

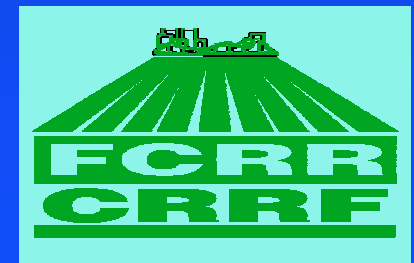
A Rural Perspective on Linkages Among Communities

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A strong **rural** Canada is necessary for a strong Canada

- Rural sustains Urban
 - Provides natural resources
 - Maintains positive balance of trade
 - Minimizes negative externalities

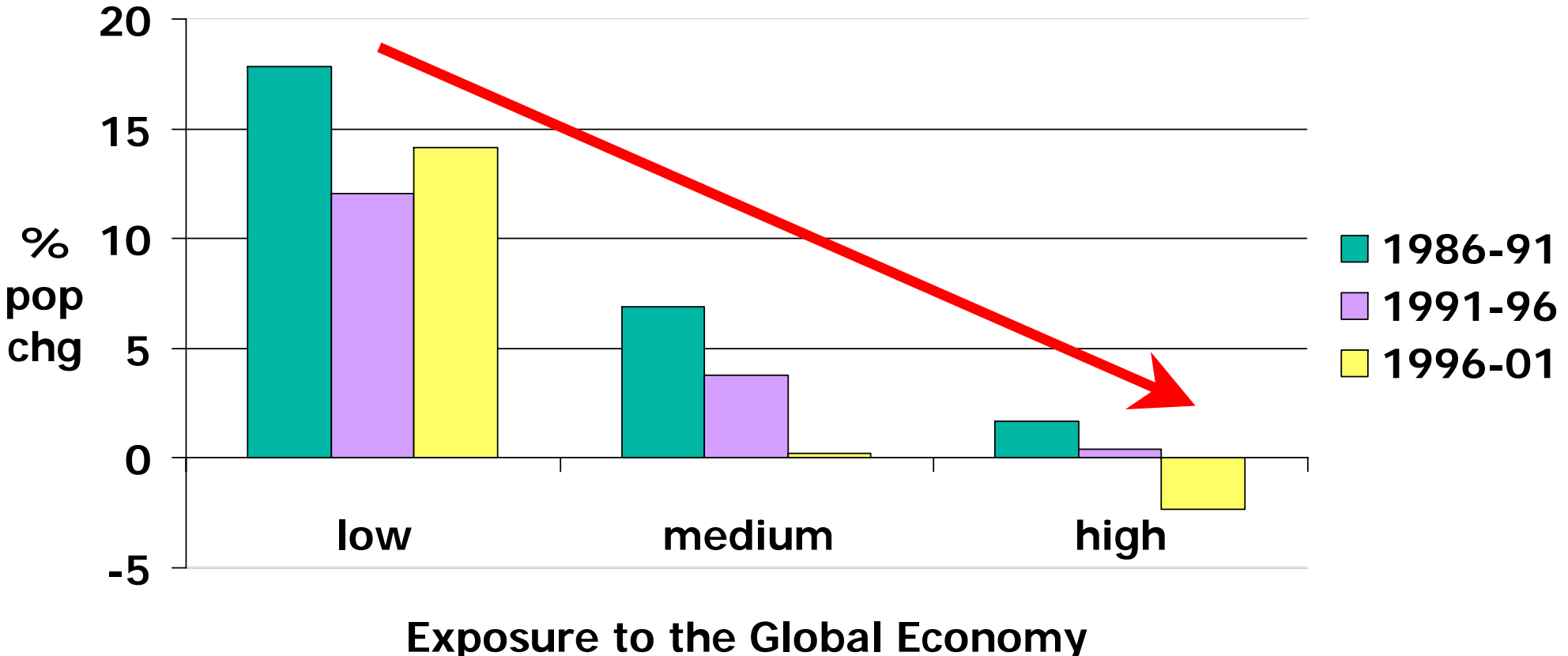
Strengthening **rural** Canada is necessary
for a strong Canada

- A strong rural economy:
 - Increases economic contribution
 - Maintains social inclusion and support
 - Contributes vitality and innovation
 - Contributes resiliency

Linkages are multiple and complex

- Trade and commerce
 - Goods, Finance, Services, People, Information
- Functional integration
 - Carbon sequestration, water protection, recreation
- Institutional integration
 - Health, education, social economy, NGOs, family
- Common environments
 - Water, air, climate
- Common identities
 - Local, regional, national, international

Linkages create challenges



Constant boundary CSDs

Social infrastructure as important as physical infrastructure

- Social infrastructure:
 - Formal: schools, hospitals, clinics, religious organizations
 - Informal: clubs, voluntary groups, charities
- Social Economy, Social Capital, Governance
 - Slow to build
 - Resilient
- Invisible in dominant frameworks

An Inclusive Framework

Guidelines

- Include all communities
- Adapt to various rural conditions
- Support social infrastructure
- Invest in rural Canada
- Build common interests

Research

- Multiple linkages
- Impacts by density and distance
- New governance, social capital, social economy
- Risk and uncertainty, informal economy
- Food, H₂O, Environment

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The New Rural Economy Project

<http://nre.concordia.ca/>

<http://www.crrf.ca>

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