



Celebrating **Success** in Rural Canada



Annual Report To Parliament | 2001-2002

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AAFC No.: 2151/B

Catalogue No.: A1-18/2002

ISBN: 0-662-66984-3

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MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER



With the renewal of the Canadian Rural Partnership, the Government of Canada has reaffirmed that a strong and vibrant rural Canada helps improve the quality of life for all Canadians. As we enter this new phase in the Partnership's existence, it presents us with an opportunity to look at the progress we've made, while continuing to work towards our shared goals for the future of rural Canada.

The Canadian Rural Partnership, now in its fifth year, continues to build upon a strong foundation based on dialogues, 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 Government of Canada with rural Canadians, and to strengthen the economic and social foundations of rural Canada.

The success of the Partnership is evident through ongoing grass-roots Rural Dialogue meetings with citizens across the country who know that a strong and successful Canada can only exist when all of its components—both rural and urban—are strong. Rural citizens stressed the importance of this recently at the second National Rural Conference held in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island.

Following the conference, the Government of Canada announced the investment of \$55 million into the renewal of the Partnership for another five years. This investment was included as part of the new Agriculture Policy Framework (APF), the federal–provincial–territorial initiative being developed with industry to help the Canadian agriculture sector better respond to increasing consumer demands and global competition. The Government of Canada will make \$5.2 billion in new investments in the agricultural sector over the next six years, including \$3.4 billion to implement the APF. By investing in the future of the agriculture and the agri-food industry, we are investing in the growth and well-being of our rural communities.

Celebrating Success in Rural Canada highlights some of our achievements over the last year. As Minister Coordinating Rural Affairs, I am very pleased to join my colleague, Andy Mitchell, Secretary of State for Rural Development and the Federal Economic Development Initiative for Northern Ontario in presenting this report to Parliament.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lyle Vanclief'.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE



The Government of Canada recognizes that a successful Canada is the sum of a strong urban and a strong rural Canada and is committed to working with rural Canadians and organizations, and other levels of government to ensure the long-term sustainability of our rural communities. Our success will ensure that young Canadians will see rural Canada as a place with opportunity for all, where they can have access to wealth and have a future for themselves and their families.

Our strategic approach to addressing issues faced by Canadians living in rural areas is based on, but not limited to, four key components that have produced the greatest results:

- A bottom-up approach, allowing communities to develop strategies and approaches for long-term sustainability.
- The use of a Rural Lens designed to make sure that we, in cooperation with other federal departments and agencies, develop initiatives that make sense for all Canadians.
- Continuing to build community capacity—the ability to evaluate a community's assets, build consensus and develop a plan to enhance that capacity.
- Continuing to give communities the tools they need to carry out their strategies.

Our bottom-up approach to decision making is a success. This was evident at the second National Rural Conference which

was held in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island where over 500 Canadians came together to share information and discuss ideas for community capacity building in their communities. The conference marked the release of the *Rural Action Plan Report Card*, designed to document the progress of federal departments and agencies in their response to action items identified at the first National Rural Conference.

Canadians in both rural and urban regions of the country have made these results possible. However, the work doesn't stop here. We plan to keep the momentum going by working closely with 29 federal departments and agencies, other levels of government and community stakeholders, in order to enhance our efforts to help build a strong and sustainable rural Canada. We are also consulting with provinces and territories to develop a National Rural Policy Framework to guide a long-term action plan for rural Canada.

This third Annual Report to Parliament reflects the continuing success of these efforts in rural and remote areas across the country.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy Mitchell'.

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

Celebrating Success In Rural Canada

The Government of Canada is listening to rural citizens, to provide the tools and strategic resources required to build successful communities. The 2000–2001 Annual Report to Parliament outlined the key priority initiatives of the Government of Canada, designed to support sustainable solutions and innovation in rural communities. The goal was to *enhance the quality of life for rural Canadians*.

This 2001–2002 Annual Report celebrates the success of the Government of Canada working collaboratively with rural citizens to build strong communities. The results of ongoing rural initiatives enrich the lives of Canadians by assisting local champions to develop grassroots solutions to create a better tomorrow. Through these initiatives, such as the development and implementation of a National Rural Policy Framework, the benefits will continue to grow as all Canadians share in our knowledge-based economy.

What is success in rural Canada? The answer can be found in the success stories provided in this report. They illustrate fundamental activity that will endure and add value to the quality of life in rural Canada. From promoting opportunities, to improving health care and reaching out to youth to make healthy lifestyle choices, success comes from innovation and initiatives that help rural Canadians to enjoy an enriched quality of life.

Building A Successful Future

The strength of rural Canada lies in its communities. The second National Rural Conference, held in Charlottetown in April 2002,

involved rural and remote Canadians in decision making, helping them to stay connected and active in creating solutions in their own communities. From that platform, the Government of Canada supported the Rural Development Initiative, with \$2.8 million in funding, announced by the Honourable Andy Mitchell, Secretary of State for Rural Development. A commitment was made to develop a national network of rural organizations, and to provide funding to expand the Service Canada rural network. The development of a national youth network, also announced at the conference, will give young Canadians from rural and remote areas the opportunity to contribute today to shape their future.

The release of the *Rural Action Plan Report Card* (see Appendix 1) at the second National Rural Conference gave a clear view of the progress the Government of Canada had made in addressing the priorities of rural and remote Canadians.

Sustaining Healthy Communities

The Government of Canada—through the Canadian Rural Partnership—is committed to its results-oriented approach to achieve long-term, sustainable outcomes. Guided by a clear vision of the measurable effects of initiatives, and through listening and working with rural Canadians, together we will continue to enhance the quality of life in rural communities and celebrate further success in rural Canada.

Celebrating Success in Rural Canada

People are changing the landscape of rural and remote Canada. By building and growing together, we help to create sustainable and successful, bottom-up solutions. The answers are in our own backyard—opportunities to use innovation and community-based solutions to overcome challenges at the grassroots level.

The second Annual Report demonstrated the ongoing commitment of the Government of Canada to enhance the quality of life for rural Canadians. This commitment has remained strong over the last year. This third Annual Report of the Canadian Rural Partnership celebrates the success of people in working together, with the support of the Government of Canada, to build sustainable, significant development in their own communities. It highlights some of the ways that communities in the heartland, urban-adjacent, and northern and remote areas of Canada are using innovative ideas to create local solutions to local challenges. The *Rural Action Plan Report Card* (see Appendix 1) outlines the progress that the Government of Canada has made in addressing the priorities of Canadians living in these regions.

Through the Canadian Rural Partnership, the Government of Canada listens to rural citizens, and provides strategic tools and resources to assist communities to realize the benefits of networking and resource sharing. The Canadian Rural Partnership is the key rural policy initiative which works to ensure that programs, policies and activities are co-ordinated to provide support to rural and remote communities across Canada. The Canadian Rural Partnership helps us ensure that people can organize themselves

to mobilize their communities, define goals and carry out plans that improve the quality of life in rural Canada.

The Rural Secretariat manages the Canadian Rural Partnership. The work of the Rural Secretariat has led to tangible and positive changes in policy development and coordination, citizen engagement, development and dissemination of research and information, building strategic partnerships, and community support. The Canadian Rural Partnership Web site (www.rural.gc.ca) and the *Rural Action Plan Report Card* provide details on these endeavours.

In the past four years, the Canadian Rural Partnership has been proud to work with rural and remote Canada to create a new approach to engaging people to make their own decisions. The Government of Canada has helped people at the local level acquire the tools and skills to stimulate sustainable development in their communities. Through information and resource sharing, the government's commitment to supporting a successful future in rural and remote Canada is becoming a reality.

Building Successful Communities

The key to the long-term success and viability of rural Canada lies in its communities. What is a successful community? It is one that leads by example, where innovation and new ideas are allowed to flourish. A successful community is one that involves young people—our leaders of today and tomorrow—helping them contribute today to build their world. A successful community has the ability to develop the skills to embrace our knowledge-based economy in the new millennium. A successful community attracts, develops

and retains people—essential in building the capacity of rural communities. A successful community is ‘healthy’ socially, culturally and economically, and deals with environmental issues in a responsible manner. By listening to Canadians, the Government of Canada has learned how to support the fundamental elements that build successful communities.

Our Success Stories

The year 2001–2002 saw Canadians working as a team to build a better future. From hundreds of projects affecting millions of Canadians, the energy and spirit of rural and remote Canada has delivered dramatic achievements. Through the innovative efforts of dedicated residents in rural and remote Canada, the Government of Canada continues to strengthen its commitment to respond effectively to support solutions that will promote economic and social well-being. This third Annual Report of the Canadian Rural Partnership focuses on the success of our nation—in the heartland, urban-adjacent areas, and northern and remote regions.

The success stories contained in this report are examples that illustrate how Canadians working together can have an ongoing positive impact on our quality of life. They demonstrate that innovation and grassroots initiatives are helping to shape a brighter future, one that allows all Canadians to benefit from our knowledge-based society. From improving health care in the remote areas of the country, to helping youth make positive lifestyle decisions, Canadians are helping each other benefit from everything our knowledge-based society has to offer.

As stated in the Speech from the Throne 2002, the Government of Canada will support the efforts of Canadians by targeting its regional development activities to better meet the needs of the knowledge economy and address the distinct challenges of Canada’s heartland, urban-adjacent, and northern and remote communities.

Our Commitment To Share

The second National Rural Conference, held on April 4–6, 2002 in Charlottetown, P.E.I., demonstrated the depth and sincerity of Canadians in rural and remote Canada. Issues and concerns became challenges for which solutions will be achieved. The valuable involvement of young people will help to shape our country for the generations to come, with the resources and skills to succeed. The creation of a National Rural Network will provide a means to bring rural communities together to share strengths, services and information.

The conference was the launching pad for \$2.8 million in federal funding, announced by the Honourable Andy Mitchell, Secretary of State for Rural Development, to support the Rural Development Initiative. Other announcements and commitments from the conference include:

- \$300,000 in funding to help expand the Service Canada rural network.
- \$25,000 to support a steering committee to develop a national youth network.
- Creation of the Advisory Committee on Rural Issues.
- Development of a National Rural Network.
- Commitment to hold a National Rural Youth Conference in 2003.
- Development and implementation of a National Rural Policy Framework.

The future offers an exciting journey that will lead to healthier communities sharing strengths and common bonds. The Government of Canada made a commitment to put rural and remote Canadians’ priorities into action. The national rural conferences have helped to shape the agenda.

Teamwork is paying off. All that is needed is you.



SUCCESS STORY — NORTHERN AND REMOTE

The Government of Canada is committed to ensuring that all Canadians can benefit from the unique solutions offered by our knowledge-based society. Access to health care is a critical concern for those who live where medical resources and facilities may not be available. The following success story demonstrates action, through partnerships and the dedicated efforts of community leaders, to support a revolutionary, sustainable, long-term method to bring modern medical attention to remote communities.

Telehealth—A Cure For Isolated First Nations In Northern Ontario

Living in remote Canada has many advantages. Nature is still master. Those who thrive away from urban development have a deep appreciation for their natural environment. However, there are challenges—especially where personal health and medical attention are concerned.

Poplar Hill, a remote community in northern Ontario, is a typical example. A community nurse is only available part-time to take

care of all day-to-day health concerns for about 300 residents. Patients who need special consultation or treatment must fly to Thunder Bay, Sioux Lookout or Winnipeg. They often need an escort who can translate into Ojibway for them.

All too often, people who need medical attention choose to just stay home and suffer. It is too much effort and strain to seek the help they need.

The Telehealth Solution

Today, there is a healthy alternative—*telehealth!* This project helps people in remote communities receive attention from health care professionals through computer video conferencing—without having to leave their community. The Kuh-ke-nah Network (K-NET) of Smart First Nations Aboriginal Demonstration Project is providing this solution through Industry Canada's Smart Communities program, involving five First Nations in northern Ontario. Federal Economic Development Initiative for Northern Ontario (FedNor), Industry Canada, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), and Health Canada worked collaboratively to provide critical funding.

“A lot of people would cancel their appointments with specialists because it's so stressful for them to not know if a person will be available to escort them, or if there'll be an interpreter for them when they get to the hospital,” says Rita Wassaykeesic, Poplar Hill's local telehealth coordinator.

When K-NET's telehealth pilot project rolled out in April 2002, many of those patients became able to ‘see’ a specialist from the comfort of their own community.

Not only does telehealth save both travel time and health care costs, the system reduces stress for patients. In some ways,

telehealth can be a cure for related ailments—like depression and even homesickness. Through video conferencing, telehealth will also deliver services like telepsychiatry and patient education programs. Families are also able to ‘visit’ with relatives who are in hospital.

Communities Helping Each Other

Setting up the advanced technology made up a large part of K-NET's time and resources. However, the smart community has also stayed focussed on the heart of health care: personal relationships. For example, K-NET has made a point of hiring local people as the telehealth community coordinators.

“If the telehealth coordinators are from their own communities, they have a vested interest in promoting and learning telehealth, and keeping it going,” says Donna Williams, a nurse who coordinates telehealth education for the project.

Coordinators received specialized training to enable them to handle the wide variety of challenges patients may present. They attended a week-long intensive training session last January at Balmertown, Ontario—headquarters for the telehealth project.

Since taking up their posts in the five pilot project communities in spring 2002, the coordinators have seen plenty of Donna. Each week, she travels to one of the participating First Nations communities—Deer Lake, Fort Severn, Keewaywin, North Spirit Lake and Poplar Hill—to provide hands-on training.

Training focuses on three areas:

- First, coordinators learn basic anatomy so they can communicate with physicians and specialists.
- Then, they have an opportunity to become comfortable with the technology they will be using—otoscopes (for examining

ears and noses), patient exam cameras and document cameras (which can read x-rays).

- Finally, coordinators work on communication skills so they can be effective interpreters, and create a safe, secure environment for their patients.

Some local coordinators, like Rita, have already had health care training. For others, it is a completely new experience, and they are learning as they go.

“Everybody’s coming along very well,” says Donna. “When they learn the technological part, it’s very intimidating, but as they pick up those skills, they’re getting excited, and feeling a lot more confident. They’re already starting to promote the potential benefits of telehealth in their communities. I really think we’re just at the beginning of what’s going to be a revolution in health care access for First Nations.”

A Big Effort—A Bigger Pay Off

The telehealth project is a prime example of people working together to create a higher quality of life. Partnerships—support and resource sharing within government and the private sector—are responsible for the infrastructure to make telehealth a reality.

The project was only made possible and is totally dependent on the infrastructure and network capacity through the efforts of a number of government and private sector partners. FedNor was instrumental in bringing partners together to deal with the infrastructure needs of these remote communities and contributed approximately \$10 million toward building telecommunications and broadband capacity within 18 First Nation communities in the north. Of the total, \$2 million went to K-NET, representing the five First Nations identified in northwestern Ontario.

FedNor also provided \$500,000 toward the purchase of telemedicine equipment, used as part of this project. FedNor funding helped link K-NET with the much larger “North Network” providing them with access to 60 sites throughout northern Ontario. This access includes a number of medical sites which are critical to the pilot project.

Industry Canada, INAC and Health Canada were also significant partners through activities that are broader in scope than just this project.

To learn more about K-NET and telehealth, visit the Web site at <http://telehealth.knet.ca/>.



SUCCESS STORY — URBAN-ADJACENT

Healthy communities are vital to our individual and national well-being. Canadians have a collective responsibility to protect our children from exploitation in all its forms. The Government of Canada supports resourceful initiatives that encourage our youth to be the leaders of their world today, and for tomorrow. The following success story shows an innovative approach for cooperative effort and positive peer influence to provide a healthy alternative for our young people.

Take A 'DARE' To Resist Drug Abuse

Young people face choices every day. Constable Kevin McDonald believes DARE can make all the difference. Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) is an RCMP program aimed at helping young people make healthy lifestyle choices to avoid drug abuse.

DARE is not just another lecture about the dangers of substance abuse.

“It’s more of a life-skills program,” says McDonald, who is based at the RCMP detachment in Sherwood Park, a suburb of

Edmonton. “No one was taking the time to explain to a lot of these kids that the choices they make now determine where they go in life.”

Originally targeted to grade six students, DARE has expanded in some communities to include junior and senior high school students, even adults. While there are no discernible measuring sticks to tell police the program is successful, you do not have to convince McDonald it works.

“From an instructor's point of view, you can never measure a substance-abuse program on numbers. If it helps one or two children, it has done its job.”

DARE To Choose

DARE helps kids learn to be assertive and not succumb to peer pressure. It shows them how to maintain self-esteem and resolve conflicts without violence. After 17 weeks, the students ‘graduate’ in a ceremony that often attracts parents and other family members.

Every instructor has seen how DARE can make the difference in the life of a struggling young person. McDonald recalls a boy from a broken home who dropped out of school at 13 and began living on the street. He watched a friend self-destruct from drugs before using what he learned in DARE to save himself. At 17, with social services support, he returned to school and graduated that year.

“If we had that program in all elementary schools, there’s no doubt in my mind, we’d see a difference on the street,” says McDonald, a 26-year veteran. “A change in the attitude of the kids, a change in the demand for a lot of the drugs out there.”

Financial support from the Canadian Rural Partnership helped keep Constable McDonald's dream growing. After five years with the

program, he may very well be making a bigger difference as a ‘mentor’—an officer who trains other instructors. He estimates he has trained 300 instructors in the past two years, and not just from Alberta. DARE is making a difference all across Canada, with programs in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and the Maritimes. Much of that training was made possible with the \$37,500 in funding from the Canadian Rural Partnership’s Pilot Projects Initiative. During the 1998–1999 school year, Canadian Rural Partnership funds helped train over 100 RCMP officers as DARE instructors.

RCMP Sergeant Kevin Graham, of K Division headquarters in Edmonton, is credited as being one of those responsible for the growth of DARE. Graham says Alberta has the largest DARE program in the world, having reached 47,000 schoolchildren so far. Today, 80 per cent of the RCMP detachments in Alberta teach the DARE program, including those in rural areas, reserves and Metis communities. As the program gains momentum, it is anticipated that DARE will become more widespread from coast to coast.

DARE Gets It Straight, First

“Kids get exposed to so much more at such an early age. You have to get the straight facts out there. They get bombarded with these message that drugs are cool, and there’s no counter-message to say why they’re not cool,” said Graham.

“You're not going to see a change at home or on the streets, until you see a change in schools. Education and awareness are going to do that, not enforcement.”

And the Canadian Rural Partnership has helped to see that change come about.

To learn more about DARE, visit the Web site at <http://www.dare.com/>.



SUCCESS STORY — HEARTLAND

Through innovation and initiative at the local level, communities can make a measurable impact on their own economy. The Government of Canada will continue to build on its commitment to invest in creating healthy communities, with the infrastructure, cultural and social amenities required to attract sustainable growth. This success story illustrates how vision and opportunity, supported by partnerships and local champions, can breathe new life into aging resources.

Community-run Wharves Make Waves Of Possibilities

On summer afternoons, old steamer boat wharves along New Brunswick's lower St. John River will reverberate with the sound of people having fun. From 1816 to 1946, these ports-of-call welcomed travelers and cargo brought by river boats. Now, they are poised to become community-run aquatic adventure sites.

It is an exciting transformation—one that is picking up steam in many communities. By breathing new life into the waterfront, surrounding towns and villages can hold on to an important part of their history while growing a new local industry—tourism.

Only three years ago, these waterfront structures were the subject of bleak speculation. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) announced it was giving up ownership of the wharves and the province passed on taking them over. Now, thanks to an innovative partnership between the federal DFO and the St. John River Society, 12 of the wharves will be upgraded and maintained for community recreational and commercial use.

In 1999, the project received \$21,000 in funding through the Canadian Rural Partnership's Pilot Projects Initiative, which encouraged rural communities to develop and test innovative solutions to local challenges. For New Brunswick's wharf communities, the challenge was to find a way to hold on to the past while embracing the future. Many of the aging structures had been the centre of the local economies for generations.

"When the St. John River Society learned that DFO intended to begin divestiture of its system of 37 steamer boat wharves and that the provincial government did not intend to take them over, we stepped in," says Muriel MacKenzie, past president of the Society.

Building A Dream

The Society first made contact with communities to build interest in taking control of the wharves. Initially, some people were reluctant to take on what they saw as a huge undertaking. Charles Gaudet, Chief of Small Craft Harbours in DFO in the Maritimes region, says the Society was the perfect choice to discuss the idea with communities that were hesitant. The St. John River Society, established in 1991, is dedicated to the stewardship of the St. John River. The mandate of the incorporated not-for-profit organization is to celebrate and conserve life in the St. John River watershed.

"The St. John River Society offered us the best alternative because they were willing to negotiate with individual communities," says Gaudet. "They were a good solid group to work with because they represented the interests of the communities."

"A very real concern for us was to ensure the historic right of public access to the river for each of these communities," explains MacKenzie. "Demographic and tourism surveys suggest that as baby boomers retire, they will select to live in rural areas of Canada, particularly those that offer canoeing, kayaking and boating of all kinds. So there's a real potential for growth."

The Lower St. John River Sustainable Development Coalition was struck in 1998 to make all stakeholders aware of issues relating to the wharf transfer. The Coalition chose the St. John River Society to manage the stewardship of the wharves on behalf of each community.

Community committees were established, made up of members from local communities and members from the Society. After a year of working together to resolve concerns and build sustainable plans, the St. John River Society's partnership proposal was accepted by the Canadian Rural Partnership's Pilot Projects Initiative in the summer of 1999.

"The Society then went to every community to find out exactly what each one wanted to do with its wharf," says MacKenzie.

And they did not overlook the commercial fishery—the traditional livelihood of these rural communities. Reg Robinson of Cambridge-Narrows makes his living fishing eels and gaspereau, exported to European and Asian markets.

"I use five wharves on the St. John River," he says. "If I didn't have access to these wharves, I would be out of business."

Vision Becomes Reality

Of the 37 wharves, twelve communities agreed that the St. John River Society would become the “management option” for their river wharves. Ten wharves were transferred to local community groups. Another four are owned by, and will be managed by, municipalities. Two wharves went to private owners. Three had to be destroyed. The future of the remaining six is under consideration.

Liz Watson, an advisory committee member of the local service district of Hampstead, has only praise for the St. John River Society.

“I live near the Hampstead Wharf and am happy that public access to the wharf is now ensured,” she says.

The impact on individual communities is enormous, notes MacKenzie.

“As a result of this initiative, each community will decide exactly how its wharf will be used, both now and in the future. This project can be a model for other rural community-based cooperative initiatives in other areas of Canada.”

“We learned the importance of starting at the grassroots, getting whole communities on board, and then networking with government,” MacKenzie adds. “It’s an important lesson that can be applied to any cooperative venture involving community and government.”

The St. John River Society received \$375,000 from DFO to maintain the 12 wharves under its jurisdiction.

“This money has been invested by the Society for the long-term and will be used as required,” says MacKenzie. “Some wharves are

in dire need of immediate repair and upgrading, while the condition of others is less acute.”

The Society is currently considering ways of raising additional funds, such as imposing user fees, so the wharf project will continue indefinitely.

“The wharves are such an integral part of life on the lower St. John River, both currently and historically, that they must be maintained,” says MacKenzie. “That’s what this partnership allows us to do.”

SECOND NATIONAL RURAL CONFERENCE

Words To Build On . . .

What happens when you bring 500 rural and remote Canadians together for a weekend? They have plenty to talk about! And the more they share, the more they see how we are all in this together . . .

We will make our future happen together—one strong nation, for all Canadians. That is what delegates decided on April 4–6, 2002 in Charlottetown, P.E.I., at the second National Rural Conference.

The focus was community capacity building. The message was clear . . . people and resources working together to shape our success. The conference demonstrated how the Government of Canada is willing to listen to and wants to learn from the people who live in rural and remote Canada.

How do we make our communities stronger? Start by building on what we know. Then share the benefits with others. No matter where conference delegates came from, they were all one in P.E.I., with the same goal—to improve the quality of life in their hometown. Delegates from the heartland, urban-adjacent, and northern and remote regions of Canada agreed that long-term sustainable development requires commitment—with the resources to back it up.

Rural Canada may not have all the amenities of urban centres, but there is pride, integrity and a sense of community. There are solid values with leadership and vision. The National Rural Conference helped community leaders understand their role. They learned

where to find the services to assist in community development, both economically and socially.

Success does not come from a weekend conference. It can only plant the seeds. It takes time, effort and patience to grow a prosperous future. The conference looked at the challenges that must be overcome for rural Canada to continue to be the backbone of the country's resource-based economy. It shed light on our next generation of leaders, and how critical their involvement is for the future of rural Canada.

In his opening message, the Honourable Andy Mitchell, Secretary of State for Rural Development, offered inspiration for delegates to work together to find solutions through sharing. From spearheading discussion, to personal commitments expressed in his question and answer session, Mr. Mitchell's message was clear:

“The Government of Canada is dedicated to working with you to ensure that this nation, with a strong rural Canada, has an opportunity to thrive as we go through the 21st century.”

Pre-conference Sessions

Two pre-conference sessions—the Rural Youth Forum and the National Rural Network Forum—brought out ideas and issues to be the focus of the main event. Delegates explored the challenges and possibilities for a brighter tomorrow.

Rural Youth Forum

The Rural Youth Forum sparked inspiration to help shape our next generation. Young people want to be involved now to create their world for tomorrow. They want to learn to be better leaders. They want to be informed. They want to be heard.

Youth need training and resources—especially broadband Internet—to have the opportunity to make a difference. Backed by the Government of Canada's commitment to build a stronger, sustainable rural and remote Canada, young people are our present and future success.

National Rural Network Forum

Helping communities to find a way to share their expertise, experience and knowledge was the focus of the National Rural Network Forum. The benefits are many—from building the 'human capacity' of rural and remote Canada to contributing to government policy development.

The network will link rural communities across Canada to support information and resource sharing. We are a country of diverse people who share common goals and take pride in sustaining a high quality of life, no matter where we live. Community-based and bottom-up, the National Rural Network will help to build the human capacity of rural and remote Canada.

A steering committee is carrying on the development of the National Rural Network, with strong partnerships that will build an effective system. A follow-up forum is being planned.

Building A Stronger Tomorrow

The second National Rural Conference had only one goal—to keep rural and remote Canada *connected* and *contributing* to its

own success. From the 45 workshops, breakout sessions and keynote speakers, came real-life success stories, innovative ideas and feasible solutions, shared by local leaders from all parts of Canada.

Delegates discussed the need for leadership development, as there is a growing gap in many rural and remote areas in the population from which to draw new leaders. Possible solutions included: promoting the values and strengths of rural Canada; inviting new people who would be open to change and accept new ideas; supporting community 'champions;' and keeping youth on the team.

The challenge of skills development for the new economy was also addressed. A lack of resources has made it difficult for rural and remote Canadians to keep pace in the 'new' knowledge-based economy. Delegates discussed solutions, such as: Government of Canada support through programs and publications to foster local initiatives to build long-term local resources; enhancing long-distance learning and courses at community colleges and local school boards; and local mentors and community-based organizations.

Other issues raised during the conference included: improving coordination between federal, provincial and territorial governments for better program and service delivery; investing in human capital and human innovation, as well as technology; tailoring rural development for the unique realities of northern and remote communities; building partnerships between adults and youth; increasing access to health care and education; and reflecting rural Canada in Canada's immigration policy.

Rural Action Plan Report Card

By listening and responding to the issues and concerns of rural and remote Canadians, the Government of Canada has laid the groundwork for a coordinated federal focus on these priorities. At the first ever National Rural Conference, the Government of Canada made a commitment to put rural and remote Canadian's priorities into action—the *Rural Action Plan*. Based on the input from conference participants, the *Rural Action Plan* outlined the key priorities and next steps to bring about government action in rural and remote Canada.

The *Rural Action Plan Report Card* (see Appendix 1)—which was released at the second National Rural Conference—demonstrates the practical ways the Government of Canada's commitment has

been and is being carried out. It outlines the progress that has been made on the next steps identified in the *Rural Action Plan*, with examples of key initiatives and results.

With these and many other initiatives, the Government of Canada, through the Canadian Rural Partnership, is reaching out to help rural and remote Canadians create a higher quality of life.

OUR PATH TO THE FUTURE

How do we make the 21st century all it can be? By working together to create sustainable, community-driven solutions. Supporting that evolution is the commitment of the Canadian Rural Partnership. Policy development, coordination, information sharing and resource support have brought about dramatic results by engaging citizens to be responsible ‘champions’ of community growth. By helping to build and sustain strategic partnerships, the Government of Canada maintains a leading-edge position in the future of our nation.

Through the National Rural Policy Framework, the Government of Canada will work collaboratively with provincial and territorial governments to ensure the long-term sustainability of rural and remote communities. The development and implementation of this framework will also lead to an enhanced integrated approach to rural issues across federal departments and agencies.

The Rural Secretariat is committed to a results-oriented approach to reporting based on the needs of rural citizens, which includes a clear vision and understanding of the short and long-term effects of programs on rural development. This results-based management and accountability framework and risk-based audit framework will enable the Rural Secretariat to assess its results and risks, adjust operations and continue to improve client service while maintaining a citizen focus. The evidence-based information will help federal, provincial and territorial governments make sound decisions on policy and program design and delivery, as well as provide measurable results to Parliamentarians and Canadians.

Where Do We Go From Here?

People working together—with innovation and grassroots resourcefulness—are creating solutions to build a sustainable future. The Government of Canada is committed to providing rural and remote Canadians with the tools and resources.

Here are some other ways the Government of Canada is working toward this goal:

- **Community Planning**—making the most of what we have as we build for tomorrow.
- **Leadership Support**—getting behind local champions with training and guidance.
- **Inter-Community Partnerships**—the strength of numbers, sharing resources and achieving common goals.
- **Service Canada Network**—expanding to connect everyone, everywhere.
- **National Youth Network**—helping youth make a difference today and for tomorrow.
- **National Rural Youth Conference**—to be held in 2003.
- **National Rural Network**—sharing strengths in our knowledge-based world.
- **National Meeting of Regional Rural Teams**—developing a horizontal approach to partnerships.
- **Ministerial Advisory Committee on Rural Issues**—giving rural and remote Canada a voice.

Together, we can make it happen. With young people actively involved, our opportunities to enhance the quality of life in rural and remote Canada will remain boundless. The Canadian Rural Partnership continues to be the focal point for innovation and discovery that is more responsive to the needs of rural Canadians.

The Government of Canada is listening, sharing and working together to shape our future success.

***“Be the catalyst for action in your rural community.” –
The Honourable Andy Mitchell***



Rural Action Plan

Report Card

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE



The first ever National Rural Conference was a significant achievement. It brought together rural and remote Canadians to look at the progress the federal government had made on its rural initiative. It was a forum to share lessons learned from the Canadian Rural Partnership. The discussions were very productive and in my closing remarks at the conference, I made a commitment to put your priorities into action through a plan of action.

The proposed *Rural Action Plan* was distributed to all the participants of the Magog-Orford Conference for their concurrence. Their comments were integrated and put into the *Rural Action Plan* which contains more than 50 items for the Government of Canada to follow and act on.

This report is designed to document the progress of federal departments and agencies in their response to these action items since the plan was unveiled in Brandon, Manitoba last year. It also updates rural and remote Canadians on items that are still in progress. Some require new policy directions or increases in funding, others need a co-ordinated response from all levels of government. I will continue to press these issues with my colleagues in the days and weeks ahead.

The *Rural Action Plan Report Card* documents many of our success stories including the expanded network of Community Development Corporations in many parts of Canada, new flexibility in the programs Farm Credit Canada can offer, and an equitable share of Infrastructure dollars finding their way to rural and remote

communities. One of the highest priority priorities was to involve our youth in shaping the future of rural Canada. Over the past year, I was pleased to be involved in Rural Dialogue sessions with a youth focus.

When we think of money, we think of the budget. I think this passage from the December 2001 federal budget shows that we are headed in the right direction and that rural and remote Canadians are being heard: *“Canada’s rural communities, along with their urban counterparts, contribute significantly to the wealth and prosperity of our nation. But they also face unique challenges: geography, distance from markets, a small population base and reliance on primary sector industries vulnerable to sharp cyclical downturns. The Government intends to work with rural communities, their citizens, and stakeholders to develop local solutions to these challenges.”*

This Report Card on the *Rural Action Plan* demonstrates the practical ways that commitment has been and is being carried out. It reaffirms that we as a federal government in partnership with Canadians are committed to shaping a successful future for rural Canada . . . together.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy Mitchell'.

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

RURAL ACTION PLAN REPORT CARD

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Priority Area #1

Improve access to federal government programs and services for rural Canadians

Issue: *Provide government services on-line*

NEXT STEP	KEY INITIATIVES / KEY RESULTS	ACHIEVED	ONGOING	COMMENTS
<p>1. Assess Service Canada pilot projects. Share and apply the lessons learned.</p>	<p>Service Canada provides Canadians with one-stop access to government services—in-person, by phone and on the Internet. These three means of providing services were assessed, with the following results:</p> <p>The rural Access Centres are well used and users are highly satisfied with the service. Service Canada has been so successful that it was upgraded from a pilot project to a full program and the number of Access Centres was increased from 122 to 227. At least thirty per cent of Service Canada Access Centres in each province and territory are located in rural and remote areas. Plans are being developed to further increase the number of Access Centres in rural Canada.</p> <p>Calls to 1 800 O-Canada increased by 32 per cent in one year. About half were from rural citizens.</p> <p>Information requested from the Canada Web site increased 37 per cent in one year.</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>See publiservice.servicecanada.gc.ca or call 1 800 O-Canada (1 800 622-6232).</p>
<p>2. Roll out the Government On-Line initiative to implement government transactions on-line in a manner that ensures access to rural Canadians.</p>	<p>The Government of Canada is ensuring that rural and urban Canadians have access to government transactions on-line through the Government On-Line initiative.</p> <p>The 2001 Federal Budget invested \$600 million over four years (\$150 million per year starting in fiscal year 2002–2003) to implement the Government On-Line Initiative by 2005.</p>		<p>✓</p>	<p>See www.gol-ged.gc.ca or call 1 800 O-Canada (1 800 622-6232).</p>

Priority Area #1

Improve access to federal government programs and services for rural Canadians

Issue: *Provide government services on-line*

NEXT STEP	KEY INITIATIVES / KEY RESULTS	ACHIEVED	ONGOING	COMMENTS
<p>3. Develop an Internet portal to provide rural and remote Canadians with one-stop access to federal programs and services. Include an on-line directory of key programs and services geared to rural and remote citizens.</p>	<p>The Rural and Remote Services portal, offering single-window access to services and resources available to rural and remote Canadians, is being developed. It will be launched later in 2002.</p> <p>The Canada Web site was redesigned to make it easier to navigate and to access information.</p> <p>The <i>Pocket Directory of Rural Programs and Services</i> is now available on the Web, in print and on CD.</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>See www.canada.gc.ca</p> <p>See www.rural.gc.ca/pocket/index.phtml or call 1 800 O-Canada (1 800 622-6232).</p>

Priority Area #2

Improve access to financial resources for rural business and community development

Issue: *Provide funding for rural enterprises*

NEXT STEP	KEY INITIATIVES / KEY RESULTS	ACHIEVED	ONGOING	COMMENTS
<p>4. Improve Community Futures Development Corporations' services to provide universal coverage throughout Quebec and Ontario, as it does in other provinces.</p>	<p>Community Futures Development Corporation (CFDC) services are now generally available to rural and northern communities in all provinces. Additional work is required in the territories, under the leadership of the Department of Indian and Northern Development.</p> <p>In Ontario, FedNor established two new Community Futures Development Corporations and expanded two others. Four new CFDCs are planned. FedNor is working towards universal coverage; there are still some designated areas that have not yet been approved for CFDC funding.</p> <p>In Quebec, 35 additional municipalities now have access to all CFDC services and two new CFDCs were created in regions particularly in need of them. Communities not presently serviced by CFDCs can now obtain at least basic information on Government of Canada services and programs through a local partner funded by Economic Development Canada.</p>		<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>See www.ontcfdc.com for program information and geographic coverage areas.</p> <p>See www.dec-ced.gc.ca/</p>
<p>5. Strengthen existing Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDCs) and improve services by increasing operating funds.</p>	<p>In Ontario, the Community Futures Program received an additional \$7.25 million to expand geographic service and increase the level of funding for existing CFDCs.</p> <p>The Pan Canadian Community Futures Network was established to raise the profile of CFDCs, share best practices and build networking opportunities.</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>		<p>See www.communityfutures.ca</p>

Priority Area #2

Improve access to financial resources for rural business and community development

Issue: *Provide funding for rural enterprises*

NEXT STEP	KEY INITIATIVES / KEY RESULTS	ACHIEVED	ONGOING	COMMENTS
<p>6. Require rural banks to give a six-month notice before closing.</p>	<p>The <i>Branch Closure Regulations</i> for banks, trust and loan companies, and cooperative credit associations came into effect in March 2002. They require rural banks to give a six-month notice before closing.</p> <p>These regulations were published in Part II of the <i>Canada Gazette</i> in March 2002.</p>	✓		<p>See www.fcac-acfc.gc.ca/ or call 1 866 461-3222 (toll-free, English) or 1 866 461 2232 (toll-free, French).</p> <p>See canada.gc.ca/gazette</p>
<p>7. Strengthen the credit union movement so that it can better compete with large institutions.</p>	<p>The <i>Co-operative Credit Associations Act</i> was amended to allow credit unions and caisses populaires to form national retail associations, putting them in a better position to compete with larger financial institutions. The Act came into full force in October 2001.</p>	✓		<p>See www.fcac-acfc.gc.ca/ or call 1 866 461-3222 (toll-free, English) or 1 866 461-2232 (toll-free, French).</p>
<p>8. Provide over-the-counter financial services through Canada Post outlets in communities where there are no financial institutions.</p>	<p>Canada Post and four chartered banks have launched pilot projects to offer financial services through postal outlets in rural and remote communities in Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario and the Northwest Territories.</p>		✓	<p><i>If these projects are successful, Canada Post will expand the program to other communities.</i></p>

Priority Area #2

Improve access to financial resources for rural business and community development

Issue: *Provide funding for rural enterprises*

NEXT STEP	KEY INITIATIVES / KEY RESULTS	ACHIEVED	ONGOING	COMMENTS
<p>9. Promote and use institutions like Farm Credit Canada (FCC), regional development agencies and Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDC) to help deliver services.</p>	<p>The following are examples of how the Government of Canada is promoting and using these institutions to help deliver services:</p> <p>In April 2001, the <i>Farm Credit Canada Act</i> was amended to give FCC greater flexibility in the programs it can offer, and allows the corporation to provide equity financing and business planning advisory services.</p> <p>FCC and the Business Development Bank of Canada can now better combine expertise and products to improve service delivery to agricultural businesses. A revised Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between these two organizations which will lead to better coordinated service delivery.</p> <p>FedNor signed agreements with northern Ontario credit unions and caisses populaires which make it easier for small business to access capital.</p> <p>FedNor developed a common identifier for all Ontario CFDCs to make them clearly identifiable as a Government of Canada service.</p> <p>Regional development agencies are being used to help deliver services. For instance, the Infrastructure Canada Program is being implemented by Western Economic Diversification in the western provinces and by the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency in Atlantic Canada. This includes funding specifically dedicated to rural Canada.</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>		<p>See www.fcc-sca.ca/english/our_company/media/news_releases/2001_04_05.shtml</p>

Priority Area #3

Provide more targeted opportunities, programs and services for rural youth, including Aboriginal youth

Issue: *Increase rural youth participation in community development*

NEXT STEP	KEY INITIATIVES / KEY RESULTS	ACHIEVED	ONGOING	COMMENTS
<p>10. Encourage youth leadership skills development.</p>	<p>AAFC's Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development (CARD) program provides financial assistance to the Canadian 4-H Council to further develop leadership skills in rural youth.</p> <p>A specific youth component has been incorporated into the 2002 National Rural Conference. Youth initiatives will be developed for 2002–2003.</p> <p>The Rural Secretariat, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), Canadian Heritage and Farm Credit Canada, in partnership with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture, helped sponsor the First International Workshop on Rural Youth Leadership Development in October 2001.</p> <p>\$3.6 million from FedNor's Youth Internship Initiative helped nearly 150 recent post-secondary school graduates gain education-related work experience. By working with business and community organizations, participants gained experience and leadership skills.</p> <p>\$1.1 million from AAFC's Science Horizons Program helped nearly 200 recent graduates find employment in agri-food science and veterinary medicine research projects. Through their involvement in planning, implementing, reporting and evaluating scientific projects, participants gained leadership skills and work experience.</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>		<p>See www.agr.gc.ca/policy/adapt/national_initiatives/4h.phtml</p> <p>See www.lavoieagricole.ca</p> <p>See www.fednor.ic.gc.ca or call 1 877 333-6733.</p> <p>See res2.agr.gc.ca/research-recherche/youth/shorizons/kit.html</p>

Priority Area #3

Provide more targeted opportunities, programs and services for rural youth, including Aboriginal youth

Issue: *Increase rural youth participation in community development*

NEXT STEP	KEY INITIATIVES / KEY RESULTS	ACHIEVED	ONGOING	COMMENTS
<p>10. Encourage youth leadership skills development.</p> <p>(...continued)</p>	<p>The Canadian Rural Partnership's Pilot Projects Initiative provided \$1.7 million to fund 48 projects aimed at developing youth leadership skills. For instance, the University of Guelph is helping young "go-getters" in rural Ontario nail down some boardroom experience and learn about leadership from mentors within the agriculture and agri-food industry.</p> <p>The Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency helped nearly 500 young people develop entrepreneurial skills.</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>		<p>See www.acoa-apeca.gc.ca/</p>
<p>11. Include youth in future regional and national Rural Dialogue activities.</p>	<p>Rural youth participated in various Rural Dialogue events across the country. They were active participants at, and helped plan components of, the four regional Rural Dialogue conferences in 2001 (BC, Nova Scotia, Yukon and Ontario).</p> <p>Three youth councils were established as a result of rural youth dialogues held in B.C.</p> <p>The Ontario Youth Forum 2001 focused on the contributions and roles youth have to play in their communities.</p> <p>Three youth Rural Dialogue sessions were held in New Brunswick in February 2002. These sessions led up to a provincial youth Rural Dialogue conference in March 2002.</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>		

Priority Area #3

Provide more targeted opportunities, programs and services for rural youth, including Aboriginal youth

Issue: *Increase rural youth participation in community development*

NEXT STEP	KEY INITIATIVES / KEY RESULTS	ACHIEVED	ONGOING	COMMENTS
<p>11. Include youth in future regional and national Rural Dialogue activities.</p> <p>(...continued)</p>	<p>The Secretary of State held an on-line Rural Dialogue chat session with youth in March 2002. Future opportunities for similar interaction are being examined.</p> <p>18–29 year-old rural Canadians participated in a day-long Rural Youth Forum at the April 2002 National Rural Conference.</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>		
<p>12. Involve youth in Rural Team activities.</p>	<p>Rural Teams have been involving youth in their activities through the following initiatives:</p> <p>The Yukon and Alberta Rural Teams established Youth Working Groups.</p> <p>The Newfoundland and Labrador Team has been working with Community Futures in Newfoundland and Labrador to promote youth entrepreneurship.</p> <p>Rural Team Manitoba partnered with the Province of Manitoba on a rural youth forum that was held in conjunction with Rural Forum 2002 in Brandon.</p> <p>The Northwest Territories Rural Team held a youth workshop in partnership with the Territorial Youth Association. The New Brunswick Rural Team invited the New Brunswick Youth Council executive director to join their team, and the Rural Youth Enterprise made a presentation to the Ontario Rural Team.</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>		<p><i>To contact the Rural Team closest to you, see www.rural.gc.ca/contact_e.phtml#advisors or call 1 888 781-2222 (toll-free).</i></p>

Priority Area #3

Provide more targeted opportunities, programs and services for rural youth, including Aboriginal youth

Issue: *Increase rural youth participation in community development*

NEXT STEP	KEY INITIATIVES / KEY RESULTS	ACHIEVED	ONGOING	COMMENTS
<p>13. With partners, develop and implement a comprehensive strategy focussing on preventing youth crime and victimization in rural and remote Canada.</p>	<p>The RCMP's National Youth Strategy was launched in 2000. It aims to reduce crime and victimization and includes initiatives for rural and urban youth.</p> <p>In July 2001, the Government of Canada committed an additional \$145 million over four years to the National Strategy on Community Safety and Crime Prevention. The National Strategy focuses on addressing the root causes of crime and victimization. Since its launch in June 1998, it has contributed to more than 2200 crime prevention projects in over 600 communities across Canada. These include rural, remote and Aboriginal communities, in which, 189 projects have received funding for over \$4.8 million to address their unique issues of crime and victimization.</p> <p>The Department of Justice, through the Youth Justice Renewal Initiative, provides communities with funds to improve their ability to develop community-based youth justice programs. One such program is the Restoring Justice in Rural Communities project in Chipman, New Brunswick, which recognizes that rural areas are different from urban ones and often require different solutions to youth crime. The program, through meaningful alternatives to the formal justice system, targets the root causes of youth crime while restoring harmony to the community.</p>		<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p><i>The National Youth Web site (www.deal.org) was created for youth, by youth.</i></p> <p><i>See www.crimeprevention.org or call 1 877 302-6272 (toll-free).</i></p> <p><i>E-mail: youth-jeunes@justice.gc.ca or fax (613) 954-3275.</i></p>

Priority Area #4

Strengthen rural community capacity building, leadership and skills development

Issue: Empower community leaders and organizations to pursue economic and community development initiatives

NEXT STEP	KEY INITIATIVES / KEY RESULTS	ACHIEVED	ONGOING	COMMENTS
<p>14. Roll out the Canadian Agricultural Rural Communities Initiative (CARCI) to support projects such as conferences on rural issues organized by non-governmental organizations.</p>	<p>CARCI was launched in 2000 with \$9.3 million funding over three years. Funding is from the Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development (CARD) Fund.</p> <p>CARCI has already committed \$2.1 million to support 67 pilot projects, including workshops, conferences and seminars organized by non-governmental organizations.</p> <p>The Government of Canada's \$2.4-million Agricultural Rural Minority Language Community Planning Initiative was launched in 2001. This CARCI-funded initiative aims at helping official language communities living in a minority situation overcome any language-related barriers they encounter in their search for sustainable development.</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>		<p>See www.agr.gc.ca/carci/ for application guidelines, or call 1 877 295-7160 (toll-free).</p>
<p>15. Create electronic tools to allow communities to interact with each other regionally and nationally.</p>	<p>Industry Canada's Community Access Program (CAP) partners with provincial and territorial governments, municipalities, libraries, schools and the private sector to provide public access to the Internet in 5,500 rural communities.</p> <p>Additional work is required to use existing electronic tools to link communities electronically so they are in a better position to pursue economic and community development initiatives.</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>See cap.ic.gc.ca/english/4000newpro.asp to find the CAP site nearest you. Or call 1 800 575-9200 (TTY: 1 800 465-7735).</p>

Priority Area #4

Strengthen rural community capacity building, leadership and skills development

Issue: Empower community leaders and organizations to pursue economic and community development initiatives

NEXT STEP	KEY INITIATIVES / KEY RESULTS	ACHIEVED	ONGOING	COMMENTS
<p>16. Find new ways to support organizations committed to rural development and capacity building.</p>	<p>The Canadian Rural Partnership Pilot Project Initiative supports projects that contribute to rural development and capacity building. For example, one project involved creating and implementing a 12-month program giving skilled First Nation staff the opportunity to work with several Yukon Government agencies. The goal was to learn about available information that will support planning and decision-making in the rural Aboriginal communities throughout the Yukon.</p> <p>FedNor builds rural community capacity through partnerships with municipalities, First Nations and local economic development organizations including Community Futures Development Corporations. For instance, FedNor contributed \$55,300 towards developing a community-driven strategic plan for the Lacloche/Manitoulin area. The resultant plan will provide a basis for community economic development activities in the area for the next several years.</p> <p>Western Economic Diversification's \$2.7-million Community Economic Development Opportunity Initiative supports organizations in community capacity building.</p> <p>Natural Resources Canada's Resource Opportunities for Northern Saskatchewan Communities is a pilot program supporting communities seeking to improve their capacity to plan and train for opportunities related to sustainable development and use of natural resources.</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p></p> <p>✓</p> <p></p> <p></p>	<p>See www.rural.gc.ca/pilot/pilot_e.phtml or call (613) 759-7112.</p> <p>See www.fednor.ic.gc.ca or call 1 877 333-6733 (toll-free).</p> <p>See www.wd.gc.ca/eng/ced/</p> <p>Call (306) 953-8546.</p>

Priority Area #4

Strengthen rural community capacity building, leadership and skills development

Issue: Empower community leaders and organizations to pursue economic and community development initiatives

NEXT STEP	KEY INITIATIVES / KEY RESULTS	ACHIEVED	ONGOING	COMMENTS
<p>16. Find new ways to support organizations committed to rural development and capacity building.</p> <p>(...continued)</p>	<p>Human Resources Development Canada developed the <i>Community Development Handbook</i>, the <i>Community Capacity Building Facilitator's Guide</i> and the <i>Community Capacity Building Internet Site</i> to help communities build capacity.</p>	<p>✓</p>		<p>See www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/hrib/hrif/community-communautaire/menu/page4.shtml or call 819 953-1920.</p>
<p>17. Find new ways to support community leadership development.</p>	<p>FedNor's Community Futures Program supports community capacity and leadership skills development through training and by implementing best practices within Community Futures Development Corporations.</p> <p>A federal partnering initiative is being developed which will help community organizations working on development activities, including community capacity building.</p>		<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>See www.ontcfdc.com</p>
<p>18. Conduct partnership projects with the co-operative sector.</p>	<p>In June 2000, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's (AAFC) Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development (CARD) Fund contributed \$500,000 towards a project examining the barriers to the growth of agriculture co-operatives, with the aim of helping the sector better compete. Recommendations from this project, which was completed in September 2001, led to the following Phase II project:</p>	<p>✓</p>		<p>See www.agr.gc.ca/policy/adapt/index_e.phtml</p>

Priority Area #4

Strengthen rural community capacity building, leadership and skills development

Issue: Empower community leaders and organizations to pursue economic and community development initiatives

NEXT STEP	KEY INITIATIVES / KEY RESULTS	ACHIEVED	ONGOING	COMMENTS
<p>18. Conduct partnership projects with the co-operative sector.</p> <p>(...continued)</p>	<p>In February 2002, AAFC announced that it was providing \$968,000 in CARD funding towards a project aimed at helping ensure the long-term competitiveness and vitality of Canada's agriculture co-operative sector.</p> <p>Human Resources Development Canada contributed \$1.9 million towards a worker co-op development pilot project.</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	
<p>19. Continue sustainable community initiatives under the Northern Sustainable Development Strategy.</p>	<p>The Department of Indian and Northern Development's 2001–2003 Sustainable Development Strategy continues to identify actions that involve partnership with First Nations, Inuit and Canadians living in the North. Actions include involving Aboriginal organizations in projects of the Arctic Council (e.g., the Health, Networking and Internships Programs of the initiative on the Future of Children and Youth in the Arctic, Capacity Building Policy, the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment).</p>		<p>✓</p>	<p>See www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/pr/sus/index_e.html</p>

Priority Area #5

Create opportunities for rural communities to maintain and develop infrastructure for community development

Issue: *Provide support for municipal and transportation infrastructure*

NEXT STEP	KEY INITIATIVES / KEY RESULTS	ACHIEVED	ONGOING	COMMENTS
<p>20. Design the infrastructure program so that it meets the priorities of rural and remote Canadians.</p>	<p>The Infrastructure Canada Program will invest \$420 million in rural and remote Canada between 2000/2001 and 2005/2006.</p> <p>Federal–provincial/territorial agreements have been signed with all provinces and territories. Each agreement includes a minimum rural investment target (ranging from 15 to 56 per cent) that must be met for that jurisdiction.</p> <p>Rural and remote Canada will benefit from the Government of Canada’s commitment to contribute, through the Strategic Infrastructure Foundation, \$2-billion in cost-shared assistance to large infrastructure projects and to encourage public–private partnerships.</p>		<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>See www.infrastructurecanada.gc.ca/index_e.shtml</p>
<p>21. Complete federal–provincial/territorial negotiations on the Strategic Highway Infrastructure Program. Sign and implement agreements.</p>	<p>Agreements have been signed with Nova Scotia, Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Negotiations with the remaining provinces and territories are expected to be completed by the end of 2002.</p> <p>\$600 million will go to the Strategic Highway Infrastructure Program: \$500 million towards improving the national highway system and \$100 million for national system integration initiatives.</p> <p>The 2001 Federal Budget committed \$600 million over five years towards a new border infrastructure program. Projects supported could include new or improved highway access for border crossings, processing centres for commercial vehicles, and “soft infrastructure” such as intelligent transportation systems.</p>		<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>See www.tc.gc.ca/ship/menu.htm</p>

Priority Area #5

Create opportunities for rural communities to maintain and develop infrastructure for community development

Issue: *Provide support for municipal and transportation infrastructure*

NEXT STEP	KEY INITIATIVES / KEY RESULTS	ACHIEVED	ONGOING	COMMENTS
<p>22. Hire an independent third party to monitor the impact of changes to grain handling and the grain transportation system on farmers, the Canadian Wheat Board, railways, grain companies, shippers and ports.</p>	<p>Quorum Corporation was hired in June 2001 to monitor and evaluate the overall efficiency of Canada's grain handling and transportation system. Their contract expires December 2003.</p>		<p>✓</p>	
<p>23. Compile a list of possible service changes to VIA Rail's national network that would restore previously abandoned services or that would enhance the performance of the corporation.</p>	<p>VIA Rail is assessing a business case for restoring some passenger services. Services being assessed include Vancouver–Calgary, Montreal–Sherbrooke–Saint John, Halifax–Sydney, Toronto–Peterborough and Toronto–Barrie–Collingwood.</p> <p>Restoring these services would benefit rural communities where VIA stops would be added.</p>		<p>✓</p>	<p><i>VIA's service restoration can only be considered if a business case has been demonstrated that will not require an increase in VIA's current funding level.</i></p>

Priority Area #5

Create opportunities for rural communities to maintain and develop infrastructure for community development

Issue: *Provide support for municipal and transportation infrastructure*

NEXT STEP	KEY INITIATIVES / KEY RESULTS	ACHIEVED	ONGOING	COMMENTS
<p>24. Work cooperatively to ensure that the Independent Transition Observer on Airline Restructuring is informed of rural issues related to air transportation in rural and remote regions.</p>	<p>The Rural Secretariat continues to consult with the Independent Transition Observer on Airline Restructuring and to work with Transport Canada officials on the air transportation needs of rural and remote Canadians. Since April 2000, the Secretariat has participated in three bilateral meetings with the Independent Transition Observer.</p> <p>The Independent Transition Observer's (Debra Ward) Second Interim Report is available on Transport Canada's Web site. In it, Ms. Ward notes that carriers which fly in remote and mostly northern destinations will be discussed in greater detail in the third interim report.</p> <p>Airline service to rural and remote communities remains a priority for the Rural Secretariat, which continues to work within the Government on this issue.</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p><i>Bill C-26 incorporates into law Air Canada's commitment to maintain its previous level of services to rural and remote parts of Canada for a three-year period. The Observer will continue to monitor these air services.</i></p> <p><i>For information on airline restructuring and the Independent Transition Observer, see www.tc.gc.ca/pol/en/air/airline_restructuring_menu_page.htm</i></p>

Priority Area #5

Create opportunities for rural communities to maintain and develop infrastructure for community development

Issue: *Provide affordable housing in rural areas, particularly in the North*

NEXT STEP	KEY INITIATIVES / KEY RESULTS	ACHIEVED	ONGOING	COMMENTS
<p>25. Continue and expand the current partnership for affordable housing.</p>	<p>At the November 2001 meeting of federal, provincial and territorial ministers of housing, the Government of Canada reaffirmed its \$680-million commitment to affordable housing. In February 2002, the Northwest Territories was the most recent territory/province to sign an Affordable Housing Agreement with the Government of Canada. British Columbia and Quebec signed agreements in 2001.</p> <p>Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation encourages the supply of affordable housing through several initiatives. For instance, the Canadian Centre for Public-Private Partnerships in Housing works with non-profit community groups and municipal, provincial and federal governments to develop affordable housing.</p>		<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>See www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/News/nere/index.cfm for a list of news releases.</p> <p>See www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/imquaf/afho/</p>
<p>26. Consider using some of the new federal infrastructure funds to develop affordable housing.</p>	<p>Affordable housing is one of the six categories for which provinces and territories can use federal infrastructure funding.</p> <p>The 2001 Budget confirmed the Government of Canada's commitment of \$680 million over five years for affordable housing, which will also benefit rural and remote areas.</p>		<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>See www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/imquaf/afho/index.cfm or call 1 800 668-2642.</p>

Priority Area #6

Connect rural Canadians to the knowledge-based economy and society, and help them acquire the skills to use the technology

Issue: *Provide rural and remote communities with telecommunication infrastructure*

NEXT STEP	KEY INITIATIVES / KEY RESULTS	ACHIEVED	ONGOING	COMMENTS
<p>27. Encourage partnerships between the public, private and cooperative sectors to increase the understanding of telecommunications and expand telecommunications infrastructure in rural and remote communities.</p>	<p>Industry Canada's Smart Communities Program is helping seven rural and remote communities implement information and communications technologies. These communities illustrate how using these technologies can create a level playing field for any community, no matter how remote.</p> <p>In September 2001, Canada Economic Development helped fund a national meeting in the Matawinie region, on the role of new information technologies in rural development.</p> <p>Natural Resources Canada's (GeoConnections) Sustainable Communities Initiative provides remote, rural, northern and Aboriginal communities with Internet access to data and analytical tools for decision making.</p> <p>In its 2001 budget, the Government of Canada committed \$600 million over four years to implement the Government On-Line strategy. It also provided \$110 million to build a new generation of Internet broadband network architecture, linking all research-intensive institutions, including many community colleges located in rural areas.</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>See smartcommunities.ic.gc.ca/</p> <p>See www.sci.gc.ca or call (613) 996-1397.</p>

Priority Area #6

Connect rural Canadians to the knowledge-based economy and society, and help them acquire the skills to use the technology

Issue: *Provide rural and remote communities with telecommunication infrastructure*

NEXT STEP	KEY INITIATIVES / KEY RESULTS	ACHIEVED	ONGOING	COMMENTS
<p>28. Expand the network of Community Access Program sites to 5,000 in rural and remote Canada.</p>	<p>Over 5,500 Community Access Program (CAP) sites are now located in rural and remote Canada.</p> <p>With the goal of expanding broadband Internet coverage, the Government of Canada committed to extending CAP and SchoolNet to 2003–2004, at an annual cost of \$40 million, and set aside \$35 million a year for three years thereafter to support broadband expansion.</p>	<p>✓</p>		<p><i>See cap.ic.gc.ca/english/4000newpro.asp to find the CAP site nearest you. Or call 1 800 575-9200 (TTY: 1 800 465-7735).</i></p>
<p>29. Roll out the seven Smart Communities projects located in rural or remote areas.</p>	<p>Projects in the seven rural communities are now underway.</p>		<p>✓</p>	<p><i>See smartcommunities.ic.gc.ca/</i></p>

Priority Area #6

Connect rural Canadians to the knowledge-based economy and society, and help them acquire the skills to use the technology

Issue: *Help rural business develop e-commerce opportunities*

NEXT STEP	KEY INITIATIVES / KEY RESULTS	ACHIEVED	ONGOING	COMMENTS
<p>30. Work with business to promote rural applications of new technologies including e-commerce.</p>	<p>The Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency held e-commerce awareness seminars in rural Atlantic Canada.</p> <p>Canada Economic Development, Industry Canada and Communication Canada organized conferences to increase e-business development in Quebec.</p> <p>FedNor provided over \$5.8 million to fund 28 projects to develop telecommunications infrastructure and applications in northern Ontario.</p> <p>Western Economic Diversification (WD) established Aboriginal Services Kiosk, an Internet portal for information on Aboriginal programs, services and contacts in Saskatchewan. It includes links to information on business-support organizations and doing business with the Government of Canada.</p> <p>WD provided \$749,000 to 18 projects in rural western Canada, as part of its First Jobs in Science and Technology Program. This program helps businesses use new technologies by providing them with funding to hire recent graduates with the expertise in these technologies.</p> <p>The Canadian E-Business Opportunities Roundtable, with input from Industry Canada, developed the Small and Medium Enterprise Information Toolkit to help rural and urban businesses make sound e-business decisions.</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p></p> <p></p> <p>See www.fednor.ic.gc.ca or call 1 877 333-6733.</p> <p>See www.asksask.sk.ca/</p> <p>See www.wd.gc.ca/eng/finance/programs/xfirstjb.html or call 1 888 338-9378 (toll-free).</p> <p>See ebusinessroundtable.ca/tools.html</p>

Priority Area #6

Connect rural Canadians to the knowledge-based economy and society, and help them acquire the skills to use the technology

Issue: *Help rural business develop e-commerce opportunities*

NEXT STEP	KEY INITIATIVES / KEY RESULTS	ACHIEVED	ONGOING	COMMENTS
<p>30. Work with business to promote rural applications of new technologies including e-commerce.</p> <p>(...continued)</p>	<p>In June 2000, the Government of Canada announced the \$300-million Atlantic Innovation Fund to increase the region's capacity to carry out leading-edge research and development that contributes directly to developing new technology-based economic activity in the region.</p> <p>Approximately \$1.5 billion in total value of projects are seeking \$810 million in Atlantic Innovation Fund contribution, which amounts to 195 project proposals.</p>		<p>✓</p>	<p>See www.acoa-apeca.gc.ca/e/financial/aif/index.shtml</p>

Priority Area #7

Strengthen economic diversification in rural Canada through more targeted assistance

Issue: *Develop value-added industries and tourism in regions dependent upon primary production*

NEXT STEP	KEY INITIATIVES / KEY RESULTS	ACHIEVED	ONGOING	COMMENTS
<p>31. Develop and promote programs that encourage diversification into value-added sectors.</p>	<p>Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's (AAFC) Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development Fund is a \$60-million-a-year program that supports initiatives encouraging innovation and value-added in the agriculture sector.</p> <p>AAFC's Matching Investment Initiative offered matching funds totalling \$26.9 million for 777 private-sector research projects in 2001–2002. Most were strongly oriented to value-added and were primarily in rural communities. For instance, the Initiative funded research into increasing the value of apples by giving them a more desirable texture and colour.</p> <p>Natural Resources Canada's (NRCan) Model Forest Program helps to identify forest-based sustainable economic opportunities and to broaden and diversify local community economies through broad stakeholder partnerships.</p> <p>NRCan's First Nations Forestry Program aims to improve economic conditions by increasing the number of long-term jobs, developing partnerships and enhancing capacity to participate in forest-based businesses and manage reserve forest sustainably.</p>		<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>See www.agr.gc.ca/policy/adapt/index_e.phtml or call (613) 759-1348.</p> <p>See res2.agr.gc.ca/research-recherche/industry/mii/cheers/success-succes_e.html or call (613) 759-7852.</p> <p>See www.modelforest.net or call (613) 992-5799.</p> <p>See www.fnfp.gc.ca or call (613) 947-7380.</p>

Priority Area #7

Strengthen economic diversification in rural Canada through more targeted assistance

Issue: *Develop value-added industries and tourism in regions dependent upon primary production*

NEXT STEP	KEY INITIATIVES / KEY RESULTS	ACHIEVED	ONGOING	COMMENTS
<p>31. Develop and promote programs that encourage diversification into value-added sectors.</p> <p>(...continued)</p>	<p>Regional Development Agencies' Community Futures Program provides ongoing support of diversification initiatives. Initiatives have ranged from white pine veneer production to birch syrup and candy making to crafts made from forest materials.</p>		✓	<p>See <i>Western Canada - www.communityfutures.ca Ontario - www.ontcfdc.com Quebec - www.dec-ced.gc.ca Atlantic - www.acoa-apeca.gc.ca Or call 1 800 O-Canada (1 800 622-6232).</i></p>
<p>32. Work with the provinces and territories to ensure that the appropriate agricultural safety nets are in place.</p>	<p>At their 2001 meeting in Whitehorse, Yukon, federal, provincial and territorial ministers of agriculture agreed in principle on an action plan for Canadian agriculture in the 21st century.</p> <p>Federal, provincial and territorial governments continue to work toward an agreement on this agricultural policy framework which includes exploring new, future-oriented directions in risk management. Consultations in 2002 with the agriculture industry, the agri-food chain and broader Canadian society will feed into the development of a new risk management approach.</p>		✓	<p>See www.agr.gc.ca/puttingcanadafirst</p>
<p>33. Implement the new Agricultural Environmental Stewardship Initiative.</p>	<p>This initiative is being implemented with the help of three-year, \$10-million Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development (CARD) funding. Projects address the impacts of agricultural practices on water, soil and air quality, biodiversity and greenhouse gas emissions. Projects are approved by industry-led Adaptation Councils.</p>		✓	<p>See www.agr.ca/policy/environment/eb/public_html/ebe/aesi.html</p>

Priority Area #7

Strengthen economic diversification in rural Canada through more targeted assistance

Issue: *Develop value-added industries and tourism in regions dependent upon primary production*

NEXT STEP	KEY INITIATIVES / KEY RESULTS	ACHIEVED	ONGOING	COMMENTS
<p>34. Establish new partnerships for community economic development in rural Atlantic Canada.</p>	<p>ACOA's Business Development Program loaned almost \$80 million to enterprises in rural Atlantic Canada. This program helps small and medium-sized business to set up, expand or modernize.</p> <p>The Strategic Community Investment Fund, under the Atlantic Investment Partnership, is a \$135-million program designed to support strategic initiatives that respond to the economic development needs of Atlantic Canada and help primarily rural communities strengthen their economic base.</p>	<p>✓</p>		<p>See www.acoa-apeca.gc.ca/e/financial/business.shtml</p>
<p>35. Develop sustainable and viable fishing opportunities that reduce dependence on existing fisheries, increasing their value.</p>	<p>Fisheries and Oceans Canada launched the Fisheries Development Program to help First Nations, fishermen and communities in the Pacific region reduce their dependency on salmon. This is done by developing sustainable and viable new fishing opportunities for under-utilized species, increasing the value of these fisheries, and developing new non-salmon, aquaculture opportunities.</p>	<p>✓</p>		<p>See www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/ops/fm/toppages/developfisheries.htm</p>
<p>36. Roll out the Sustainable Aquaculture Development Program.</p>	<p>Fisheries and Oceans Canada launched the Program for Sustainable Aquaculture in the fall of 2000. It is funded at \$15 million per year.</p>	<p>✓</p>		<p>For information, call (613) 990-1459.</p>

Priority Area #8

Work with provincial and territorial governments to examine and pilot test new ways to provide rural Canadians with access to health care at reasonable cost

Issues: *Improve access to health services by supporting the development of innovative models that respond to the health concerns of rural Canadians*
Promote health status improvement through health promotion and disease prevention in collaboration with the provinces and territories
Support provincial and territorial efforts to encourage the recruitment and retention of health care professionals in rural areas

NEXT STEP	KEY INITIATIVES / KEY RESULTS	ACHIEVED	ONGOING	COMMENTS
<p>37. Work with provincial and territorial governments to fund pilot projects that develop new ways of delivering health care in rural and remote Canada.</p>	<p>Health Canada’s Rural and Remote Health Innovations Initiative is funding over 75 national and regional rural health projects valued at \$11 million. One example is a project managed by the Northwest Territories Registered Nurses Association which is exploring the potential of using a telephone service to help provide health and social services in remote communities.</p> <p>The Canadian Rural Partnership Pilot Projects Initiative supported 27 community-health-related projects over four years. For instance, the West Prince Telehospice project will demonstrate how home-based tele-technology can help provide palliative care to residents of the West Prince region in Prince Edward Island.</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>See www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/ruralhealth/funding.html or call (613) 946-5100.</p> <p>See www.rural.gc.ca/pilot/pilot_e.phtml or call (613) 759-7112.</p>
<p>38. Support initiatives that develop ways of using information technology to improve health care in rural and remote areas.</p>	<p>The Canada Health Infostructure Partnerships Program is providing roughly \$49 million to projects aimed at improving access to medical care in rural and remote areas. For example, the Memorial University of Newfoundland telemedicine sector is managing a project to implement video-conferencing telehealth facilities in the communities of Bonavista and Clarenville. These facilities will be used to provide health-care services.</p> <p>The Health Infostructure Support Program provided \$1.3 million to six pilot projects assessing new information technologies and directly impacting rural health care.</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>See www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ohih-bsti/about_apropos/chipp-ppics/chippics-intro_e.html or call (613) 952-4526.</p> <p>See www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ohih-bsti/about_apropos/hihsp/hihsp-intro2_e.html or call (613) 952-4526.</p>

Priority Area #8

Work with provincial and territorial governments to examine and pilot test new ways to provide rural Canadians with access to health care at reasonable cost

Issues: *Improve access to health services by supporting the development of innovative models that respond to the health concerns of rural Canadians*
Promote health status improvement through health promotion and disease prevention in collaboration with the provinces and territories
Support provincial and territorial efforts to encourage the recruitment and retention of health care professionals in rural areas

NEXT STEP	KEY INITIATIVES / KEY RESULTS	ACHIEVED	ONGOING	COMMENTS
<p>38. Support initiatives that develop ways of using information technology to improve health care in rural and remote areas.</p> <p>(...continued)</p>	<p>The Smart Community Initiative supports telehealth services in northern Ontario. The Kuh-ke-nah Network of Smart First Nations has a broadband network in place, call K-NET. K-NET provides telehealth workstations in five communities, where people can use video-conferencing equipment to consult with a doctor and other health professionals in a distant location.</p> <p>The Canada Health Infoway Corporation was established with a \$500-million investment. The Corporation will focus initially on developing electronic patient records.</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>		<p><i>For more information visit their Web site at smart.knet.on.ca</i></p>
<p>39. Encourage national research efforts to include a rural perspective (e.g., Canadian Institutes of Health Research).</p>	<p>A strategic plan for rural health research is being developed by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.</p>		<p>✓</p>	

Priority Area #9

Work with provincial and territorial governments to examine and pilot test new ways to provide rural Canadians with access to education at reasonable cost

Issue: *Provide access to adult literacy and distance learning*

NEXT STEP	KEY INITIATIVES / KEY RESULTS	ACHIEVED	ONGOING	COMMENTS
<p>40. Promote using new technologies for distance learning.</p>	<p>Human Resources Development Canada's Community Learning Networks Initiative partners with community organizations to provide access to learning resources through information communication technologies.</p> <p>FedNor supports new and innovative ways to improve access to education services throughout northern Ontario. FedNor contributed \$500,000 towards upgrades of the video-conferencing and wide-area network infrastructure at College Boreal in order to improve access to the College's distance education services by northern Ontario students. This system will also be used to disseminate information to small business operators across the north.</p>		<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p><i>See olt-bta.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/ourprogram/index_e.html or call (819) 953-0300.</i></p> <p><i>See www.fednor.ic.gc.ca or call 1 877 333-6673 (toll-free).</i></p>

Priority Area #10

Foster strategic partnerships, within communities, between communities and among governments to facilitate rural community development

Issues: *Strengthen the Rural Lens and broaden the Rural Dialogue*

NEXT STEP	KEY INITIATIVES / KEY RESULTS	ACHIEVED	ONGOING	COMMENTS
41. Consider creating an advisory committee of rural citizens to advise the Secretary of State.	Work is well advanced in developing a rural advisory committee with a mandate to provide advice to the Secretary of State for Rural Development.		✓	
42. Get rural organizations and individuals from different groups (e.g., First Nations, Métis, Inuit, visible minorities, youth, women and volunteers) more involved in Rural Team activities.	<p>Rural Teams in all regions strive to involve citizens and organizations in their activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rural citizens and community organization members helped Rural Teams in the Yukon, BC, Ontario and Nova Scotia organize regional conferences; • Rural Team Ontario organized a Dialogue session for Francophones from across the province; • as a result of the ongoing dialogue between the Prince Edward Island Rural Team and rural citizens, the Team received the necessary direction to set its priorities; • a member of the Nunavut Social Development Council is a member of Rural Team Nunavut; and • the British Columbia Rural Team hosted a Dialogue session for citizens with physical challenges in February 2002. 		✓	<p><i>To contact the Rural Team in your region, see www.rural.gc.ca/contact_e.phtml#advisors or call 1 888 781-2222.</i></p>

Priority Area #10

Foster strategic partnerships, within communities, between communities and among governments to facilitate rural community development

Issues: *Strengthen the Rural Lens and broaden the Rural Dialogue*

NEXT STEP	KEY INITIATIVES / KEY RESULTS	ACHIEVED	ONGOING	COMMENTS
<p>43. Enhance the Rural Dialogue On-Line Discussion Group by conducting electronic town halls, such as interactive sessions with the Secretary of State.</p>	<p>The Rural Secretariat received funding in 2001–2002 to enhance the Rural On-Line Discussion Group. A pilot on-line chat session was held between the Secretary of State and rural youth in March 2002 to allow young Canadians living in rural and remote areas to share their perspective on rural issues. Additional work will be done in the weeks ahead.</p>		✓	<p><i>This session will be evaluated and the results will be used to help the Rural Secretariat make strategic use of the Discussion Group to engage, consult and talk with rural Canadians.</i></p>
<p>44. Conduct regional Dialogue activities with partners through 2001.</p>	<p>Rural Teams hosted 11 regional Rural Dialogue sessions in Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.</p> <p>The Secretary of State hosted regional rural conferences in Vernon, British Columbia; Haines Junction, Yukon; North Bay, Ontario and Cornwallis, Nova Scotia.</p> <p>Rural Teams in Alberta, British Columbia and the Yukon conducted telephone surveys of rural and urban citizens.</p> <p>The Community Dialogue Toolkit was developed to help rural and remote communities conduct their own dialogues. It will help citizens work as a group to develop a shared vision for their community, build partnerships and decide how they will achieve their vision.</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>		<p>See www.rural.gc.ca/dialogue/tool/index_e.phtml or call 1 888 781-2222.</p>

Priority Area #10

Foster strategic partnerships, within communities, between communities and among governments to facilitate rural community development

Issues: *Improve the delivery of the Canadian Rural Partnership Pilot Projects Initiative*

NEXT STEP	KEY INITIATIVES / KEY RESULTS	ACHIEVED	ONGOING	COMMENTS
<p>47. Process Canadian Rural Partnership Pilot Projects applications in a timely manner.</p>	<p>The approval stage of the fourth and final year of the Pilot Project Initiative is complete. Efforts to reduce the approval time within the program structure were unsuccessful. However, recommendations made by rural citizens and government departments and agencies to streamline application processing are being taken into consideration in developing a new Rural Development Initiative. Significant changes will be put in place for this new initiative.</p>		✓	<p>See www.rural.gc.ca or call 1 877 295-7160 (toll-free).</p>
<p>48. Target pilot projects to address clearly defined problems, and to meet specific objectives.</p>	<p>The new Rural Development Initiative being planned will specifically target community development activities with the objective of maximizing potential through community planning, leadership development, and promoting sustainable development that balances economic, social, cultural and environmental issues.</p>		✓	<p>See www.rural.gc.ca or call 1 877 295-7160 (toll-free).</p>
<p>49. Share pilot project results with rural citizens through various venues, including the rural Web site, the <i>Rural Times</i> newsletter and rural newspapers.</p>	<p>Pilot project articles are written for and published by rural media, Rural Team regional newsletters and the national <i>Rural Times</i> newsletter. They are also posted on the rural Web site.</p> <p>Successful pilot projects are showcased at rural conferences where the lessons learned from these projects, and opportunities to replicate them in other communities, are shared.</p> <p>The publication <i>Pilot Projects, Success Stories and Lessons Learned</i> is available in print format and on the rural Web site.</p> <p>Pilot project descriptions are on the rural Web site.</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>See www.rural.gc.ca</p> <p>See www.rural.gc.ca/ or call 1 877 295-7160 (toll-free).</p> <p>See www.rural.gc.ca/pilot/pilot_e.phtml</p>

Priority Area #11

Promote rural Canada as a place to live, work and raise a family recognizing the value of rural Canada to the identity and well-being of the nation

Issue: *Recognize and acknowledge rural Canada*

NEXT STEP	KEY INITIATIVES / KEY RESULTS	ACHIEVED	ONGOING	COMMENTS
<p>50. Use parliamentary structures to publicly promote the importance of rural Canada to all Canadians. Highlight the concerns of rural Canadians, for example by tabling the Rural Annual Report to Parliament.</p>	<p>The Secretary of State has spoken before the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food, on the subject of the Canadian Rural Partnership and rural Canada.</p> <p>The second Annual Report to Parliament was tabled in December 2001.</p> <p>Members of Parliament are frequently mailed information to keep them informed of rural issues and initiatives. For instance, they are sent information on new funding programs, annual reports, action plans and reports on Rural Dialogue activities.</p> <p>The Secretary of State participated in a Take Note Debate on Canada's Resource Industries on April 24, 2001.</p> <p>Local Members of Parliament are invited to attend Rural Dialogue events.</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>See www.rural.gc.ca/annualreport/2001/index.phtml</p> <p>See www.parl.gc.ca/</p>
<p>51. Continue the Rural Exhibits Program.</p>	<p>The Rural Exhibits Program continues to visit fairs, conferences, trade shows, malls and other locations throughout the year. In 2001–2002, it visited 111 rural and remote communities.</p>		<p>✓</p>	

Priority Area #11

Promote rural Canada as a place to live, work and raise a family recognizing the value of rural Canada to the identity and well-being of the nation

Issue: *Recognize and acknowledge rural Canada*

NEXT STEP	KEY INITIATIVES / KEY RESULTS	ACHIEVED	ONGOING	COMMENTS
<p>52. Continue the Secretary of State's dialogue with rural and remote communities in Canada. Use the knowledge gained to better use the Rural Lens.</p>	<p>The Secretary of State:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> hosted and participated in four regional conferences (British Columbia, Yukon, Ontario and Nova Scotia); met with representatives from a variety of rural organizations and with provincial/territorial counterparts; participated in an on-line chat session with rural youth in March 2002; and travelled extensively throughout rural Canada (since the 2000 National Rural Conference, he has been in ten provinces and two territories). <p>These activities have led to better use of the Rural Lens.</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>		<p><i>For more information on the Rural Lens, see www.rural.gc.ca/lens_e.phtml or call 1 (613) 759-7112.</i></p>
<p>53. Ensure that good news stories about rural Canada are circulated to a wide audience through radio clips and newspaper stories.</p>	<p>Canadian Rural Partnership pilot projects were profiled in advertorials in Ontario media.</p> <p>The <i>Rural Times</i> newsletter features rural success stories.</p> <p>Community newspapers build rural stories around messages from press releases, Web sites and Rural Secretariat publications. The Secretary of State has met with the Ontario and Alberta community newspaper associations.</p> <p>Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada produced around 60 rural good news radio clips in 2001. The packaged radio program is distributed via Broadcast News to 400 radio stations nationwide.</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p><i>See www.rural.gc.ca/newsletter/index_e.phtml</i></p>

Priority Area #11

Promote rural Canada as a place to live, work and raise a family recognizing the value of rural Canada to the identity and well-being of the nation

Issue: *Recognize and acknowledge rural Canada*

NEXT STEP	KEY INITIATIVES / KEY RESULTS	ACHIEVED	ONGOING	COMMENTS
<p>54. Continue working with non-governmental organizations to promote rural Canada.</p>	<p>Rural Team Alberta and the Alberta Rural Newspapers Association launched an annual award program to promote excellence in rural journalism.</p> <p>The Canadian Rural Partnership supports rural organizations in their initiatives to promote rural Canada. For instance, they provide funding through the Canadian Agricultural Rural Communities Initiative (CARCI).</p> <p>In March 2002, the Secretary of State launched the Urban Dialogue and announced that he would be visiting several Canadian cities this year to discuss, in an urban setting, the important role rural and remote communities play. To date, he has delivered speeches or met with organizations in Edmonton, Calgary, Regina, Toronto, Montreal and St. John.</p>		<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>See www.agr.gc.ca/carci/</p>

APPENDIX 2

Membership List Of The Canadian Rural Partnership (Interdepartmental Working Group)

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
www.agr.gc.ca

Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency
www.acoa.ca

Canada Customs and Revenue Agency
www.ccra-adrc.gc.ca

Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions
www.dec-ced.gc.ca

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca

Canada Post Corporation
www.canadapost.ca

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
www.ceaa.gc.ca

Canadian Heritage
www.pch.gc.ca

Canadian Tourism Commission
www.canadatourism.com

Citizenship and Immigration Canada
www.cic.gc.ca

Department of Finance Canada
www.fin.gc.ca

Department of Justice Canada
www.canada.justice.gc.ca

Department of National Defence
www.dnd.ca

Environment Canada
www.ec.gc.ca

Farm Credit Canada
www.fcc-sca.ca

Federal Economic Development Initiative for Northern Ontario (FedNor)
www.fednor.ic.gc.ca

Fisheries and Oceans Canada
www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Health Canada
www.hc-sc.gc.ca

Human Resources Development Canada
www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
www.inac.gc.ca

Industry Canada
www.ic.gc.ca

Natural Resources Canada
www.NRCan-RNCan.gc.ca

Privy Council Office
www.pco-bcp.gc.ca

Public Works and Government Services Canada
www.pwgsc.gc.ca

Royal Canadian Mounted Police
www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca

Statistics Canada
www.statcan.ca

Transport Canada
www.tc.gc.ca

Treasury Board Secretariat
www.tbs-sct.gc.ca

Western Economic Diversification Canada
www.wd.gc.ca