressing the priorities of rural Canadians can be obtained either by dialing 1 800 O-CANADA, or by accessing the Government of Canada Primary Internet Site (<http://canada.gc.ca>), as well as the Web sites of the individual departments and agencies (see Annex B).

Access to Government Programs and Services

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

- Agriculture On-Line
- Canadian Rural Information Service (CRIS)
- Pocket Directory
- Rural Exhibits Program

Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency

- Aboriginal Business Service Network
- Agency Web Site
- Atlantic Canada Business Services Centres — toll-free telephone, in-person, fax and Internet services

Canada Customs and Revenue Agency

- Aboriginal Peoples Information Service
- Additional Customs Service on Request
- Business/Individual Information Sessions
- Business Registration On-Line
- CANPASS Private Aircraft Program, Private Boats Program, Remote Ports Program

- CCRA External Recruitment Web Site
- Community Relations Customer Service
- Community Visits Program
- Community Volunteer Income Tax Program
- Expansion of 1-800 telephone enquiries services to all Canadians
- Farming Community Information Sessions
- Income Tax Clinics
- Info-fairs (collaborative effort between departments)
- Internet Site for Business Enquiries
- Joint Small Business Seminars/Small Business Information Seminars
- NETFILE
- New Employer Visit Program
- OUTREACH Program-Aboriginal and Asian Communities
- Profile Port Review
- Remote Ports Program
- Teaching Taxes Program
- TELEFILE
- 24/7 Automated Telephone Enquiries Services

Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions

- Aboriginal Business Service Network
- Canada Business Service Centres — toll-free telephone, in-person, fax and Internet services
- Community Futures Program — Quebec
- Small Business Conference/Info-Fair
- Service Canada Pilot
- Web Site

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

- Affordability and Choice Today
- Circumpolar Housing Forum
- Homegrown Solutions
- Housing Awards Program
- Northern Research and Technology in Housing Web Site

Canada Post

Access to Government Forms and Applications
Canada Multi Service Centre
Community Access Program sites in P.E.I.
Delivery and Retail Standards for Rural Canada
Electronic Post Office
Firearms Registration
Service Canada Pilot Project

Canadian International Development Agency

Web Site

Citizenship and Immigration

1-888-242-2100
Rural Information Kiosks Initiative (Pilot Project)
Web Site

Environment Canada

Current Weather Conditions and Forecasts
Green Lane Web Site

Farm Credit Canada

Internal publications — Farmland Values and Business Contact
Joint Brochure describing 4 financial corporations
(FCC, BDC, EDC, CCC)
1-877-332-3301
100 offices mainly located in rural communities
Presence at local and regional fairs and exhibitions
Web Site (information on programs and services)
Yearly advertising campaign in major agricultural newspapers to
broadcast products and services

Federal Economic Development Initiative in Northern Ontario (FedNor)

Community Futures Development Corporations (Ontario-wide)

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Department Web Site

Health Canada

Canadian Health Network
Family Violence Initiative
Farm Family Health Newsletter
Health Promotion and Programs Branch (HPPB) Regional
Office Web Sites
Northern and Arctic Contaminant Health Initiative
Pest Management Information Service
Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) Web Site
Regional Office Web Sites

Human Resources Development Canada

CJF — Information component
HRDC–Industry Canada MoU involving regional agencies
HRDC Web Site
Rural and Remote Kiosks

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

Aboriginal Business Development Initiative
INAC Web Site
Procurement Strategy for Aboriginal Business Workshops

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada/Industry Canada

Aboriginal Map of Canada — Service Canada Pilot Project

Industry Canada

Aboriginal Business Service Network
Canada Business Service Centres — toll-free telephone, in-person, fax and Internet services
Community Networks Pilot Projects in Ontario and New Brunswick — Service Canada Pilot Project
Consumer Information Gateway — Service Canada Pilot Project
Service Canada Pilot in Quebec
SME Info Fairs
Strategis
Toronto Enterprise Centre Pilot Project — Service Canada Pilot Project
Voice-to-Voice Web Support — Service Canada Pilot Project

Industry Canada/Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions

Service Canada Pilot in Quebec

Justice Canada

Canadian Firearms Centre's Outreach Program
Child Support Initiative
Needs Assessment Studies, Part III

National Research Council

Industrial Research Assistance Program

Natural Resources Canada

Canadian Geoscience Knowledge
Energy Innovators Initiative
GeoConnections
Global Positioning System — Corrections (GPS*C)
Minerals and Metals Sector Web Site
NRCan On-line
Sustainable Communities Initiative

Public Service Commission

Canada/Newfoundland and Labrador Community Access Program
Computer Loans to Atlantic Universities
Delegated External Recruitment Authority
Increased Rural Recruitment in British Columbia
Job Information
Townshippers' Day

Public Works and Government Services Canada

Public Access Program — Blue Pages
Public Access Program — Canada Site
Public Access Program — Infocentres and Rural Kiosks
Public Access Program — 1 800 O-CANADA

Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Aboriginal Liaison Officers
Local Radio Program — Norway House, Manitoba
Local Television Program — Neepawa, Manitoba
RCMP Detachments
RCMP Web Site

Transport Canada

Civil Aviation Program
Client Service Program
Dangerous Goods Safety Program
Development of Web Site
Regional Airport Operators Councils/Committees
Regional Aviation Safety Councils in Western Canada
Regional Canadian Marine Advisory Council — Northern
Road Safety Program
Transport Canada Centres

Treasury Board Secretariat

Canada Infrastructure Works Program
Service Canada Initiative
Web Site

Veterans Affairs

Improving Access to Health Information (across the country)
Web Site and Seniors Canada On Line

Western Economic Diversification Canada

Aboriginal Business Service Network
Canada Business Service Centres - toll-free telephone,
fax and Internet services
CFDC Workshops
Information Trade Shows
Library at CFDC Offices
Web Site
Women's Enterprise Initiative

Access to Financial Resources

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Farm Improvement and Marketing Cooperatives Loans Act
Safety Net Programs

Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency

Business Development Program
Canada Business Service Centres
Canada/Newfoundland Economic Development Component of the
Canadian Fisheries Adjustment and Restructuring Initiative
Community-Based Economic Development

Community Business Development Corporations
Seed Capital ConneXion Program for Young Entrepreneurs

Business Development Bank of Canada

Tourism Investment Fund
Young Entrepreneur Financing Program

Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions

Canada Business Service Centres
Community Futures Program — Quebec
IDEA-SME Program
Pilot Project
Special Fund for the Economic Development and Adjustment of
Quebec Fishing Communities (Coastal Quebec)
Youth Strategy

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

Mortgage Loan Insurance

Canada Post

Electronic Post Office

Department of Finance

Canadian Financial Services Ombudsman
Database on SMEs
Financial Consumer Agency
New Policy Framework for the Financial Services Sector

Environment Canada

Community Animation Program (Health Canada)
EcoAction Community Funding Program

Farm Credit Canada

- AgriStart Loans
- Enviro-Loan
- Farmbuilder Construction Loan
- Flexi-Hog Loan
- Long-term Loan
- One-year Convertible Loan
- Personal Property Loan
- Plant Now Pay Later Loan
- Variable-rate Loan

Federal Economic Development Initiative in Northern Ontario (FedNor)

- Community Futures Development Corporations (Ontario-wide)

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

- Aboriginal Business Development Initiative
- Aboriginal Financial Services Forum
- Community Economic Development Program
- Land Claims and Treaty Agreements
- Opportunity Fund
- Resource Acquisition Initiative

Industry Canada

- Aboriginal Business Canada
- Canada Business Service Centres
- Canada Community Investment Plan
- Canada Small Business Financing Act*
- Sources of Financing Web Site

National Research Council

- Industrial Research Assistance Program

Natural Resources Canada

- Commercial Building Incentive Program
- Energy Innovators and Energy Innovators Plus

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council

- AquaNet — Aquaculture Network
- Sustainable Management Forest Network
- The Canadian Water Network — CWN

Transport Canada

- Airport Capital Assistance Program

Western Economic Diversification Canada

- Access to Capital
- Canada Business Service Centres
- Loan Fund to Small Rural Business
- Loans to Rural Entrepreneurs with Disabilities
- Loans to Rural Youth

Opportunities for Rural Youth

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

- Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development (CARD) — Councils
- Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development (CARD) — National Programs
- Science Horizons in Agriculture and Agri-Food

Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency

Centre for Entrepreneurship Education and Development
(CEED) in Nova Scotia
Futures in Newfoundland and Labrador Youth Initiative
I Want to Be A Millionaire
Open for Business (OFB)
YMCA-YWCA Enterprises Centres in St John's Newfoundland
and Glace Bay, Nova Scotia
Young Entrepreneurs ConneXion Seed Capital and
Counselling Program
Youth Ventures in the Province of Newfoundland

Canada Customs and Revenue Agency

Internship Program

Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions

CED Youth Strategy
Community Futures Program — Quebec
IDEA-SME Program
Regional Strategic Initiatives (RSI)
Special Fund for the Economic Development and Adjustment
of Quebec Fishing Communities (Coastal Quebec)

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

Housing Internship Initiative for First Nations and Inuit Youth

Canadian Heritage

Exchanges Canada
Native Citizen's Program
Young Canada Works

Citizenship and Immigration

CITZINE Web Site

Department of National Defence

Canadian Cadet Organization
Canadian Forces Primary Reserve
Canadian Rangers
Junior Canadian Rangers

Farm Credit Canada

Canadian Young Farmers Forum
Family Farm Loan
1-2-3 Grow
Payday Loan
Young Speakers for Agriculture

Federal Economic Development Initiative in Northern Ontario (FedNor)

Youth Internship Initiative

Human Resources Development Canada

Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy
Summer Student Job Action
Youth Info Fairs
Youth Information
Youth Information Line
Youth Internship Canada
Youth Link
Youth Resource Network
Youth Service Canada

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

Aboriginal Masters Program
Aboriginal Workforce Participation Initiative
First Nations and Inuit Youth Employment Strategy
First Nations/Energy Industry Employment and Training
Demonstration Program
Post-Secondary Education Program
Workforce Opportunities Program

Industry Canada

Aboriginal Business Canada Support of Aboriginal Youth
SchoolNet distributed 'Rural Quiz' to Team magazine

National Research Council

Partnership with Canadian Aboriginal Science and
Engineering Association

Natural Resources Canada

Canadian Communities Atlas
Eco-Efficiency Projects

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council

PromoScience Program
Scholarships and Fellowships Programs

Public Service Commission

Expansion of Post Secondary Recruitment Program
Federal Summer Work Experience Program
Futures in Newfoundland and Labrador Youth

Public Works and Government Services Canada

Aboriginal Career Day
Aboriginal Internship Pilot Project
Promotional Materials on Aboriginal Initiatives for
Post-Secondary Recruitment
Public Access Program — Job Shadow Project
Registry of Aboriginal Employment Service Providers

Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Auxiliary Constable Program
Cadet Recruiting
Coaching Certification Program
Life Skills Training
National Youth Strategy
Police Liaison School
Summer Student Program
Volunteering Opportunities

Transport Canada

Employment Equity Initiatives

Treasury Board Secretariat

Canada Infrastructure Works Program
Federal Public Sector Youth Internship Program

Western Economic Diversification Canada

Community Economic Development Internship Program
CFDC Sponsored Youth Initiatives
Loans to Rural Youth

Leadership and Community Capacity Building

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development (CARD) — Councils
Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development (CARD) —
National Programs

Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency

Business Development Program
Community-Based Economic Development
Community Development Component of Atlantic Groundfish Strategy
Cooperation Program

Canada Customs and Revenue Agency

Community Volunteer Income Tax Program
Information Sessions in Collaboration with RCMP to Baie-Comeau
Residences and Businesses

Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions

Three Pilot Projects in 10 CFDCs
Community Futures Program — Quebec
IDEA-SME Program
Regional Strategic Initiatives (RSI)
Special Fund for the Economic Development and Adjustment
of Quebec Fishing Communities (Coastal Quebec)

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

Aboriginal Capacity Building
Circumpolar Housing Forum
Emergency Repair Progra

Home Adaptation for Seniors Independence
Non-Profit On-Reserve Housing Program
Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program

Canadian Heritage

Interdepartmental Partnership with Official Language Communities
Official Languages Assistance Program

Citizenship and Immigration

CIVICANADA Youth Web Site

Department of National Defence

Canadian Cadet Organization
Canadian Forces Primary Reserve
Canadian Rangers
Junior Canadian Rangers

Environment Canada

EcoAction Community Funding Program
Voluntary Sector Initiative

Farm Credit Canada

Canadian Young Farmers Forum
Young Speakers for Agriculture

Federal Economic Development Initiative in Northern Ontario (FedNor)

Community Futures Development Corporations (Ontario-wide)

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Community Action Program
Resource Rebuilding Strategy — Pacific Region

Health Canada

Aboriginal Head Start (Urban and Northern) (AHS)
Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program (CPNP)
Canadian Strategy on HIV/AIDS
CAPC/CPNP National Projects Fund
Community Action Program for Children (CAPC)
Community Animation Program (CAP) — joint Health Canada and
Environment Canada initiative
National First Nations Environmental Contaminants
Program (NFNECP)
Population Health Fund

Human Resources Development Canada

Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy
Child Care Visions (CCV)

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

Community Economic Development Program
Governance Capacity Building
Mentoring — CESO Aboriginal Services Support
Resource Management Capacity-Building

Industry Canada

Canadian Tourism Commission — Products Club Program
Canadian Tourism Exchange
Rural Expansion and Export Development

Justice Canada

A Justice System for Nunavut
Nunavut Law School
The Aboriginal Justice Strategy
The Safer Communities Initiative

Natural Resources Canada

Aboriginal Communities and The Mining Sector
Biomass Heating Alternatives
Canadian Communities Atlas
Coastal Communities and Offshore Mining
Community Land Administration Certificate Program
Eco-Efficiency Projects
Elk Lake Community Forest
First Nation Forestry Program
Geomatics Capacity Building — Legal Surveys Training
Information Centres on Mixed-Broad Leafed Tree Development
Information Technology and Knowledge Transfer in Forestry
Model Forest Program
Pilot Project on Forestry Systems
Polar Continental Shelf Project and Traditional Knowledge Program
Renewable Energy for Remote Communities Program
Sustainable Communities Initiative

Parks Canada

Co-operating Association Program
National Volunteer Program

Public Service Commission

Rural Secretariat's Rural Team Partnership (Newfoundland)

Royal Canadian Mounted Police

National Aboriginal Policing Review
Restorative Justice
Sustainable Community Development Project in Kelowna, BC

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

Cape Breton Chair on Environmental Technology in Non-Urban,
Resource-Based Industries

Treasury Board Secretariat

Service Canada Initiative

Western Economic Diversification Canada

CFDC Community Economic Development Initiatives
Community Economic Development Opportunity Initiative
Community Futures Offices

Rural Infrastructure

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Canada Agriculture Infrastructure Program (CAIP)
Prairie Grain Roads Program
Regional Groundwater Initiative
Rural Community Forests
Rural Water Development Program

Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency

Canada Infrastructure Works Program

Canada Customs and Revenue Agency

Rebuilding of port structures in Coutts, Alberta and
Emerson, Manitoba

Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions

Airport Infrastructures

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

Assisted Housing Program
Emergency Repair Program
Healthy Housing
Rural and Native Housing Program

Canadian Heritage

Conservation of Historic Places

Environment Canada

Meteorological Service of Canada

Federal Economic Development Initiative in Northern Ontario (FedNor)

Community Economic Infrastructure

Health Canada

Environmental Health Program — Medical Services Branch
F/P/T Subcommittee on Drinking Water

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

Capital Programs (housing and community infrastructure)
Resource Access Negotiations Program

Industry Canada

Canada–Ontario Infrastructure Works

National Research Council

National Farm Building Code
National Technical Guide for Municipal Infrastructure

Natural Resources Canada

Community Impact Development Models
Global Positioning System — Corrections (GPS*C)
Green Municipal Infrastructure Program
Surficial Geoscience and Hydrogeology

Public Works and Government Services Canada

Infrastructure in Nunavut
Real Property Services across Canada
Remedial Work at Contaminated Sites

Transport Canada

Airport Capital Assistance Program (ACAP)
Bilateral Highway Funding Agreements
Grain Reform Initiative
Intelligent Transportation Systems Plan
Port Programs and Divestiture
Provision of Rail Passenger Services
Maintaining Service to Small Communities
Transportation Blueprint Initiative

Treasury Board Secretariat

Canada Infrastructure Works Program

Western Economic Diversification Canada

Canada–Manitoba Partnership Agreement on Red River
Valley Flood Protection
Economic Restoration Initiative
Infrastructure Works Program

Rural Telecommunications and Use of the Information Highway

Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency

Canada/Newfoundland Economic Development Component of the
Canadian Fisheries and Restructuring Initiative
Canada/Nova Scotia Agreement on Economic Diversification,
Information Technology Association of Nova Scotia
Knowledge Economy Partnership in Prince Edward Island

Canada Customs and Revenue Agency

Automated Customs Information Services (ACIS)
EFILE
Internet Filing
Participation with Industry Canada at the various CAP sites
across Canada.
Partnership with Service Canada Pilot sites to host Community
Volunteer Income Tax Program activities in rural locations
TELEFILE
TIPS (Tax Information Phone Service)
Virtual Customs Office

Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions

Cyber-Meeting of Rural Areas and Cyber-Rural Network
Regional Strategic Initiatives (RSI) — Quebec North
Workshop on Issues Facing the Information Society
Workshop on New Information Technologies in Rural Areas

Canada Post

Community Access Program

Canadian Heritage

Assistance to Francophone Youth in Rural Areas
(University of Moncton)
CRTC approval of Bell Canada's four-year Service
Improvement Program
Digital Canadian Content for the Internet
Multimedia Fund
Museum Assistance Program
National Distant Learning Network Programming Service
National Francophone Community Radio Service

Farm Credit Canada

Web Site Development to Community Relations Partners

Federal Economic Development Initiative in Northern Ontario (FedNor)

Telecommunications Infrastructure

Health Canada

First Nations Health Information System
National First Nations Telehealth Research Pilot Project

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

Business Development Support

Industry Canada

Canada On-line (Smart Communities, Electronic Commerce,
Canadian Governments On-line)
Canada's SchoolNet
Canadian Tourism Exchange
Community Access Program (CAP)
Community Futures Program
Community Networks Pilot Projects in Ontario and New Brunswick
— Service Canada Pilot Project
Connecting Canadians
Consumer Information Gateway — Service Canada Pilot Project
Disaster Mitigation for Development of Rapid
Deployment Satellite Communications
First Nations SchoolNet
Funding for a trailer bringing training and public access into
very small communities in Northern Saskatchewan
Geographic Information System On-line in Grande Prairie, Alberta
Healthcare and Education Access for Remote Residents
by Telecommunications
National Graduate Register
PACE 2000 for post-operative geriatric patients
Project-I Site for teleophthamology
Project OUTREACH for telepsychiatry
Remote Communities Services Telecentre
Telecommunications in Northern Ontario
Voice-to-Voice Web Support Pilot Project
Voice-to-Voice Web Support — Service Canada Pilot Project
Voluntary Sector Network Support Program

National Research Council

BayBYTES Rural Technology Forum
Canadian Technology Network
Information Technology Innovation Centre in Cape Breton

Natural Resources Canada

Canadian Communities Atlas
GeoConnections
Sustainable Communities Initiative

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council

Canadian Institute for Telecommunications Research
TeleLearning Network of Centres of Excellence

Public Works and Government Services Canada

Government Fibre Network Service
Government Mobile Satellite Service
Remote Access Services

Treasury Board Secretariat

Canada Infrastructure Works Program
Service Canada Initiative

Veterans Affairs

Enhancing computer and Internet access in local Legion
Branches across the country

Western Economic Diversification Canada

Partners Online Programs

Economic Diversification

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

A Co-operative Approach
Agri-Food Trade Service
Annual Field Days and Commodity Specific Days
Business Planning for Agri-Ventures
Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development (CARD) — Councils
Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development (CARD) —
National Programs
Canadian Farm Business Management Program
Farm Consultation Service
Farm Debt Mediation Service
Matching Investment Initiative (MII)
PFRA Community Pasture Program
Protein Oil and Starch (POS) Pilot Plant
Sustainable Water Well Initiative
Vegetable Production Demonstration

Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency

Canada/Newfoundland Agreement on Economic Renewal
Economic Adjustment Measures such as the Canada/Newfoundland
Economic Development Component of the Canadian Fisheries
Adjustment and Restructuring Initiative
Federal/Provincial Economic Development Agreements such as
the Canada/Newfoundland Comprehensive Economic
Development Agreement
Tourism and Export Development

Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions

Adaptation of Coastal Communities Program
Small Business Conference/Info-Fair
Regional Strategic Initiatives (RSI)

Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions (continued)

Rural Enterprise Program
Special Fund for the Economic Development and Adjustment
of Quebec Fishing Communities (Coastal Quebec)
Special Program Support for the Gaspésie and
Îles-de-la Madeleine's economy

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

Circumpolar Housing Forum

Citizenship and Immigration

Entrepreneur and Self-Employment Program
Provincial Nominee Program

Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade

Aboriginal International Business Development Committee
International Business Development Strategy
Investment Partnerships Canada
Program for Export Market Development
Team Canada Trade Missions

Farm Credit Canada

AgriSuccess

Federal Economic Development Initiative in Northern Ontario (FedNor)

Community Futures Development Corporations (Ontario-wide)

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

Community Economic Development Program
Federal Provincial Territorial Regional Partnerships Program

First Nations Forestry Program
Joint Economic Development Initiative
Opportunity Fund
Partnering Strategy for Aboriginal Economic Development
Procurement Strategy for Aboriginal Business
Resource Access Negotiations Program
Resource Acquisition Initiative

Industry Canada

Canada Cooperatives Act

National Research Council

Biotechnology Program
Chair in Managing Knowledge-Based Agri-Food Development

Natural Resources Canada

Alternative Transport Fuels Program
Canadian Industry Program for Energy Conservation
Eastern Ontario Model Forest Program
EnerGuide for Houses Program
Exploration Science and Technology —
EXTECH II (support for Mineral Exploration in New Brunswick)
First Nation Forestry Program
Forest Tracks Program
GeoConnections
Global Positioning System — Corrections (GPS*C)
Ice Storm Economic Recovery Assistance Program
Minerals and Metals Value-Added Initiatives
Moose Band Development Corporation
National Geoscience Mapping Program (NATMAP)
NRCan S and T Activities
R-2000 Home Program

Natural Resources Canada (continued)

RenoSense Program
Resource Innovation Initiative
Seal of Quality Program for the Maple Syrup industry
Trade and Investment Promotional Activities

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council

AquaNet — Aquaculture Network
Sustainable Management Forest Network

Public Works and Government Services Canada

Aboriginal Business Support
Aboriginal Training Program
Supplier Promotion Program

Transport Canada

Value-Added Processing of Western Grain Study

Western Economic Diversification Canada

CFDC Community Economic Development Initiatives
Community Economic Development Initiative
Fisheries Adjustment Program
Masset Community Adjustment Committee
Whiteshell Economic Development Fund

Access to Health Care

Canadian Heritage

Official Languages Assistance Program

Environment Canada

Community Animation Program (Health Canada)

Farm Credit Canada

Health Promotion Program

Federal Economic Development Initiative in Northern Ontario (FedNor)

Telecommunications Infrastructure

Health Canada

Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative
Aboriginal Head Start (On-Reserve) (AHS)
Brighter Futures and Building Healthy Communities Initiative
Canada Health Infostructure Partnership Program
Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program — First Nations and
Inuit Component (CPNP — FNIC)
Canadian Diabetes Strategy
Centres of Excellence for Women's Health
Farm Business Health Model
Fetal Alcohol Syndrome/Fetal Alcohol Effects Strategic Project Fund
First National Health Information System
First Nations and Inuit Home and Community Care Program
Health Infostructure Support Program
Health Transition Fund (HTF)
Hepatitis C Community Development Fund
Home Care in Rural/Remote Areas

Health Canada (continued)

Knowledge Development and Exchange Program Health Transition Fund (HTF)
Non-Insured Health Benefits Program
Nurse Fund
Rural and Remote Health Innovations Initiative
Safe Environment Program: Drinking Water Safety

Industry Canada

Healthcare and Education Access for Remote Residents by Telecommunications
PACE 2000 for post-operative geriatric patients
Project-I Site for teleophthalmology
Project OUTREACH for telepsychiatry

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council

Health Evidence Application and Linkage Network (HEALNet)

Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Drug Awareness for Life
Initiative on Family Violence
Public Access to Defibrillation
Suicide Intervention Program
Victims Services Program

Western Economic Diversification Canada

Support for Research and Projects affecting Small and Medium Enterprises in Telehealth

Access to Education

Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency

Canada/Nova Scotia Agreement on Economic Diversification, Centre for Entrepreneurship Education and Development
Joint Economic Development Initiative (JEDI), Entrepreneurial and Skills Development for NB Aboriginal Communities

Canada Customs and Revenue Agency

Help people with literacy problems complete documents/forms
Teach Taxes

Canadian Heritage

Assistance to Francophone Youth in Rural Areas (University of Moncton)
Collège de l'Acadie
National Distant Learning Network Programming Service
Networking of Ontario Francophone School Boards
On-Line Courses
Reference Databases
Virtual Exhibitions

Citizenship and Immigration

Integration-Net
Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada Program

Federal Economic Development Initiative in Northern Ontario (FedNor)

Community Futures Development Corporation (Ontario-wide)

Human Resources Development Canada

Aboriginal Human Resources Strategy
Canada Students Loans
CanLearn Interactive
Community Access Program
Community Learning Networks Initiative
Employment Benefits and Measures
Internet Service Provider
National Literacy Secretariat
Office of Learning Technologies

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

Cultural/Educational Centres Program
First Nations and Inuit Post-Secondary Education Program
Inuit Cultural Grants Program
Kindergarten/Elementary/Secondary Education
Northern Scientific Training Program

Justice Canada

Inuit Trainee Program
Nunavut Law School

Natural Resources Canada

Lake Superior First Nation Development Trust
Sustainable Communities Initiative

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council

Grants and Scholarships
TeleLearning Network of Centres of Excellence

Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Crime Prevention Programs
Drug Awareness Programs

Treasury Board Secretariat

Canada Infrastructure Works Program

Western Economic Diversification Canada

Entrepreneurial Training

Partnerships for Community Development

Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency

Community Business Development Corporations
Operational Funding for Regional Economic Development
Organizations such as the Regional Economic Development
Commissions in New Brunswick; the Regional Development
Authorities in Nova Scotia; the Regional Economic Development
Boards in Newfoundland and Labrador; and the Community
Economic Development Corporations in Prince Edward Island

Canada Customs and Revenue Agency

Partnership between Canada Customs and Revenue Agency and
Nova Scotia Government regarding the use of Business Numbers
Service Canada

Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions

Community Development Program (Six CFDCs)
Regional Strategic Initiatives (RSI)

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

Assisted Housing Programs
Homegrown Solutions
Northern Research and Technology in Housing Web Site
Rural and Native Housing Program
Shelter Enhancement Program

Canadian Heritage

Interdepartmental Partnership with Official Language Communities
Partnerships for the Arts

Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade

The Northern Dimension of Canada's Foreign Policy

Environment Canada

Atlantic Coastal Action Program
Community Collaboration Project
Ecosystem Initiatives
Programme Zones d'Intervention Prioritaire

Farm Credit Canada

Alliances with 24 Partners
Computers for Schools Program
Health Promotion Program
Safe Drinking Water Foundation

Federal Economic Development Initiative in Northern Ontario (FedNor)

Community Futures Development Corporations (Ontario-wide)

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Integrated Coastal Zone Management Community Projects

Health Canada

Atlantic Community Action Program for Children (CAPC)
Evaluation Sub-Committee
Atlantic Joint Management Committee (JMC)
Compliance Outreach
First Nations and Inuit Health Services Transfer
Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) Committees:
a. The Pest Management Advisory Council
b. The Federal/Provincial/Territorial Committee on Pest
Management and Pesticides
PMRA Interdepartmental Pest Management Partnership Projects

Human Resources Development Canada

Employment Benefits and Support Measures
Sectoral Partnerships
Social Development Partnerships

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

Business Partnership Fora (Business at the Summit in B.C.,
Ontario Economic Renewal Forum, Corporate Circle in
Saskatchewan, Tripartite Process in N.S.)
Community Economic Development Program
Economic Partnerships
Joint Economic Development Initiative (JEDI)
Partnering Strategy for Aboriginal Economic Development
Support for Tripartite Partnerships

Justice Canada

Community Mobilization Program

Natural Resources Canada

Agreement with Government of Quebec to Assist Forestry
Owners Affected by the Ice Storm
Canadian Communities Atlas
Canadian GeoScience Knowledge Network
EnerGuide for Houses Program
Energy Innovators Initiative
Federal Building Incentive Program
Federal-Municipal Cooperation on Energy Efficiency
FleetSmart
FleetWise Program
GeoConnections
Sustainable Communities Initiative

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council

AquaNet — Aquaculture Network
Sustainable Management Forest Network
Support for Northern Research
The Canadian Water Network — CWN

Parks Canada

Canadian Heritage Rivers System
Co-operating Associations
National Cost-Sharing Program for National Historic Sites
National Historic Sites Alliance for Ontario
National Volunteer Program
Park/Site Management Planning

Public Works and Government Services Canada

British Columbia Buildings Corporation

Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Aboriginal Liaison Officers
Client/Acquire and Analyze/Partnering/Respond/Assess
(CAPRA) Problem Solving Model
Contract Advisory Committee
Local Radio Program — Norway House, Manitoba
Local Television Program — Neepawa, Manitoba
National Strategy on Community Safety and Crime Prevention
Victim Services Programs

Transport Canada

Transportation Blueprint Initiative

Treasury Board Secretariat

Federal Public Sector Youth Internship Program
Service Canada Initiative

Veterans Affairs

Enhancing Computer and Internet Access in Local
Legion Branches Across the Country
Falls Prevention Initiative in Partnership with Health Canada
Partnership with P.E.I. Government

Western Economic Diversification Canada

CFDC Associations
CFDC Community Economic Development Initiatives
Service Delivery Network Boards

Promote Rural Canada

Canadian Heritage

Centre for Exhibition Exchange
Heritage Forum and Artifacts Canada
Learning with Museums
Virtual Museum of Canada

Farm Credit Canada

Community Investment Program

Federal Economic Development Initiative in Northern Ontario (FedNor)

Community Futures Development Corporations (Ontario-wide)

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

Statistical Trends 1991–1996
Think Tanks on Aboriginal Economic Development Issues

Public Works and Government Services Canada

Promotional Activities in Support of Fairs and Exhibitions

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council

Support for Northern Research

Statistics Canada

Metropolitan Influence Zones
New Rural Economy, Options and Choices
1996 Census — Statistical Profile of Canadian Communities
North-South Delineation

Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletin
Rural Youth: Stayers, Leavers and Returners

Western Economic Diversification Canada

Community Futures Week
Marketing and Visibility Initiative