WORKING TOGETHER
in Rural Canada

Annual Report to Parliament

May 2000

Canada

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Publication 2031/B

Copyright: Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada
Catalogue No. A1-18/2000
ISBN: 0-662-64893-5

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(Federal Economic Development Initiative in
Northern Ontario)

Canada

Table of Contents

Executive Summary 1

Minister's Message 6

Secretary of State's Message 7

Coordination Across Government 9
- Historical Background 9
- Federal Stakeholders Working Together 11
- Serving Rural Canadians 12

Key Characteristics of Rural Canada 17
- Rural Diversity 17
- Geography 17
- Population 18
- Employment 18
- Economic Well-Being 19
- Social Well-Being 19
- Summary 20

Responding to the Priorities of Rural Canadians . . 21
- Access to Federal Government Programs and Services 21
- Access to Financial Resources 26
- Opportunities for Rural Youth 30
- Human Resource Leadership Development and Community Capacity Building 34
- Rural Infrastructure 38
- Rural Telecommunications and Use of the Information Highway . . 41
- Economic Diversification 45
- Access to Health Care 50
- Access to Education 53
- Partnerships for Community Development 56
- Promotion of Rural Canada 59

Looking Ahead: Putting the Vision into Action . . . 61
- Turning Our Commitments into Action 61
- National and Regional Action Plans 65
- Gauging Our Performance 66

Annex A: List of Canadian Rural Partnership (CRP) Pilot Projects 1998–1999 67

Annex B: Membership List of the Interdepartmental Working Group on Rural 72

Annex C: List of Government Initiatives Affecting Rural Canada 74

Executive Summary

In February 1998, the Government drew from the landmark *Think Rural* report and followed up on the 1997 Speech from the Throne by setting aside $20 million over four years for rural concerns. This money was earmarked for the Canadian Rural Partnership (CRP) initiative, which coordinates cross-government activities. That same year saw the launch of the Rural Dialogue process, which encouraged rural Canadians to engage in a two-way discussion with the federal government on opportunities, challenges and priorities, as well as the role of government in identifying potential solutions to key rural issues.

In May 1999, the Government announced the Federal Framework for Action in Rural Canada, which identified 11 priority areas for federal action.

Later that year, in August, the Prime Minister appointed the new Secretary of State for Rural Development and the Government renewed its commitment to respond cohesively to rural Canadians' concerns. In addition, the October 1999 Speech from the Throne announced plans to improve Canadians' quality of life, to build a dynamic economy, to develop children and youth, to strengthen health care, to build communities and to strengthen the Government's relationship with Aboriginal peoples.

Building on the Speech from the Throne, Budget 2000 crystallizes the Government's determination to improve Canadians' quality of life through four main pillars: maintaining sound financial management, providing tax relief, making Canada's economy more innovative, and investing in skills and knowledge.

When we take stock of rural Canada, we see that it is actually a diverse set of economies, societies and cultures, one that changes from east to west to north, as well as within regions. Different rural areas have different income levels, employment opportunities, histories and languages as demonstrated by the various economic and social indicators. Some areas rely more on natural resources than others do. This diversity means that each community has unique development considerations.

Keeping that diversity in mind, the Government of Canada supports a rural vision that sees vibrant communities making informed decisions about their future while benefiting from the global knowledge-based economy. In the 21st century, we are giving meaning to our vision by turning our commitments into tangible actions — both ongoing initiatives and new ones announced in Budget 2000.

The Government is currently "working horizontally" on three important and complementary levels.

- It is coordinating programs through the **Canadian Rural Partnership** (CRP) initiative. This four-year initiative supports rural community development by adopting new approaches that run across government departments and that respond to rural concerns.

  Results: The *Pilot Projects Initiative* saw 138 community-based projects approved in 1998–2000. Each CRP dollar invested in a pilot project generates in return an estimated three dollars from other project partners. The *Rural Dialogue* is continuing through

the On-Line Discussion Group, the Rural Exhibits Program, the national newsletter *Rural Times*, the National Rural Conference, and the Annual Report to Parliament. The Government is also scrutinizing new federal policies and programs through a *rural lens*, which decision-makers use to assess the effect of their activities on rural Canada. For instance, Health Canada announced in 1998 that it was creating the Office of Rural Health to advise the Minister on rural health care and health promotion issues.

- It is providing information through Service Canada. Service Canada offers Canadians one-stop access to government services, so they can find what they need quickly, easily and conveniently. More than 110 Service Canada Access Centres are being established in selected government sites across the country.

  Results: The Government is using an infrastructure of 30 federal departments and agencies, five provincial governments, and 200 municipal and non-government organizations to provide information. Human Resources Development Canada has made its InfoCentre and rural kiosk network accessible. At Service Canada Access Centres, rural Canadians can reach Industry Canada's Community Access Program sites; use Public Works and Government Services Canada's Government Enquiry Centre and the Canada Site on the Internet; get on-site personal help and one-stop access to current information on more than 1,000 federal programs and services; and use the Government's national, toll-free information line **(1 800 0-CANADA)**, as well as other government toll-free numbers.

- It is using the **Community Futures Program** to develop community economies from the bottom up rather than from the top down. Community Business Development Corporations deliver the program in Atlantic Canada, while Community Futures Development Corporations deliver it in the rest of the country. They develop and put into place strategic plans for community economic development, provide business development services and invest in small business.

  Results: In Atlantic Canada, the Young Entrepreneurs ConneXion Seed Capital and Counselling Initiative has provided more than 1,200 low-interest loans to some 1,000 young people. They have used this money to start or expand businesses, which have created more than 1,500 new jobs and maintained another 335 existing jobs. In Quebec, the Special Fund for the Economic Development and Adjustment of Quebec Fishing Communities (Coastal Quebec) has been developing mussels, scallops and other aquaculture products. Since 1995, the federal government has invested $15.4 million in the capitalization of Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDCs) investment funds in rural Ontario. CFDCs, in turn, made over 4,400 loans to rural businesses, totalling more than $115 million and resulting in the maintenance and creation of more than 16,000 jobs. In western Canada, Community Futures Development Corporations have been working on health issues. In particular, these corporations have been working to increase the number of physicians in rural communities in collaboration with federal departments, provincial governments, businesses, health care providers and research organizations. The 2000 Federal Budget gave an additional $54 million over three years for the Community Futures Program, which delivers economic development support to small and rural communities across Canada in the form of mentoring services, business counselling, training and loans. Finally, the Government injected $80 million into the Business Development Bank of Canada to support its financing activities for knowledge-based, export-oriented small businesses.

The Government of Canada has been very active in each of the 11 priority areas highlighted in the Federal Framework for Action. (You can read more on these federal activities in the "Responding to the Priorities of Rural Canadians" section of this report.) As you will see, one of the most important activities has involved moving towards better integrated government initiatives. A more coordinated approach across government departments and agencies can only help in developing rural communities. The following examples show what the federal government has been doing to respond to rural Canadians' priorities.

- Access to federal government programs and services.

  Issue: Rural Canadians want to ensure that rural residents are learning about and using government programs and services the same way their urban counterparts do.

  Government Action: In 263 communities, many of these in rural areas, the information resources of the Canada Business Service Centres (CBSCs) are accessible through the extended network of CBSC Access Partners including economic and community development corporations, local Chambers of Commerce, and provincial district offices. At these locations, rural entrepreneurs can access the CBSC information base including information on 36 federal departments and agencies as well as provincial business programs, services and regulatory roles. Also, the Government announced in the 2000 Budget Speech $160 million over two years to design and launch an initiative to offer federal government services online to Canadians and stimulate the use of electronic commerce.

- Access to financial resources.

  Issue: Rural Canadians believe they have diminishing access to financing, even though they need financial resources to support businesses that are vital to the future of their rural communities.

  Government Action: Much of the budget of Aboriginal Business Canada is directed towards rural areas. Under the National Aboriginal Economic Development Board, Aboriginal Business Canada provides a range of services and support to Aboriginal entrepreneurs across Canada. The program's priorities include trade and market expansion, Aboriginal tourism, innovation and technology development, youth entrepreneurship and strengthened Aboriginal financial organizations. The $14.65 million "Access-to-Capital" programming of the Aboriginal Business Development Initiative provides support to Aboriginal financial institutions that offer small business financing services to Aboriginal businesses and entrepreneurs.

- Opportunities for rural youth.

  Issue: Rural Canadians believe their young people usually leave for cities because they do not see any schooling or job opportunities for them in their own communities.

  Government Action: As part of the federal Youth Employment Strategy, Human Resources Development Canada has helped employers hire young Canadians from rural and remote areas. These employers include businesses, not-for-profit organizations, public health and educational institutions, bands and tribal councils, and municipal governments.

- Human resource leadership development and community capacity building.

  Issue: The number of leaders in rural communities is diminishing because nobody is preparing the next generation of leaders. Rural residents have few tools for developing leadership skills and those leaders who remain active in the communities are under increasing pressure.

  Government Action: Several federal departments and agencies sponsored a May 1999 workshop in Prince Rupert, a British Columbia community hurt by the decline in salmon fishing. A second workshop is planned for Campbell River, British Columbia in spring 2000. The workshops are part of the Pacific Fisheries Adjustment and Restructuring Program, which helps develop strategies to sustain West Coast communities that depend on the fishing industry.

- Rural infrastructure.

  Issue: Rural Canadians believe that rural Canada's infrastructure has eroded.

  Government Action: This year's federal budget announced that, by the end of 2000, the provinces, the territories and the private sector will probably sign a multi-year agreement to improve provincial highways and municipal infrastructure. As well, the federal government is setting aside $100 million for 2000–2001, $350 million for 2001–2002 and $550 million per year for the following four years for infrastructure. At the $550-million-per-year level, $400 million will be set aside for municipal infrastructure in cities and rural communities across Canada (this figure includes affordable housing and green infrastructure), with the other $150 million being set aside for highways.

- Rural telecommunications and use of the information highway.

  Issue: Rural Canadians need an accessible telecommunications system that provides basic, affordable service.

  Government Action: Under the Community Access Program, the Government has established more than 4,500 public Internet access sites in roughly 3,000 rural and remote communities.

- Economic diversification.

  Issue: Many rural Canadians feel their communities are not able to generate new ideas and opportunities. They lack the processes, leadership and overall mind-set required to diversify their economies.

  Government Action: The Canada–Saskatchewan Agri-Food Innovation Fund funded more than 230 projects to help clients move to a more market-driven economy.

- Access to health care.

  Issue: Rural Canadians feel they do not have readily accessible health care. They have to travel further to get health care, especially if they live in remote or northern communities.

  Government Action: Twenty-seven projects of Health Canada's Health Transition Fund focus on rural and remote community health care concerns, such as home care delivery and telehealth technology.

- Access to education.

  Issue: Rural Canadians are concerned about the lack of quality education for youth in their communities, the lack of emphasis on practical skills and knowledge, and the lack of money available for education.

  Government Action: The National Literacy Secretariat funds projects that provide distance education to 28 communities in northern Saskatchewan. It also funds a training package for literacy practitioners in remote northern communities.

- Partnerships for community development.

  Issue: Rural citizens lack some of the skills they need to build and manage partnerships. They want the federal government to assist them in fostering partnerships.

  Government Action: Human Resources Development Canada has published the *Community Development Handbook* and *Facilitator's Guide* (http://www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/ community).

- Promotion of rural Canada.

  Issue: Canadians, including decisionmakers, often misunderstand the ways that rural Canada strengthens national unity and social harmony.

  Government Action: Statistics Canada provides free community profiles based on 1996 selected census data on its Web site (http://www.statcan.ca).

- Rural Canada is the foundation on which a large part of our economic wealth is built.
- It is a place of great energy and great ingenuity. It is our past — it is our present — it is our future.
- It is a way of life, with unique traditions and a specific social structure.
- The Government of Canada is working to make sure that rural Canada has a strong and vibrant future.

Minister's Message

In the fall of 1998, a remarkable meeting of rural Canadians took place near Belleville, Ontario. The event was the National Rural Workshop and it marked a milestone in the development of a rural policy for the Government of Canada. Participants came from north of the Arctic Circle, from the Atlantic coast, the Pacific rim, and the Prairies. In fact, they came from everywhere in rural Canada.

They included a woman who runs a community theatre, a postmistress, and the principal of a high school that is also a community centre. There were municipal councillors, a librarian, several small business owners and farmers; in short, people from all walks of life. And they all had one thing in common: a concern, a love for rural Canada.

The Workshop wound up the first part of the Rural Dialogue between the federal government and Canadians from rural and remote communities and it resulted in a number of recommendations for federal government action.

This report responds to one of those recommendations. *Working Together in Rural Canada* is the first annual report on how the Government of Canada is working with the one-third of Canadians who live in rural and remote communities to ensure that they share in Canada's prosperity. I am proud, as Minister Coordinating Rural Affairs, to table this report in the House of Commons.

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

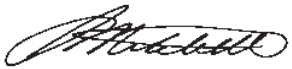
Secretary of State's Message

Whether it is geography, distance from markets, or the cyclical nature of a resource-based economy, Canadians who live in our rural and remote communities face a unique set of challenges.

The Government of Canada is working with rural Canadians to help them meet those challenges. It started with a commitment made in the Speech from the Throne in 1996. A year later, the *Think Rural* report spelled out the nature of the issues facing rural communities. The Canadian Rural Partnership, announced in 1998, was the Government of Canada's response. And in 1999, the Prime Minister created the position of Secretary of State for Rural Development to be the advocate of rural Canada at the Cabinet table.

One of the priorities throughout has been to keep the lines of communication open between government and citizens. The Rural Dialogue has seen a free flow of information in both directions as rural Canadians made their views known and were listened to. This annual rural report, the first of its kind ever to be presented to Canada's Parliament, is designed to ensure that this two-way communication continues. It is a report card all Canadians can use to judge how well the federal government is living up to its commitments to rural Canadians.

As the first Secretary of State for Rural Development, I am proud to join with the Minister Coordinating Rural Affairs in presenting *Working Together In Rural Canada* to the House of Commons.



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

Coordination Across Government

Rural Canada is a diverse place with a rich cultural heritage and dynamic, expanding communities. These qualities make rural Canada a great place for citizens to live. Roughly one third of us live, and often work, in rural Canada, and this part of Canada generates considerable wealth that benefits urban Canada. However, while many people living in urban Canada enjoy perhaps the highest quality of life in the world, the same is not necessarily true of Canadians in rural and remote communities.

Rural Canada is richly endowed with natural resources and people, but it needs special tools to rise to opportunities and challenges that differ from those of urban Canada. Currently, 29 federal departments and agencies are working together to deliver meaningful programs and services that foster sustainable communities. The federal Rural Secretariat is coordinating these efforts.

Instead of running programs and delivering services on the basis of individual departments and agencies (or vertically), the federal government is increasingly emphasizing coordination among its departments and agencies (horizontal approach). In addition, the Government of Canada has spearheaded rural economic and social renewal by building strong partnerships with the private sector, with other levels of government and with local communities.

The next section looks at the major events that have shaped federal rural policy, and describes both the principal federal stakeholders and horizontal processes. It is important to understand this background if we are to implement expanded, effective government policies and programs that address rural Canadians' quality of life concerns.

Historical Background

In the February 1996 Speech from the Throne, the Government of Canada committed itself to renewing the economy of rural Canada. In March 1997, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Natural Resources looked at the key issues facing rural Canadians. The Committee's *Think Rural* report made many suggestions and recommendations. Through its eight principal themes,[1] this landmark document was pivotal in these areas:

- exploring fundamental challenges confronting rural Canadians;
- inviting federal departments and agencies to take tangible and concrete actions that address the broader themes; and
- ensuring that the Government addresses issues facing rural Canadians as an integral part of its efforts to strengthen our economic and social union.

In the September 1997 Speech from the Throne, the Government of Canada re-iterated its commitment to rural communities. By this time, people agreed that rural Canadians had to lead the development of their

[1] These are the eight principal themes: adopting a comprehensive rural policy; rural development begins and ends with people; infrastructure does matter; enhancing natural resource activity; adding value is important; supporting tourism; developing small business and entrepreneurship; and designing appropriate development structures.

communities. For its part, the Government could help by providing tools, by ensuring that supportive laws and regulations are in place, by helping rural Canadians participate in more decisions, and by helping rural stakeholders build partnerships.

In the February 1998 Federal Budget, the Government set aside $20 million over four years for the Canadian Rural Partnership (CRP),[2] a cross-government project that supports new ideas for developing rural communities. One of those ideas was the federally-funded Pilot Projects Initiative[3] (Annex A), which built partnerships with rural community groups from 1998 to 2000. Those groups, in turn, set up 138 community-based projects.

Between May and October 1998, some 7,000 rural Canadians participated in the Rural Dialogue, which allowed them to identify key local and regional issues, challenges and priorities. It also helped define the federal government's role in rural matters. In May 1999, the Government of Canada responded by releasing the Federal Framework for Action in Rural Canada, which reflected rural Canadians' vision for their communities. This framework identified the Government's 11 priorities:

- access to federal government programs and services;
- access to financial resources;
- opportunities for rural youth;
- human resource leadership development and community capacity building;
- rural infrastructure;
- rural telecommunications and use of the information highway;
- economic diversification;
- access to health care;
- access to education;
- partnerships for community development; and
- promotion of rural Canada.

Last October, in the 1999 Speech from the Throne, the Government announced plans that will positively affect rural life. These plans include improving quality of life, building a dynamic economy, developing children and young Canadians, strengthening health care, building stronger communities, and strengthening the Government's relationship with Aboriginal peoples.

Canadians want to participate in the knowledge-based economy that will generate jobs, growth and wealth. To help do this, the Government of Canada will improve several infrastructures:

- Canada's knowledge infrastructure, for which we must support a new generation of leaders, attract the best researchers and encourage graduates to put their talents to work here at home;

- Canada's information infrastructure, for which we must support the electronic exchange of ideas, connect Canadians to the information highway and accelerate the adoption of electronic commerce;

- Canada's cultural infrastructure, for which we must form a virtual museum of Canada, and support the production of Canadian stories and images in various media; and

- Canada's physical infrastructure, for which governments and the private sector must agree on an infrastructure plan focusing on transport, tourism, telecommunications, culture, health and safety,

[2] The four-year, $20-million CRP initiative is broken down annually as follows: $3.2 million for pilot projects; $650,000 for rural dialogue (national and regional); $150,000 for communications outreach; $400,000 for research; and $600,000 for salaries and benefits.

[3] The Pilot Projects Initiative will generally fund up to one third of a project's cost, usually to a maximum of $50,000.

and the environment. The Government is also encouraging the development and adoption of new technologies in all sectors, leading to greater economic stability for rural areas in which cyclical resource industries — agriculture, fisheries, forestry, mining and tourism — are the dominant sources of wealth.

Building on the Speech from the Throne, the February 2000 Federal Budget crystallizes the Government's commitment to improving the quality of life of all Canadians. It did this through four main pillars: maintaining sound financial management, providing tax relief, making Canada's economy more innovative, and investing in skills and knowledge. The Budget is good news for rural communities in Canada, especially in the areas of small business, infrastructure, environment, and resource-based sectors.

> "*The concerns of rural Canadians are those shared by all Canadians — quality health care, the best education for their children, a good job. … Therefore, we must expand economic development in smaller communities right across the country, north and south, east and west.*"[4]

The Government announced $160 million over two years to design and launch an initiative to offer federal government services on-line to all Canadians and stimulate the use of electronic commerce.

Federal Stakeholders Working Together

There is a need to effectively coordinate the many federal government actions that develop rural communities or improve Canadians' quality of life in rural and remote areas. Government initiatives relating to rural Canada cross many departments and agencies and reflect the diversity of rural stakeholders. Here are some of the key stakeholders.

The *Minister Coordinating Rural Affairs* speaks for Canadians living in rural and remote areas. The Minister coordinates the activities of federal departments and agencies. The Minister is also leading the Government's collective efforts to ensure that rural Canadians have the opportunity to fully participate in all this country has to offer.

The Prime Minister appointed the *Secretary of State (Rural Development) (Federal Economic Development Initiative in Northern Ontario)* in August 1999 because he recognized the importance of rural Canada and of ongoing cross-government work. The Secretary's mandate is to improve rural Canadians' quality of life. The Secretary also ensures that departments and agencies work closely and effectively with politicians at all levels, government officials and rural citizens to address rural problems.

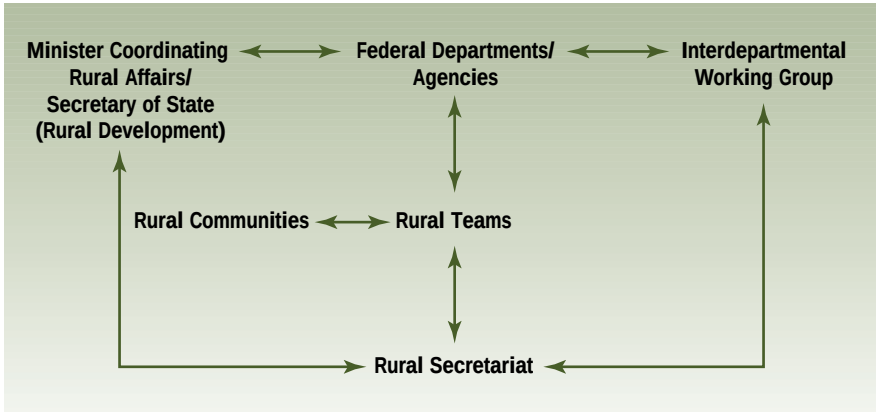
The *Rural Secretariat* is a focal point for rural policy development and for other federal rural activities. It analyzes rural concerns and makes recommendations, fosters partnerships on rural issues, and encourages rural Canadians and the federal government to discuss areas of mutual interest.

The *Interdepartmental Working Group (IWG)* is the key vehicle through which federal departments and agencies coordinate their work with respect to rural development issues. The IWG currently has a membership of 29 federal departments and agencies (Annex B). It meets on a regular basis to share and exchange information, and to coordinate an interdepartmental approach to the rural portfolio.

In addition to the Interdepartmental Working Group, cross-government coordination goes all the way to the local level. Every province and territory has a *Rural Team* made up of representatives from federal departments

[4] Government of Canada, *The Budget Speech*, Ottawa, February 2000, p. 15.

and agencies. Many of these teams also include representatives from provincial and territorial governments. Through this approach, all interested parties have the chance to build partnerships, networks and alliances. The Rural Secretariat also uses regional advisors to ensure continual horizontal coordination among participating departments and agencies, and governments. Over time, we expect that Rural Teams will evolve to include more representatives from other levels of government, and representatives from rural communities.



Serving Rural Canadians

The Government of Canada wants to ensure that people have the tools, information and skills they need to make informed decisions, as well as the technology, infrastructure and services they need to build sustainable and diversified rural communities. But the Government also knows that government departments and agencies must cooperate to provide this kind of access. We must emphasize collaboration, responsiveness and bottom-up initiatives.

Highlighted below are three areas where government departments and agencies are working together to improve the quality of rural life.

- The Federal Framework for Action in Rural Canada is the federal government's over-arching framework for coordinating cross-government activities. This framework includes the projects started under the *Canadian Rural Partnership* and coordinated by the Rural Secretariat. It focuses primarily on program coordination.

- *Service Canada* offers Canadians quick, one-stop access to federal government services and information through a variety of easy-to-use media, such as the Internet. This area relates essentially to providing information.

- The *Community Futures Program* supports Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDCs), which conduct community economic development in rural areas. Many of these corporations also deliver other federal government rural programs and services. Their activities promote community-initiated economic development.

Canadian Rural Partnership

The *Rural Dialogue* is continuing through the Rural Dialogue On-Line Discussion Group, the Rural Exhibits Program and sessions at community conferences. In December 1999, the first issue of a quarterly national newsletter called the *Rural Times* encouraged citizens to get involved.

In January 2000, the Honourable Andy Mitchell, Secretary of State (Rural Development), conducted a cross-country tour that supported the dialogue between rural and remote communities and the federal government. During

the tour, he met with several groups, with youth and Aboriginal peoples, and with leaders representing such sectors as small business, community development, cooperatives, forestry and agriculture.

In April 2000, the National Rural Conference identified new issues and focused attention on new opportunities. Taking place in the region of Magog-Orford, Quebec, the conference allowed Canadians from rural and remote areas to share information on their projects and experiences. It also highlighted government commitment and achievements, and it identified places where we can work together.

In February 1998, the Government announced that it will scrutinize all new federal policies and programs through what is called a rural lens. This means that it will ask decisionmakers to assess the effect of new policies and programs on rural Canada. For instance, decisionmakers will consider whether federal programs and services are accessible in rural areas and whether decisions can be made locally. Another example is the announcement by Health Canada in September 1998 that it was creating a new "Office of Rural Health" to advise the Minister on rural health care and health promotion issues.

Through the CRP, the Government is also funding a series of pilot projects that help rural Canadians pursue creative, locally based ways to develop their communities. These projects are federal partnerships with such strategic rural groups as the private sector, the voluntary sector, cooperatives, other stakeholders and other levels of government. The federal government approved 68 pilot projects in the first year of the Pilot Projects Initiative (1998–1999) and announced 71 new pilot projects in the second year.

Each CRP dollar invested in a pilot project leverages an estimated three dollars from other project partners. Annex A contains a detailed list of the approved pilot projects for 1998–1999.

Through information outreach, the Government is making a special effort to reach Canadians in rural and remote areas. These Canadians can learn about federal programs and services through community newspapers, radio stations, the Internet and federal points of public access. Examples of information outreach include a rural Web site (http://www.rural.gc.ca), *Your Guide to Government of Canada Programs and Services, Canada . . . At work in rural communities, a Rural Resource Book*, the Rural Exhibits Program, The Country Quiz and the Canadian Rural Information Service.

Community Futures Program

The Community Futures Program was created in 1986 by the former Department of Employment and Immigration (now Human Resources Development Canada). In 1995, it was transferred to Industry Canada[5] and to the regional development agencies (Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions and Western Economic Diversification Canada).

The Community Futures Program helps rural and northern communities strengthen their economies and create jobs. It does so by supporting Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDCs) and Community Business Development Corporations (CBDCs) in Atlantic Canada, which develop and put into place strategic plans for community economic development, provide business development services and invest in small business.

In Atlantic regions, integrated community planning is delivered by regional economic development agencies: Regional Economic Development Commissions in New Brunswick, Regional Development Authorities in Nova Scotia,

[5] The Federal Economic Development Initiative in Northern Ontario (FedNor) delivers the Community Futures Program across Ontario and is part of Industry Canada.

Regional Economic Development Boards in Newfoundland and Labrador, and Community Economic Development Corporations in Prince Edward Island.

There are 16 Aboriginal, or Aboriginally-controlled CFDCs, which are resourced to provide loans to small businesses, as well as community economic development services.

The CFDCs/CBDCs are non-profit corporations operating in the communities where they are located, and they are governed by volunteer boards of directors. These boards are comprised of professional staffs and perform the following tasks:

- to work with partners to oversee the development and implementation of strategic plans for community economic development;
- to provide counselling, information and other services to small businesses; and
- to provide business loans, loan guarantees or equity investments.

Depending on what the community needs, a CFDC/CBDC can help its local government and private sector partners with human resources, economic infrastructure, education and training, tourism promotion and information technology. In addition to counselling, CFDCs/CBDCs can help businesses develop by providing technical and advisory services, self-employment programs, employment programs targeted to young entrepreneurs, and loans for small and medium-sized businesses.

Right now, the federal regional agencies are responsible for 236 CFDCs throughout rural Canada: 90 in Western Canada, 52 in Ontario, 54 in Quebec, and 40 CBDCs in Atlantic Canada.

CFDCs/CBDCs succeed for many reasons:

- local business people use their extensive knowledge of their communities to make decisions about community projects and loans;
- the board members use their local networks and their collective expertise, which, in turn, help make communities sustainable;
- community project partners and loan clients get technical and follow-up help from professional staff or mentors, who make up CFDC/CBDC employees and board members; and
- all project revenue and all interest on CFDC/CBDC loans are returned to the original portfolios, increasing the capital accumulated by the community, and subsequently, made available to small business.

Service Canada

Service Canada is part of the Government's commitment to improving the way it delivers services. It offers Canadians — particularly those who have difficulty finding and obtaining the information and services they need — one-stop access to government services, so they can find what they need quickly, easily and conveniently. They may do this in person, by telephone or over the Internet.

Service Canada is *citizen-centred*. It organizes access to government services in ways that reflect the needs of Canadians who actually use them. One example of this is "clustering," which involves putting related services together so they are easy to find. Meeting citizen needs and expectations means emphasizing "horizontal integration", that is, partners working together to expand access, enhance services, increase federal presence, and improve quality.

As part of a one-year Service Canada pilot phase, key enhancements are being made to the federal service delivery network to improve access to government programs and services:

- A network of over 110 pilot Service Canada Access Centres is being established by building on the existing infrastructure of partner departments and agencies in all provinces and territories. Primarily located in rural and semi-urban communities, these Access Centres provide one-stop access to Government of Canada programs and services. Core services available at these Access Centres include information and referral, commonly requested publications, and assistance using Internet and telephone services.

- A state-of-the-art Service Canada Internet portal is being developed under the Government On-line Strategy, building on the Canada Site managed by Public Works and Government Services Canada. Innovative approaches to integrating federal information on the Internet for specific target groups (consumers, Aboriginals) and electronic tools to assist citizens in accessing Internet-based information are also being developed.

- Investments have been made to the Government Enquiry Centre (1 800 O-CANADA) to improve one-stop telephone access to the Government of Canada. These investments include enhancements to the information holdings of the Enquiry Centre, increased capacity, and making the Enquiry Centre database available to front-line Service Canada staff.

As a result of these investments, for example, a visitor to a Service Canada Access Centre can learn what is required for a passport, where to apply for employment insurance, or how to find information about income taxes or GST rebates, government financial assistance programs or the Armed Forces. Alternately, those citizens not at an Access Centre can call 1 800 O-CANADA or access the Canada Site (http://www.canada.gc.ca) to obtain easy access to these services.

Once the pilot phase of the Service Canada initiative is completed in the Fall of 2000, recommendations will be made to Treasury Board ministers regarding the viability of a broader application of the Service Canada approach.

Service Canada partners include: Treasury Board Secretariat, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the Rural Secretariat and the Rural Teams, Human Resources Development Canada, Canada Customs and Revenue Agency, Industry Canada, Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions, Public Works and Government Services Canada, Environment Canada, Natural Resources Canada, Canadian Heritage, Veterans Affairs Canada, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Canada Post Corporation, the Alberta Common Service Council, and the Federal Councils.

Key Characteristics of Rural Canada

Many people think rural and remote areas have low population densities and small settlements. Being far from major cities, many of these communities also have limited access to services and markets. However, rural Canada is by no means the same everywhere. Anywhere outside a city is usually called "rural" but, strictly speaking, a place is characterized as being rural in relation to, for example, population density or distance from larger urban areas.

This report's definition of "rural" is the same as that of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The OECD says that a region is rural if more than half the people there live in communities with a population density of fewer than 150 persons per square kilometre. Using this definition, 31.4% of Canadians lived in rural and remote regions of the country in 1996.

Rural Diversity

Rural economies, societies and cultures vary considerably from east to west to north, as well as within regions. Some rely more on natural resources than others. They have different income levels, employment opportunities, histories and languages. In the following section, we gauge the quality of life in rural and remote Canada by looking at geography, population, employment, and economic and social well-being. In addition, we give examples of related government initiatives.

Geography

Rural Canada is unique in terms of scale, diversity, and contrasting landscapes and climates. Today, it occupies 9.5 million square kilometres, or around 95% of Canada's territory. That territory extends roughly 5,300 kilometres from east to west and nearly 4,600 kilometres from north to south. The mountainous western province of British Columbia connects the Pacific Ocean to an extensive prairie interior with varying vegetation. The Laurentian Shield penetrates Central Canada, while Atlantic Canada has a large stretch of exploited forest land, moderate soils and a seasonal fishing economy. To the north lies a largely mountainous region with sparse forests and the tundra, a windswept rocky Arctic region where an extremely cold climate has stunted vegetation and where trees do not grow.

Across this diverse terrain, we often find extreme climates, from short, intense summers with wide temperature variations to long, cold winters.

To make Prairie land more productive, the Government's Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration is developing and demonstrating technologies and practices for improving irrigation.

The Government is promoting low-cost energy efficiency through the Energy from the Forest Program and the First Nations Forestry Program. These programs are working with the Canada Centre for Mineral and Energy Technology to bring biomass heating technology to remote Aboriginal communities.

To encourage air carriers to maintain air service to small and remote communities, Transport Canada has tabled a bill in Parliament requiring carriers to discuss the impact of any proposed withdrawal of service from a community with local elected officials.

Population

No set demographic trend applies everywhere in Canada. In 1996, 31.4% of Canadians lived in predominantly rural and remote regions: this was down from 31.7% in 1991. This means that about nine million of us live in rural and remote regions.

In Newfoundland and Saskatchewan, the rural and small town population has been decreasing for decades, while in other provinces, it is increasing, especially in areas within commuting distance of cities, in desirable retirement locations, and in places with scenic and recreational attractions. Elsewhere, rural populations are growing more slowly or, in many cases, are declining, because young people between 18 and 24 years of age and seniors over 70 years of age are leaving the communities.

This movement to cities, or to areas within commuting distance of cities, has been evident for some time.

Statistics Canada monitors the impact of the tremendous changes happening throughout rural and remote communities. It is also studying the problems associated with these changes. Statistics Canada publishes its statistical information in a variety of formats and media: publications, research papers, data files, on-line databases, and such information services as Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletins (available through http://www.statcan.ca) and the Rural Data Advisory Line (1-800-263-1136). A senior economist from Statistics Canada works with the Rural Secretariat to manage the Canadian Rural Partnership research.

Employment

Although rural regions in Canada have 31.4% of the country's population, they have only 29% of Canada's employed workforce. In fact, within each age and gender group, rural Canadians are less likely to have a job than are urban Canadians.

Likewise, the unemployment rate is generally higher in rural and small town Canada, although the rate varies widely from province to province. Unemployment rates in rural and small town Newfoundland are three times the rates in rural and small town Alberta, for example.

One exception occurs in the Prairie provinces, where the rural unemployment rate is generally lower than the urban rate. This is, in part, because Prairie farmers are self-employed even during the off-season whether they are working or not. In part, it is because people in the Prairie provinces often go to the city when they become unemployed. By contrast, the rural economy in the eastern provinces includes a greater percentage of paid workers in seasonal work, such as fish processing, sawmills and so on. This partly explains the higher rural unemployment rate in Atlantic Canada.

The Government's Youth Employment Strategy addresses the needs of young people in rural and remote communities. This strategy tries to help young people move into the labour market and to give them employability skills, work experience and access to relevant labour market information. The strategy's

initiatives include Youth Internship Canada, Youth Service Canada, Student Summer Job Action, Youth Information, Youth Info Fairs, Youth Link, and the Youth Resource Network.

Economic Well-Being

Rural Canada's economy has recently become more diversified and more like that of urban centres. Although employment has not changed much in agriculture, there are fewer jobs in other natural resource industries traditionally associated with rural Canada, such as forestry, fishing and trapping, mining and energy. However, there are now more rural jobs in manufacturing, trade, finance, communication, business and personal services, tourism, transportation and storage. Economic growth in rural Canada is even being attributed more and more to telecommunications and information technology.

In the less-populated provinces of Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan, at least 60% of new business starts between 1991 and 1996 occurred in smaller communities. In proportion to their population, rural communities had a greater share of total businesses than did larger communities, a trend true everywhere except Newfoundland and New Brunswick.

While small communities had 35% of the population, they had 38% of all businesses. Larger communities had 65% of the population but only 62% of the businesses. Finally, very small businesses (with one to four employees) made up the overwhelming majority of total businesses in both smaller and larger communities in 1996. These very small businesses were more likely to be found in smaller communities in which service industries (such as distributive, producer, personal and social services) accounted for two thirds of all businesses. These statistics demonstrate the important role that small business plays in the economic life of rural and remote communities as they adapt to the new, knowledge-based economy.

Rural families have lower average incomes than do urban families. As a result, they pay relatively less tax and receive relatively more transfers. Rural families get more transfers because unemployment rates are higher and because more pensioners live in rural areas. Federal transfers account for 16% of rural residents' total income, compared to 9% of urban residents' total income. However, since the cost of living is lower in rural areas, a smaller percentage of rural people than urban residents live below Statistics Canada's "low income cut-off".

To help rural Canadians adapt to the knowledge-based economy, the Government's Community Access Program has supported more than 4,500 community access sites.

The Government's Community Volunteer Income Tax Program helps low-income people complete their income tax and benefit returns. Designed for people with simple tax situations, the program is free for its beneficiaries. It also offers free income tax training sessions to the volunteers.

Social Well-Being

Statistics suggest that rural Canadians have a lower level of social well-being. However, many rural Canadians believe their quality of life is better than that found in cities.

Outside the cities, there are half as many physicians per 1,000 people. The average rural Canadian lives 10 kilometres from the nearest doctor. And the further north you are, the further away the closest physician is.

The average rural Canadian does not have as much formal education as does an urban Canadian. Rural Canadians are also more likely to drop out of high school. In predominantly rural regions, 10% of the communities have less than 50% of the youth (20–24 years of age) who have completed high school. This contrasts with predominantly urban regions where approximately 1% of the communities have less than 50% of the youth (20–24 years of age) who have completed high school.

Rural Canadians also live far from the hubs of the nation's distribution networks for goods and services. Because of the distance involved, rural communities pay more per household for transportation, food and household operations.

On a positive note, there is 30% less reported personal victimization in rural Canada than there is in urban areas. This refers to sexual assault, robbery, assault and other personal crimes. There is also 40% less reported household victimization, meaning fewer cases of break and enter, theft of motor vehicles or household property, vandalism and other household crimes.

The Government is improving rural health care with such initiatives as the Health Transition Fund, First Nations and Inuit Home and Community Care Program, and Health Info-structure Support Program. These initiatives, which focus on home care, pharmacare, primary care and integrated service delivery, use telehealth technology.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) has been successful in preventing crime through community partnerships with the National Strategy on Community Safety and Crime Prevention.

Summary

The Government of Canada is responding to the challenges facing Canadians in rural and remote communities. However, communities can create their own futures. The federal government is now tightly coordinating its rural development initiatives so that they cross departmental lines. These projects will contribute to ensure the sustainable development of rural communities.

Responding to the Priorities of Rural Canadians

This section outlines the ways the Government of Canada has been addressing rural Canadians' concerns. First, we identify the specific issues rural citizens raised during the Rural Dialogue process. Then, we highlight some of the Government's specific actions. This section shows our progress so far in responding to rural Canadians' priorities. Annex C contains a more comprehensive list of government actions affecting rural Canada.

Priority Area: Access to Federal Government Programs and Services

Rural Canadians' Concerns

- Rural Canadians generally found information on government programs and services difficult to obtain and interpret. Access to information over the telephone was particularly frustrating for participants who found that it was difficult to get quick and consistent answers.

- There is a desire by rural Canadians to ensure that rural communities are learning about and accessing government programs and services at the same level as their urban counterparts. Information that is distributed needs to be understandable, concise, and timely.

- Rural Canadians have suggested that the federal government play a leadership role in establishing a single point of contact where communities could access all government services and programs. The determination of this contact point should remain flexible and be based upon the needs and characteristics of each community. Existing "tools" for providing access to information on government programs and services, such as Reference Canada, 1 800 O-CANADA, Canada Business Service Centres, and the Internet, should be used.

Government Action

Results

- We distributed *Your Guide to Government of Canada Programs and Services* to 2.3 million rural households across Canada.

- In 263 communities, many of these in rural areas, the information resources of the Canada Business Service Centres (CBSCs) are accessible through the extended network of CBSC Access Partners including economic and community development corporations, local Chambers of Commerce, and provincial district offices. At these locations, rural entrepreneurs can access the CBSC information base including information on 36 federal departments and agencies as well as provincial business programs, services and regulatory roles.

- We are establishing more than 110 Service Canada Access Centres across the country, with help from 30 federal departments and agencies, five provinces, and 200 municipalities and non-government organizations. These centres provide personal help and one-stop access to current information on more than 1,000 federal programs and services.

Horizontal Initiatives

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

The **Rural Exhibits Program** connects rural and remote regions to the Government of Canada. These exhibits provide information about federal programs and services to communities outside major cities, and foster ongoing dialogue with Canadians. During the program's three-year history (1997–2000), the exhibits have appeared in 339 venues in all provinces and territories across Canada. They are set up at fairs, conferences and trade shows, and in shopping malls. The program directly contacts an estimated 11% of attendees at fairs, and between 15% and 40% of the people attending conferences and trade shows.

Through the Rural Exhibits Program, information is distributed on some 29 federal departments and agencies. We hand out brochures, provide on-site Internet access and promote the 1 800 O-CANADA toll-free number. The program also employs about 50 rural youth each year.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada administers the Rural Exhibits Program, with funding from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Human Resources Development Canada, Natural Resources Canada, and Public Works and Government Services Canada.

In November 1999, the Cooperatives Secretariat launched a new information kit on cooperatives. This kit, available at Canada Business Service Centres across Canada, is designed to help Canadians establish cooperatives as an alternative way of doing business. The Government of Canada's Cooperatives Secretariat, the Canadian Cooperative Association and le Conseil canadien de la coopération jointly produced the kit, in close consultation with provinces and territories.

Canada Customs and Revenue Agency

With **TELEFILE**, clients of the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency can submit their personal income tax returns using a touch-tone telephone. Clients anywhere in Canada can use the toll-free number and, by responding to a series of questions, enter information from their returns. At the end of the session, an electronic record goes to the agency's main computer for processing. TELEFILE is designed for simple returns only.

The agency has also expanded its toll-free telephone enquiries service. The expanded network will let Canadians reach the next available agent in any of its 46 tax services offices, no matter where the client lives. Further, the agency is offering an automated telephone enquiries service that allows clients to get answers to frequently asked questions, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For general enquiries: (English) 1-800-959-8281 and (French) 1-800-959-7385. For business enquiries: (English) 1-800-959-5525 and (French) 1-800-959-7775.

Canada Post Corporation

Canada Post Corporation has made it a priority to improve the speed and reliability of mail delivery outside cities. In August 1999, the Government approved proposals for enhancing the range and accessibility of retail postal services in rural Canada.

As such, Canada Post created 96 *local areas*[6] across Canada. It also changed its procedures so that mail within a community is processed locally, while mail going to other places within the defined local areas is processed

[6] A local area is a region where inhabitants shop, work, send mail, conduct business and have a sense of community.

within those local areas. As a result, rural Canadians now enjoy the same letter-mail delivery standards as do urban Canadians: two days within a community, three days between communities in the same province and four days between communities nationally. Furthermore, in rural offices operated by Canada Post, local staff can alter their working hours to suit local needs.

Canada Post is also participating in 14 pilot sites with Service Canada across the country. These sites will provide the following:

- electronic access to government programs and services through a computer in the lobby;
- printed information on government programs and services; and
- one-on-one help from postal employees.

Finally, Canada Post and Industry Canada are working on six pilot Community Access Program sites in Prince Edward Island.

Government of Canada

In the 1999 Speech from the Throne, the Government stated that it "*will become a model user of information technology and the Internet. By 2004, our goal is to be known around the world as the government most connected to its citizens, with Canadians able to access all government information and services on-line at the time and place of their choosing.*"[7]

As a result, the Government announced in the 2000 Budget Speech $160 million over two years to design and launch an initiative to offer federal government services on-line to Canadians and stimulate the use of electronic commerce.

Government On-Line will provide many residents in rural and remote communities with better access to programs and services while creating a sense of connection to not only the federal government but with other communities across the country as they access the programs and services designed to serve all Canadians. This improved access will also help to build a federal presence in many communities where the government has been forced to close point of access service offices. It will make the federal government more responsive and relevant in the lives of all Canadians and their changing expectations as the world moves forward into the 21st century.

Canada Business Service Centres

The Government of Canada is committed to providing access to business programs and services throughout Canada through the network of Canada Business Service Centres (CBSCs). The CBSCs focus on the specific information needs of small business and start-up entrepreneurs by providing a convenient single source of information on federal and provincial government programs, services and regulations and a wide range of information sources and tools to help plan and expand their businesses. The federal government has announced continued funding of $75 million over a five year period from 1999–2000 to 2003–2004 for the CBSC initiative.

The CBSCs are operated on behalf of the federal government by the Industry portfolio (Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions, Western Economic Diversification Canada, and Industry Canada) in partnership with provincial and territorial governments and non-government business service organizations. A CBSC information

[7] Government of Canada, *Speech from the Throne to open the Second Session of the Thirty-Sixth Parliament of Canada*, October 1999, p. 7.

hub is located in every province and territory (13) providing access throughout Canada through toll-free telephone service (1-888-576-4444 to connect to the CBSC in each province), toll-free fax-on-demand information retrieval, e-mail, Internet (http://www.cbsc.org) and in-person service. The CBSCs received one of the 1999 Head of the Public Service Awards for service excellence and are a well-established service for small business throughout Canada.

In order to improve in-person information service in more communities, the CBSCs have extended access to their information resources through a network of regional access partners. There are currently 263 regional access partners of which 33 serve a predominantly Aboriginal population. Mostly these access partners are located in rural communities through collaboration with business and community futures development corporations, local Chambers of Commerce and other partners who have a mandate to provide service to small business in that community.

Public Works and Government Services Canada

Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) is exploiting new technologies to improve communications with Canadians. The Public Access Program has helped increase public awareness of, and access to, the Government of Canada. Program initiatives include a toll-free number (1-800-622-6232), and a Web site with links to most federal departments and agencies. To market and promote 1-800-O-Canada and *http://www.canada.gc.ca*, PWGSC uses rural information fairs, exhibits, listings in directories and the Blue Pages of the phone book, promotional brochures (distributed internally to potential government partners and externally to Canadians), and ads in community newspapers and in major magazines. The toll-free number has appeared in many government ad campaigns, including campaigns related to prenatal nutrition, year 2000 issues, education, the Speech from the Throne, the Governor General's Awards, climate change and the International Year of Older Persons.

PWGSC has also provided departments and agencies with toll-free call centre services. These centres have helped departments and agencies provide Canadians with information on such subjects as Canada Savings Bonds (Bank of Canada), hepatitis C (Health Canada), Canada Education Savings Grants (Human Resources Development Canada) and the Rural Dialogue (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada) initiative.

The Government is using PWGSC's infrastructure for public access to make it easier for rural Canadians to get government information. In a joint venture with Human Resources Development Canada, more than 30 departments and agencies are providing key information helpful to rural Canadians for use on the World Wide Web. This material will be available in information kiosks, which will be tested in post offices, Community Access Program sites and other places.

In addition, PWGSC has been working with provinces and municipalities to test how well the new telephone **Blue Pages** work. Together, they will establish common government telephone listings that will make it easier for citizens to find out about government services. For rural Canadians without Internet access, the Blue Pages will be especially helpful.

Contributing Departments and Agencies

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency
Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
Canada Post Corporation
Canadian International Development Agency
Citizenship and Immigration Canada
Department of Justice Canada
Environment Canada
Farm Credit Corporation
Federal Economic Development Initiative in Northern Ontario
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Health Canada
Human Resources Development Canada
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Industry Canada
Natural Resources Canada
Public Service Commission of Canada
Public Works and Government Services Canada
Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Transport Canada
Treasury Board Secretariat
Veterans Affairs Canada
Western Economic Diversification Canada

Priority Area: Access to Financial Resources

Rural Canadians' Concerns

- Rural Canadians believe that their access to financial resources is diminishing at a time when there is a growing need for such access in order to support new business ventures that are vital to the future of rural communities. Concerns about bank closures in rural communities are an important factor contributing to this belief.

- Rural Canadians have stated that banks and other financial institutions are generally reluctant to invest in rural initiatives due to the perceived potential risk, or because of a lack of understanding of the potential opportunities that exist in rural communities.

- Government should provide leadership in ensuring access to financial resources and in tailoring funding programs to respond to rural needs rather than simply providing generic funding which may favour urban over rural initiatives.

- Programs should be simplified by improving their overall flexibility and reducing the administrative burden associated with their application.

Government Action

Results

- Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's mortgage loan insurance can finance up to 95% of the value of a home. It is also available for up to 85% of the lending value of qualified rental properties to help landlords and developers access low-cost financing, thereby ensuring a supply of rental units.

- As an agent of the Bank of Montreal in Nain, Labrador and Inuvik, Northwest Territories, Canada Post is providing basic financial services to local businesses. Canada Post has set aside office space for financial institutions in some outlets.

- Under direction from the National Aboriginal Economic Development Board, Aboriginal Business Canada provides a range of services and support to Aboriginal entrepreneurs across Canada, including those in rural areas. The program focuses on strategic priority areas of trade and market expansion, Aboriginal tourism, innovation and technology development, youth entrepreneurship and strengthened Aboriginal financial organizations.

- The "Access-to-Capital" programming of the Aboriginal Business Development Initiative provides support to Aboriginal financial institutions that offer small business financing services to Aboriginal businesses and entrepreneurs. These include Aboriginal Capital Corporations, Aboriginal Community Future Development

Corporations and other Aboriginally-owned or controlled lending institutions. The $14.65 million funding for the "Access-to-Capital" programming comes from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada ($6.0 million), and from Industry Canada's regional development agencies ($6.0 million), as well as from Aboriginal Business Canada ($2.65 million).

- Two hundred and thirty-six Community Futures Development Corporations across rural Canada administer locally controlled investment funds, totalling more than $445 million. They can provide loans, loan guarantees or equity investments of up to $125,000 in local rural businesses.

Horizontal Initiatives

Canada Post Corporation

Canada Post Corporation has studied ways to provide access to some financial services in communities without financial institutions. This renewed focus on service to rural Canada follows extensive public hearings and research, which found that local post offices can play a greater role than can their urban counterparts.

Canada Post has been discussing pilot projects with financial institutions. It has already tested such services with the Bank of Montreal in Nain, Labrador, where Canada Post employees handle limited financial transactions. And in the post office in St. Apollinaire, Quebec, Canada Post has given the Banque Nationale space to offer banking services to its customers in a pilot project.

Department of Finance

To help rural communities adapt to rapidly changing financial services markets, the Department of Finance announced a new policy framework for the financial services sector in June 1999. The framework guarantees access to basic financial services and strengthens the credit union movement. It also requires banks to provide notice of branch closures and to consult with affected communities. The new ownership regime and lower capital requirements will make it easier to create smaller banks with a regional or community focus.

Rural Canadians will also benefit from other consumer protection measures, such as the new **Financial Consumer Agency** and the **Canadian Financial Services Ombudsman**. Small businesses across Canada, including those in rural areas, should profit from the new comprehensive database on loans to small and medium-sized enterprises. And Industry Canada's new analytical group should provide a better understanding of small and medium-sized enterprises' specific financing needs, as well as of opportunities in this sector for financial institutions.

Finally, the federal tax system has measures directed specifically at individuals and businesses in rural Canada. These measures include tax deferral, exemption, accelerated capital allowance, 100% write-off, deductibility of royalties, tax credits and non-taxation up to certain amounts. These measures fall under the categories of agriculture and fishing, natural resources and regional development.

Farm Credit Corporation

The Farm Credit Corporation (FCC) is Canada's largest agricultural term lender. It offers flexible financing solutions to primary producers and to farm-related small and medium-sized agri-businesses. The Corporation also

delivers joint programs and services with government agencies and other financial institutions. With 900 employees located in more than 100 locations across Canada, it delivers customized service to 44,000 clients, and works in partnerships with the agricultural industry to contribute to its growth and enhance rural Canada.

The Corporation has developed customized financial products for farmers, and for farm-related small and medium-sized agri-businesses. FCC's Agri-Start is an innovative line of loans designed to help families transfer farming operations from one generation to the next, as well as assist developing farmers in starting or expanding their operations. To assist the first-time young entrepreneur to start a new business, a low minimum down payment is required.

The Corporation's innovative **Agri-Start** line of loans, launched in September 1998, encompasses three products:

- The **Family Farm Loan** enables the developing farmer to finance the purchase of farm assets or transfer shares in a family farm business.
- The **1-2-3 Grow Loan** gives farmers financing with deferred payment options to start or expand an enterprise that will have a reduced stream for one to three years.
- The **Payday Loan** is designed for people who work off the farm and who want to start or expand a farm business.

In its first six months, demand for the Agri-Start line of products exceeded its objective of $35 million by $31 million for a total of $66 million. Private financial institutions have since duplicated these products.

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

The **Opportunity Fund** is one of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada's Business Equity Programs. This fund provides equity contributions to develop businesses in First Nations, Inuit and Innu communities. In 1998–1999, the fund approved 103 projects in the retail, commercial, technology and cable sectors. The Department expected to spend $7.8 million on the fund in 1999–2000.

The **Aboriginal Financial Services Forum** involves federal officials, the Canadian Bankers Association and chartered banks. Together, they are trying to improve access to commercial lending on reserve. The association makes on-reserve lending information available on its Web site at http://www.cba.ca/cba/eng/small%5Fbusiness/faqs/aboriginal%5Ffaq.htm.

The **Resources Acquisition Initiative**, delivered through Community Economic Development Organizations (CEDOs), assists First Nations, Inuit and Innu communities to acquire natural resource permits and licences by funding resource-sector and related business opportunities. Thirty-four projects were supported in 1998–1999, and funding for 1999–2000 is targeted at $5 million.

Access to Financial Services

Announced in April 1999, the Aboriginal Business Development Initiative is a $21 million package of measures designed to improve business development opportunities for Aboriginal peoples in Canada by improving access to capital, creating an Aboriginal Business Services Network and enhancing the delivery of existing business support programs to Aboriginal entrepreneurs and organizations. This Initiative is expected to result directly in the creation of some 900 new businesses and over 2,000 new jobs over its five years. Potentially, thousands of small- and medium-sized firms will be supported

through access to new information and support sources, referrals and business networks.

The three elements of the Aboriginal Business Development Initiative work together to address financing, information and service delivery requirements of Aboriginal firms and business organizations. These elements are:

- Access-to-Capital, launched in November 1999, involves a $14.6 million investment over the next four years. The two private sector partners, Peace Hills Trust and the National Aboriginal Capital Corporation Association, work with the federal government to provide on and off reserve Aboriginal entrepreneurs and small business owners with better access to much-needed capital;

- Aboriginal Business Services Network provides improved access to general business information, pathfinding and counselling services, and business tools for Aboriginal businesses across Canada; and

- Expanded use of existing business programs and services will find ways to improve the marketing and outreach to Aboriginal entrepreneurs of existing federal programs, and to reduce delivery obstacles and gaps.

The Aboriginal Business Development Initiative is a partnership among Aboriginal financial and business organizations (including Aboriginal Capital Corporations, Aboriginal Community Futures Development Corporations, and the National Aboriginal Capital Corporation Association), and federal organizations including: Industry Canada through Aboriginal Business Canada, the Canada Business Service Centres and FedNor; the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions and Western Economic Diversification Canada; and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

Contributing Departments and Agencies

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency
Business Development Bank of Canada
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency
Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
Canada Post Corporation
Department of Finance Canada
Farm Credit Corporation
Federal Economic Development Initiative in Northern Ontario
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Industry Canada
National Research Council
Natural Resources Canada
Transport Canada
Western Economic Diversification Canada

Priority Area: Opportunities for Rural Youth

Rural Canadians' Concerns

- Rural Canadians are concerned about the migration of rural youth to urban areas. They believe that the most common reason for the migration is the perceived lack of educational and employment opportunities for youth in their rural communities.
- Youth do not see a "future" for themselves in rural Canada and young rural Canadians' general lack of optimism about the benefits of remaining in a rural community is likely being reinforced by the lack of optimism often expressed by their parents.
- Youth need to feel that they are an important part of the community. This need can be addressed by responding to their educational, social and recreational requirements and by giving them a voice in finding solutions to their concerns.
- The most important means to ensure that youth remain in rural communities is to provide them with employment opportunities. This can be achieved through such initiatives as attracting businesses to rural areas and providing support for young peoples' business ideas.

Government Action

Results

- The Federal Public Sector Youth Internship Program funds youth in 12-month internships in more than 70 federal government departments, agencies and Crown corporations in all parts of Canada. It is managed by the Treasury Board Secretariat and is delivered by Career Edge in partnership with the YMCA.
- As part of the federal Youth Employment Strategy, Human Resources Development Canada, has assisted businesses, not-for-profit, public health and educational institutions, bands and tribal councils, and municipal governments to hire young Canadians from rural and remote areas.

Horizontal Initiatives

Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency

In April 1997, the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) launched the **Young Entrepreneurs Connexion Seed Capital and Counselling Initiative**. This project tries to improve the odds of survival for new small and medium-sized enterprises. It gives entrepreneurs between the ages of 18 and 29 access to business information and to unsecured personal loans.

The Agency also covers up to $2,000 in counselling and training costs for each Connexion loan applicant. Over the past two and a half years, the program has provided more than 1,100 low-interest loans to some 1,000 young people, whose businesses created more than 1,500 new jobs and maintained another 335 jobs. The loan portfolio now exceeds $12 million.

In addition, to ensure the greatest possible rural access to this program, it is being delivered through the 40 **Community Business Development Corporations** (CBDCs) in Atlantic Canada. As a result, about 85% of the seed capital has been used in rural communities. In addition to meeting client needs throughout the region, this program has decreased the number of young people leaving rural areas.

In Newfoundland, the Agency is coordinating **Futures in Newfoundland and Labrador Youth**. This umbrella organization represents youth involved in 20 regional economic development zones. It helps young people and government communicate with each other. ACOA Newfoundland will also stay involved with the Regional Economic Development and Schools Program. This program develops learning materials about opportunities in growing sectors, making school curricula more relevant to Newfoundland's local economies.

Open for Business is a network of storefront, youth friendly walk-in centres that help young people explore entrepreneurship. The centres have expanded into eight rural locations in Nova Scotia and may expand across Atlantic Canada. First tested in Halifax in 1996, this project is an initiative of the **Centre for Entrepreneurship Education and Development (CEED)**. CEED is a joint venture funded by the Nova Scotia Department of Education and the Canada/Nova Scotia Cooperation Agreement on Economic Diversification. The Nova Scotia Department of Economic Development and ACOA manage CEED.

ACOA Prince Edward Island supports the Central Development Corporation, which delivers the **I Want To Be A Millionaire** program in the West Prince, Evangeline, Central and Eastern regions of the province. This project gives young people aged 8 to 16 hands-on experience in setting up and running a business.

In New Brunswick, the Agency is working with the Kent Economic Commission, Human Resources Development Canada and the Big Cove First Nations to support the **Youth Entrepreneur Training Initiative**. This initiative raises awareness among young Aboriginal people of business opportunities.

Department of National Defence

The Department of National Defence and the Canadian Forces support rural Canada. More specifically, a number of their programs support rural youth. The **Canadian Forces Primary Reserve Force** not only improves the readiness of the Canadian Forces, but also supports peacetime activities. Military service for reservists is normally a part-time activity. Throughout the country, 201 reserve units employ some 30,000 people, many from rural communities.

Activities conducted by Sea, Army and Air cadets are wide-ranging and challenging: sailing, rock climbing, gliding and powered flight, music, map and compass, biathlon, camping and ceremonial drill are some of the interesting things cadets do. Through activities such as these, the Cadet Program develops in youth (between the ages of 12 and 18) the attributes of leadership, good citizenship, and physical fitness, while stimulating an interest in the Sea, Army and Air elements of the Canadian Forces. There are approximately 55,000 cadets located in over 1,100 corps and squadrons in cities and towns all across Canada. Visit the cadet Web site at http://www.cadetscanada.org.

The Junior Canadian Rangers (JCR) Program is open to all youth between 12 and 18 years of age and is attentive to the needs of youth that live in remote and isolated communities of Canada. It promotes a better understanding of and pride in the local communities and traditional values. The adult Canadian Rangers pass on many unique training experiences and leadership skills to the JCRs, while stressing local cultures, disciplines, and life skills. Participants enjoy a variety of activities including hunting, fishing, living off the land, learning about native spirituality, local dialects, traditional music, singing, and dancing. There are currently 54 patrols comprised of approximately 1,350 participants.

Public Service Commission

The Public Service Commission of Canada has put the **Federal Summer Work Experience Program** in place across Canada. Rural students participating in this program can gain valuable experience while developing and improving their employability skills.

Treasury Board Secretariat

In September 1997, the **Federal Public Sector Youth Internship Program** became part of the Prime Minister's response to youth unemployment. The program is managed by the Treasury Board Secretariat, and it is delivered by Career Edge in partnership with the YMCA. Its funds place youth in 12-month internships in more than 70 federal government departments, agencies and Crown corporations in all parts of Canada.

The Government designed the program to include rural youth and to reflect the higher demand in certain parts of the country. As a result, by the end of September 1999, 34% of all internship assignments were in rural areas. The program has exceeded its original targets and more than 4,000 young people will have participated by the end of 1999–2000. More than half of these people are non-graduates or youth at risk who are getting their first real work experience.

In the future, the program will be looking for better ways to attract rural youth. It will also try to foster partnerships between federal institutions to create internships.

Western Economic Diversification Canada

Since April 1997, Western Economic Diversification Canada (WEDC) has been investing in young people and rural economic development through the **Community Economic Development Internship Program** (CEDIP). The program is designed to ease some of the issues facing rural communities in the West, such as the migration of youth due to the lack of local employment opportunities.

CEDIP, funded at $2.94 million over the next two years, enables WEDC's network partners (Community Futures Development Corporations, Community Futures Associations and Women's Enterprise Initiatives) to hire post-secondary graduates. These interns enjoy the opportunity to work on such valued-added activities as promoting interest in self-employment and entrepreneurship among western Canadians. They also have the chance to experience several different work environments.

Contributing Departments and Agencies

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency
Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
Canadian Heritage
Citizenship and Immigration Canada
Department of National Defence
Farm Credit Corporation
Federal Economic Development Initiative in Northern Ontario
Human Resources Development Canada
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Industry Canada
National Research Council
Natural Resources Canada
Public Service Commission
Public Works and Government Services Canada
Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Treasury Board Secretariat
Western Economic Diversification Canada

Priority Area: Human Resource Leadership Development and Community Capacity Building

Rural Canadians' Concerns

- Many of the people that have a leadership role in rural communities are volunteers who have fulfilled this role for a long time. A lack of succession planning, the unavailability of tools to develop leadership skills and the increasing pressures placed on public representatives lead many to believe that rural communities will be without strong leadership in the future.

- The federal government can play a role in supporting strong leadership by approaching community development from the "bottom up", rather than the "top down." It can also act as a catalyst to help attract new leaders, including Aboriginals and seniors. Leadership skills among these groups, and within communities as a whole, can be supported by leadership development and mentoring programs, which could also serve to build community self-confidence.

- The key to building community capacity is collaboration at the community level. Collaboration should also occur among local organizations, the public and private sectors and other intermediaries. Rural Canadians have also raised the importance of sharing success stories, skills development and job creation in strengthening community capacity.

- The federal government can assist in community capacity building through financial support, including maintaining transfer payments to the provinces and providing a pool of funding to support community programming.

Government Action

Results

- Several federal departments and agencies sponsored a May 1999 workshop in Prince Rupert, a British Columbia community hurt by the decline in salmon fishing. A second workshop is planned for Campbell River, British Columbia in spring 2000. The workshops are part of the Pacific Fisheries Adjustment and Restructuring Program, which helps develop strategies to sustain West Coast communities that depend on the fishing industry.

- The Community Capacity Building initiative of Natural Resources Canada is aimed at building or enhancing capacity in rural, remote and Aboriginal communities for decision-making on the sustainable development and use of land and natural resources, as well as facilitating the transition to the knowledge-based economy. The initiative is being delivered in partnership with other government departments, provinces/territories, community and municipal governments, Aboriginal governments, volunteer organizations, the private sector, and academia.

- The Rural Partnerships Initiative supported a workshop and start-up activities that led to the formation of The Ontario Rural Council.

- Since 1994, the Model Forest Program has been funding the development of tenant forest farming, an innovative initiative in integrated management of forest resources which has enabled 26 families to earn a living in the Bas-Saint-Laurent Model Forest, near Rimouski, Quebec.

Horizontal Initiatives

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

On May 17, 1999, several departments co-sponsored a workshop in Prince Rupert, a British Columbia community hurt by the decline in salmon fishing. A second workshop is planned for Campbell River, British Columbia in spring 2000. The workshops are part of the **Pacific Fisheries Adjustment and Restructuring Program**, and the sponsoring departments and agencies are Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Human Resources Development Canada, Western Economic Diversification Canada, and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

Health Canada

In December 1994, Health Canada introduced the **Community Animation Program on Health and Environment**, which also involves Environment Canada. The program addresses environment and health issues that are specific to regions. It does this in several ways:

- by helping communities make informed decisions on environment and health issues;
- by promoting collaboration among government, businesses and other sectors;
- by developing community plans and strategies;
- by preventing or solving problems; and
- by developing the skills and capacities that communities need to address environment and health issues.

The Canadian Strategy on HIV/AIDS ensures that Canada can respond to this changing epidemic. The building blocks of the Strategy are innovation, sustainability and partnership. By funding innovative programs, the Government can help the volunteer, health care and research communities prevent HIV infection and care for, treat and support people living with HIV/AIDS in both urban and rural areas.

The **Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program** (CPNP) funds local community groups and organizations that help at-risk pregnant women and their newborn children. This comprehensive program provides food supplements, nutrition counselling, breast-feeding preparation and support, as well as referrals and education on lifestyle issues. Many CPNP projects meet the needs of rural communities across Canada.

Another Health Canada initiative, the **Community Action Program for Children** (CAPC), provides long-term funding to community groups that respond to the developmental needs of high-risk children from birth to age 6. Fourteen percent of CAPC projects are in remote communities and 37% are in communities of fewer than 50,000 people. In Atlantic Canada, 40 CAPC-funded projects established family resource centres, most of them in rural communities.

Human Resources Development Canada

Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) is committed "to working with communities to build their capacities". Community Capacity Building (CCB) is an approach to community development whereby control of the community's development rests with the people who make up the community. That is to say, a community should strive to be independent and use its assets to respond to challenges and create opportunities.

HRDC is promoting CCB as part of its business strategy with the goal of transforming a community into the kind of place its residents want it to be. The Department is shifting its focus from making decisions to supporting people in the community who, in turn, take ownership of available resources and determine the direction of its development. This means using the Department's programs, services and knowledge in an integrated and complementary manner. In particular, HRDC is helping communities set their own priorities, identify and develop their own capabilities and resources, and make the best investments for their future.

The following programs exemplify how HRDC is helping rural communities across Canada build their capacity to solve problems and respond to the needs of their citizens.

- **Child Care Visions** (CCV) is a research funding program sponsored by HRDC that is contributing to our increasing knowledge of rural child care concerns, as well as the capacity of child care providers, parents, and children in rural areas. Through research and evaluation projects on the adequacy, outcomes and cost-effectiveness of current best child care practices and ways to deliver child care, CCV funds the exploration of issues, such as lack of access, consequences, and safety issues pertaining to farms (as industrial sites) and homes. *"Lessons Learned, Roads Travelled"* is an example of a research project that produced a workbook on building responsive community-based rural child care options and four information videos looking at community vision, child care and farm safety, integrated hub models, and the benefits of rural child care. The workbook and video series was developed in partnership with rural community partners in Newfoundland, Ontario, Nova Scotia, Manitoba, and Alberta.

  For more information concerning Child Care Visions and other social development programs, consult the Internet site: http://www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca.

- In April 1999, Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) developed an **Aboriginal Human Resource Development Strategy** (AHRDS). The strategy expands on the Regional Bilateral Agreement model. AHRDS is a $1.6 billion federal commitment that provides assistance in all aspects of Aboriginal community development. The strategy integrates all Aboriginal programming, resulting in a full-service menu of options to Aboriginal people. The funds will be available through Aboriginal Human Resources Development Agreements negotiated between HRDC and Aboriginal groups across the country.

- In April 1999, the **Canada Jobs Fund** became a permanent Government of Canada program administered by HRDC. Building on the former Transitional Jobs Fund, it helps create long-term, sustainable jobs for people in areas where unemployment is 10% or higher. The fund also helps communities become more self-reliant. It promotes partnership arrangements with businesses, other government bodies and community stakeholders, so that new jobs reflect local or regional development strategies. The fund has an annual budget of $110 million and will help create some 10,000 new sustainable jobs.

Natural Resources Canada

The Community Capacity Building initiative of Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) is aimed at building or enhancing capacity in rural, remote and Aboriginal communities for decision-making on the sustainable development and use of land and natural resources, as well as facilitating the transition

to the knowledge-based economy. The initiative is being delivered in partnership with other government departments, provinces/territories, community and municipal governments, Aboriginal governments, volunteer organizations, the private sector, and academia. Work underway builds on the First Nations Forestry Program, Canada's Model Forest Program, and the Renewable Energy for Remote Communities Program. It also includes the Sustainable Communities Initiative (community-focused pilot projects under GeoConnections).

In the area of geomatics capacity building, NRCan has partnered with Aurora College and the School of Community Government in the Northwest Territories in a two year certificate program (Community Land Administration Certificate Program) for Aboriginal land administrators in the Arctic. The Department also provides training in legal surveying to Aboriginal communities in order to prepare them to provide technical and support services associated with land survey contracts.

As part of its provision of logistics services to Arctic scientific research, Natural Resources Canada's Polar Continental Shelf Project supports the transfer of traditional knowledge from the elders of Arctic communities to the youth. This is done by travelling to traditional sites seldom visited and by capturing traditional knowledge on audio and visual tapes. Community programs often involve visits by elders and youth to sites of historic and spiritual significance and traditional hunting and fishing areas. This allows elders to train northern youth in traditional lifestyles, and allows for records to be kept for archival and educational purposes of the knowledge imparted by the community elders.

The Canadian Forest Service has been a leader in developing community impact development models for communities that depend on forestry. Such models exist for several Northern Ontario communities. They are used as a rapid, reliable and cost-effective way of predicting the effect that an economic change might have on communities and regions.

Contributing Departments and Agencies

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency
Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
Canadian Heritage
Citizenship and Immigration Canada
Department of Justice Canada
Department of National Defence
Environment Canada
Farm Credit Corporation
Federal Economic Development Initiative in Northern Ontario
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Health Canada
Human Resources Development Canada
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Industry Canada
National Research Council
Natural Resources Canada
Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council
Parks Canada Agency
Public Works and Government Services Canada
Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council
Treasury Board Secretariat
Western Economic Diversification Canada

Priority Area: Rural Infrastructure

Rural Canadians' Concerns

- Rural Canada's infrastructure (e.g. transportation) has eroded as a result of government downsizing and cut-backs and the decreasing size of the tax base in rural communities. Decision-makers lack an understanding of the consequences of this erosion on rural communities. This limited understanding may be driven by "city thinking," which results in government programs and policies not being adapted to rural realities.

- The federal government can manage infrastructure issues by taking a long-term view when making infrastructure-related decisions.

- It should ensure that any infrastructure program put in place is comprehensive and will meet the needs of rural communities. Involvement from the grassroots level should be sought to identify solutions.

Government Action

Results

- The Canada Customs and Revenue Agency has rebuilt port structures at Coutts, Alberta and Emerson, Manitoba. This has improved traffic flow.

- At least 35 government-funded projects across the country are developing innovative housing ideas, such as new building techniques, housing designs and energy sources. These projects are part of the First Nations Innovative Housing Fund.

- Canada Post now has 7,200 outlets, giving it Canada's largest cross-country retail network.

Horizontal Initiatives

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) is Canada's national housing agency and plays a major role in Canada's housing industry. CMHC develops new ways to finance home purchases and encourages innovation in housing design and technology. In addition, CMHC's mortgage loan insurance, through its public, private and not-for-profit partners, improves the quality, accessibility and affordability of housing everywhere in Canada.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation helps Aboriginal households and non-Aboriginal households in sparsely populated rural areas, to buy or rent housing. It does this through the **Rural and Native Housing Program**. This program looks at such tenure options as renting, leasing to purchase, owning and paying a portion of income for shelter. Since 1992, Aboriginal groups have managed the property of the Corporation's Rural and Native Housing portfolio. This portfolio is part of the $1.9-billion Assisted Housing Program.

The Canadian Centre for Public-Private Partnerships in Housing is comprised of a community-focused, experienced team within Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Its network of housing partnership experts help communities make informed decisions about affordable housing development. Among its services are Proposal Development Fund Loans For Affordable Housing. The loans provide the means for CMHC to encourage the development of projects that offer housing for seniors, the disabled and low-income Canadian households including First Nations, through innovative partnership arrangements. In the past six years, CMHC has lent over $10 million in development funding leading to the development of 200 project proposals.

The **Emergency Repair Program** helps eligible rural homeowners fix their homes so that they can live in them safely. The program covers urgent repairs to, for example, heating systems, chimneys, doors and windows, foundations, roofs, floors, and plumbing. An estimated 2,250 households used this program in 1997–1998, and at least 5,000 households are expected to have benefitted from it in 1998–1999. Aboriginal people use a significant portion of this program.

CMHC also administers a number of programs promoting affordable housing. The **Homeowner Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program** offers financial assistance to households in Core Housing Need who own and occupy sub-standard housing to enable them to repair their dwellings to a minimum level of health and safety. The **Rental Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program** offers assistance to landlords of affordable housing to pay for mandatory repairs to self-contained units occupied by low-income tenants. This program is available in both rural and urban areas. The **Rooming House Residential Rehabilitation Program** offers repair assistance to owners of rooming houses with rents affordable to low-income individuals. This program is also available in both urban and rural areas.

Public Works and Government Services Canada

Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) has cleaned up many contaminated sites. For example, on behalf of Environment Canada, PWGSC worked on the Mould Bay weather station on Prince Patrick Island, which is more than 1,000 kilometers north of the Arctic Circle. This work involved excavating and moving soil that had been contaminated by fuel from storage tanks. It also meant capping landfills and dealing safely with waste PCBs.

Moreover, PWGSC manages almost $1 billion worth of construction annually, much of which benefits rural communities. In the later stages of a property's life span, PWGSC gives away or sells assets and property that the Government does not want anymore.

PWGSC is putting in place critical infrastructure to support the Government of Nunavut. To deal with the influx of new employees hired by the new government, PWGSC is helping build 10 office buildings and 250 housing units in 11 communities. It is doing this work in partnership with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and with the completely Inuit-owned Nunavut Construction Corporation. Working with the Government of the Northwest Territories, PWGSC is also expanding and upgrading Nunavut's community infrastructure and services.

Finally, PWGSC has worked with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada to improve water and sewage facilities on reserves in the Pacific region, specifically in Hartley Bay, Port Simpson, Glen Vowell, Kitkatla and Dididaht. Aboriginal contractors and administrators have helped plan and build these facilities.

Transport Canada

Transport Canada wants to ensure that the national transportation system can move goods and people in an efficient, safe and environmentally friendly way. To do this, it has negotiated bilateral highway funding agreements with all provinces and territories. Under these agreements, the two sides share the cost of upgrading highways.

The **Airport Capital Assistance Program** helps airport owners and operators finance projects that improve safety, protect assets and reduce costs. This program has been particularly useful to smaller airports.

In addition, the Government has developed a national plan to foster the creation of an **intelligent transportation system (ITS)** that would cross urban and rural areas. Such systems connect computers, highways and cars. Transport Canada will work on ITS with the provinces and, sometimes, with such federal organizations as Environment Canada and the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency.

Similarly, the **Grade Crossing Improvement Program** helps make rail crossings safer by installing lights and gates, by connecting crossing signals to nearby traffic lights, or by adding new operating circuits or timing devices at crossings, for example. This program invests an average of $7.5 million a year in safer rail crossings.

Contributing Departments and Agencies

Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
Environment Canada
Federal Economic Development Initiative in Northern Ontario
Health Canada
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Industry Canada
National Research Council
Natural Resources Canada
Public Works and Government Services Canada
Transport Canada
Western Economic Diversification Canada

Priority Area: Rural Telecommunications and Use of the Information Highway

Rural Canadians' Concerns

- Television and radio reception is often limited in remote areas due to the high costs involved in serving these populations.
- Although the Internet can offer increased access to information and services, technological, financial and knowledge barriers limit its use in rural communities.
- When responding to the telecommunications needs of rural residents, infrastructure should be dealt with first: "Canadians need a telecommunications system that everyone can access. It should incorporate a basic level of service at an affordable cost."[8]
- The federal government should disseminate information about technology to the public, fund access to telecommunications services that will result in access by all Canadians, and be responsible for legislation, regulation and the standardization of technology.
- The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) should play a lead role in ensuring fairness in the provision of telecommunications services to all Canadians.

Government Action

Results

- Under the Community Access Program, the Government has established more than 4,500 public Internet access sites in roughly 3,000 rural and remote communities.
- Altogether, 142 federal Web sites provide rural Canadians with information on federal programs and services.
- A Canadian Rural Partnership pilot project outfitted a semi-trailer as a mobile computing lab. This brought training and computer access to about a dozen small rural communities in northern Saskatchewan.

Horizontal Initiatives

Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission handles business arising from the *Telecommunications Act*. It tries to balance the act's nine policy objectives. One of these objectives is to have "reliable and affordable telecommunications services of high quality accessible to Canadians in both urban and rural areas in all regions of Canada."

[8] Government of Canada, *Rural Solutions to Rural Concerns*, National Rural Workshop, October 2–4, 1998, Ottawa, 1999, p. 29.

In 1996, after holding regional public hearings, the Commission decided that most Canadians could afford today's telephone rates. But it also ordered telephone companies to report regularly on disconnection statistics and other data which will help to identify affordability problems, since all Canadians do not have telephones or basic telephone service. The next year, the Commission decided that rural rates should not be higher than urban rates. At the same time, it limited annual increases in basic local residential rates so that, on average, they do not rise faster than inflation does.

In October 1999, the Commission finished a two-year study of the high cost of telephone service in remote and rural locations. It then asked telephone companies to prepare plans to provide basic service to all their customers. The Commission further required the companies to extend basic service to the estimated 13,000 residences and businesses that do not have telephones.

This is what we mean by basic service:

- single-line, touch-tone service with local calling access to the Internet;
- access to enhanced calling features, including 911, voice message relay services for those with hearing difficulties and features that protect privacy;
- access to operator and directory assistance services;
- access to long distance; and
- a copy of the current local telephone directory.

To fulfil the requirements of the Telecommunications Act, the Commission must balance social policy objectives, such as ensuring high-quality and affordable service, with competitive objectives, such as minimizing subsidies. As a result, it rejected calls to set a minimum data transmission speed[9] and to make data transmission speed a basic service objective given the associated costs. Instead, the Commission hopes competitive pressure and improving network technology will ensure faster transmission speeds.

Environment Canada

Environment Canada is leading the **Kugluktuk Information Sharing Service Pilot Project**. This project is building an Internet-based service that will help people in Kugluktuk, Nunavut share the information they need to make decisions. To do this, Environment Canada is working with Natural Resources Canada, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and territorial departments.

Industry Canada

Connecting Canadians is designed to give Canadians the widest Internet access in the world. This strategy has led Industry Canada to create many innovative programs and services, as outlined in this section.

Canada On-line is one of the six pillars of the Government's national connectedness agenda. It provides all Canadians, including those in rural and remote communities, with access to Canada's information highway infrastructure. It does this by encouraging businesses to invest and to innovate.

[9] Higher data transmission speeds are now available to Internet users in some cities.

Smart Communities is a three-year $60 million federal program to help establish world-class Smart Communities across the country by way of Smart Community Demonstration Projects — one in each province, one in the North and one in an Aboriginal community. The program is designed to help Canada become a world leader in the development and use of information and communication technologies, to link people, organizations and communities, to share ideas and experiences, and to address local economic, social and cultural development needs.

Electronic Commerce is changing the way Canadians conduct business. Industry Canada is creating a legal and regulatory framework to encourage more electronic transactions and to make Canada the "place to be" for electronic commerce products and services.

Canadian Governments On-line is using new technologies to better serve citizens and businesses, especially over the Internet. It is also working with other government partners to provide easily accessible services on-line.

Connecting Canada to the World promotes Canada as a leading knowledge-based economy that is attractive to foreign investment.

To maintain a high standard of living and a better quality of life, we need a highly skilled workforce. **Canada's SchoolNet** is helping young Canadians develop the skills required in the knowledge-based economy by giving them access to tools and information. SchoolNet is working with the provinces and with businesses to extend connectivity in the classroom. As part of Canada's SchoolNet, **Computers for Schools** provides schools and libraries with surplus computers and software donated by governments and businesses. In addition, **First Nations SchoolNet** gives schools an affordable, high-speed connection to the Internet via DirecPC™ satellite terminals. So far, 80% of eligible schools are participating.

The **Community Access Program** helps to provide rural, remote and urban communities with affordable access to the Internet. The program also provides new ways to communicate, learn and do business in today's knowledge-based economy. It is a cost-shared program that covers only half of a project's costs, and then only for viable proposals. By working with provincial and territorial governments, educators, libraries, schools and the private sector, the program aims to create up to 10,000 public Internet access sites in Canada by March 31, 2001.

The **Voluntary Sector Network Support Program** (VolNet) will help 10,000 voluntary organizations get on-line by March 31, 2001. It will help volunteers develop the skills they need to use new electronic media, and it will provide Internet connectivity, computer equipment and Internet support.

Strategis is Canada's most comprehensive business information Web site. It contains two million easily navigated documents, including business information and trade data, as well as hundreds of links to business-related sites around the world. It even has tips for managing small businesses, including firms in rural areas, e.g. Aboriginal Business Map and Canadian Business Map.

Through its regional development programming and the Community Futures Program, Industry Canada's **Federal Economic Development Initiative in Northern Ontario** (FedNor) is supporting connectedness. Since 1997, FedNor has invested more than $7.6 million in telecommunications and information technology in northern Ontario.

The City of Grande Prairie got extra money from the **Canadian Rural Partnership** to speed up its plans to bring geographic information system products on-line. This would make it possible to provide 911 dispatch information for most of the Peace Region and it would make assessment information available to the public over the Internet. Industry Canada and Alberta Economic Development worked together on this project.

Industry Canada's **Communications Research Centre** has funded many projects to improve rural communities' access to telehealth services. These services include the Remote Communities Services Telecentre, Health and Education Access for Remote Residents by Telecommunications, Project OUTREACH (telepsychiatry), project I-Site (teleophthalmology), Disaster Mitigation (rapid deployment of satellite communications) and PACE 2000 (in-home monitoring of physiotherapy for post-operative geriatric patients).

Public Works and Government Services Canada

Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) initiatives are increasing rural access to low-cost telecommunications and the Internet.

Electronic direct deposit of federal government cheques, for example, continues to grow in popularity. The Government now makes roughly 64% of federal payments electronically — more than 100 million payments a year.

In 1998, PWGSC began making federal government employee e-mail addresses public over the Internet. This has made government more accessible. **Government Electronic Directory Services**, a web-based directory of federal employees, gets some 28,000 hits a day. That number rose 25% in the past year, with more than 60% of the hits coming from outside government.

PWGSC has improved communications in remote First Nations communities in northern Ontario by using **Government Mobile Satellite Services** to connect First Nations schools to the Internet. Forty-five of these schools were in places that had no telephone access. This is part of Industry Canada's SchoolNet initiative.

PWGSC is running the **Yukon On-Line Pilot Project**, funded by the Canadian Rural Partnership initiative. This program is showing how government can develop technology to provide acceptable Internet-based services to rural Yukon communities.

Contributing Departments and Agencies

Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency
Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions
Canada Post Corporation
Canadian Heritage
Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission
Environment Canada
Farm Credit Corporation
Federal Economic Development Initiative in Northern Ontario
Health Canada
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Industry Canada
National Research Council
Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council
Public Works and Government Services Canada
Transport Canada
Treasury Board Secretariat
Veterans Affairs Canada

Priority Area: Economic Diversification

Rural Canadians' Concerns

- Industry downsizing in single industry communities, particularly employment in the primary and resource sectors, was identified as a key driving force behind the need for rural economic diversification.
- Many rural Canadians feel that unfortunately their communities do not have the assets needed to generate new ideas and opportunities. They lack the necessary processes, leadership and overall mind set required to diversify their economies.
- Other obstacles they face include restrictive regulations and limited infrastructures.

Government Action

Results

- The Canada–Saskatchewan Agri-Food Innovation Fund funded more than 230 projects to help clients move to a more market-driven economy.
- The Eastern Ontario Model Forest Program developed the Seal of Quality for Ontario's maple syrup industry. It also produced a brochure with a map showing easy-to-reach public forest facilities.
- In 1998, under the Procurement Strategy for Aboriginal Business, 22,668 federal contracts worth $99.5 million went to Aboriginal businesses.

Horizontal Initiatives

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Since 1995, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada has invested $60 million a year in the **Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development Fund**. This fund helps communities adapt when industry cannot do the job on its own. It is focusing on new opportunities in research and innovation, environmental sustainability, food safety and quality, human resources, marketing and rural development. The fund invests some 65% of its money in national programs, with the remaining money going to 13 regional councils.

The **Matching Investment Initiative** is one way to increase collaborative research activity with the private sector. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada will match industry R&D contributions to such research projects. Government funding for the program should reach $35.8 million by the year 2000.

The **Agri-Food Trade Service** is a focal point for exporters. It simplifies access to international market information and intelligence, export counselling and support programs.

Business Planning for Agri-Ventures helps farmers and their business associates get planning advice to make their businesses more successful. The program will pay up to 50% of the consulting fees that professional business planners charge to prepare business plans. Although funded by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the program is managed by a committee representing many Canadian farm and farm finance sectors. It is run by the Farm Credit Corporation.

The **Canadian Farm Business Management Program**, launched in 1992, helps farmers upgrade their business management skills so that they can better compete in domestic and global markets, and make their farming operations more profitable. The program is a partnership among producers, the provinces and the federal government.

The **Farm Consultation Service** provides financial management counselling to farmers through pathfinder and referral services and through direct one-on-one counselling. The Pathfinder Internet Database lists resources and alternatives available to help farmers and lenders improve farm operations.

The **Farm Debt Mediation Service** provides insolvent farmers and their creditors with mediation services, as outlined in the federal *Farm Mediation Act* and Regulations. This helps both parties reach a mutually satisfactory arrangement. The service is a private, confidential and economical alternative to the courts. If mediation does not work, parties can still go to court. Over 70% of the cases under the former *Farm Debt Review Act* were resolved using mediation.

The Government has increased funding of the **Protein Oil and Starch Pilot Plant**. This applied research and development facility develops new products and technologies for such commodities as cereal grains, oilseeds and specialty crops. It is a not-for-profit joint venture among industry, the federal government and the Province of Saskatchewan.

The Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) is working with partners and clients to identify, develop and demonstrate diversification opportunities (value-added products and non-food products from agricultural products), resource management practices, and innovative affordable technologies. PFRA is striving to increase understanding and adoption of land and water management practices that support value-added production and diversification, among agricultural producers on the Prairies. It is carrying out work in a number of areas:

- methods of improving the quality of water for rural residents, livestock and agricultural enterprises;

- technologies and practices that support the application of effective irrigation production systems; and

- increased understanding of market opportunities of products from trees and shrubs grown on the Prairies.

The new *Canada Cooperatives Act* came into effect in December 1999. This act gives non-financial cooperatives more flexibility to compete domestically and internationally. With this new legislation, Canadian cooperatives will be positioned to contribute significantly to the Canadian economy, particularly in rural Canada.

Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions

Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions is helping to diversify the province's economy. The **Special Fund for the Economic Development and Adjustment of Quebec Fishing Communities (Coastal Quebec)** helps communities affected by the restructuring of the groundfish industry. These communities are the Côte-Nord du Québec and Gaspésie/Îles-de-la-Madeleine administrative regions, as well as adjacent fishing communities. This fund, in partnership with Human Resources Development Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada, has helped develop aquaculture of mussels, scallops and other promising marine products.

The agency uses **Regional Strategic Initiatives** to strengthen the business climate for small and medium-sized businesses. It also helps bring the new economy to rural areas, and it improves local resources by fostering networks that develop regional infrastructure. For example, the **Rural Enterprise Program** has developed rural niche products[10] and helped rural Canadians pursue activities based on technologies normally associated with urban areas.

Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade secures and protects market access for Canadians by promoting Canadian exports and by reducing trade barriers abroad. This is done overseas through Canadian embassies and consulates, including the Trade Commissioner Service, which actively promotes the economic interests of Canada in the global marketplace.

International trade initiatives fall into five main areas:

- market access (the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade [DFAIT] negotiates trade agreements as part of a coherent trade policy strategy favouring open markets and a rules-based trading system);

- international promotional activities (DFAIT/ Trade Commissioner Service officers identify key business contacts, provide market information and intelligence, provide foreign sales leads, and make recommendations on market strategies);

- export information (electronic dissemination through the INFOEXPORT Web site of trade information and market opportunities);

- market development assistance (the federal Program for Export Market Development increases the number of first-ever and new-to-market exporters); and

[10] These are products made on a small scale and based on an original feature of the area.

- investment development (international investment is brought to Canada by marketing Canada's image, by targeting select multi-national firms, by supporting Investments Partnerships Canada, and by fostering international partnering opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises).

Federal Economic Development Initiative in Northern Ontario

The Federal Economic Development Initiative in Northern Ontario (FedNor) promotes economic growth, diversification, job creation and sustainable, self-reliant communities. It works with community partners and other organizations to improve small businesses' access to capital, information and markets.

In 1998, the Government gave FedNor a $20 million annual budget. The following year, the Government appointed the first Secretary of State for FedNor and increased FedNor's budget by $60 million over the next three years. It also helped FedNor respond more flexibly to the unique economic challenges of this largely rural, resource-dependent region.

FedNor usually funds not-for-profit organizations that support small business growth under the broad categories of connectedness, innovation, investment, trade and community partnerships. Since 1997, FedNor has invested more than $45 million in 680 projects in northern Ontario. It also runs the **Community Futures Program**, which supports community economic development and diversification in both northern and rural southern Ontario.

Team Canada Inc

Team Canada Inc (TCI) is a partnership of twenty-three federal departments and agencies which work with provincial and territorial governments and other partners to help Canadian companies succeed in world markets. This network works together to provide one-stop access to information services and programs that businesses can use to succeed in the global marketplace.

This "virtual trade agency" helps create jobs and prosperity by assisting Canadian firms to take full advantage of international opportunities and by facilitating the flow of goods, services and technology. This, in turn, helps improve rural infrastructure and the rural economy. Our Team Canada Inc services are delivered to Canadian businesses across Canada and around the world.

Team Canada Inc has two key services available to both rural and urban Canadians:

- TCI's Export Information Service provides direct single-window access to the programs and services of the 23 member departments and agencies through a national toll-free number (1-888-811-1119). Callers are automatically connected to the Export Information agent at one of the 12 Canada Business Service Centres located nearest to them. In 1999, the toll-free number received some 17,000 calls which was an increase of 82% over 1998.

- ExportSource, Team Canada Inc's Web site, is an on-line resource for export information. It provides export-ready and new-to-export Canadian businesses with a single access point to all trade-related government departments and agencies on topics, such as: market research, trade statistics, export financing, export contacts, export regulations/logistics and trade shows and missions. The award-winning ExportSource Web site (http://exportsource.gc.ca) received a total of more than 166,000 visits in 1999.

Contributing Departments and Agencies

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency
Business Development Bank of Canada
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency
Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
Canadian Heritage
Canadian Commercial Corporation
Canadian International Development Agency
Citizenship and Immigration Canada
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
Environment Canada
Export Development Corporation
Farm Credit Corporation
Federal Economic Development Initiative in Northern Ontario
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Human Resources Development Canada
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Industry Canada
National Research Council
National Farm Products Council
Natural Resources Canada
Public Works and Government Services Canada
Statistics Canada
Transport Canada
Western Economic Diversification Canada

Priority Area: Access to Health Care

Rural Canadians' Concerns

- Some rural Canadians feel rural and remote communities do not have readily accessible health care. People living in rural communities must increasingly travel long distances to receive health care, especially in remote and northern communities.
- There is a concern about adequate health care for an ageing population.
- There is a need to attract and retain health care professionals and to improve the infrastructure required to deliver health care services.
- A number of essential services should be maintained in each community to guarantee a minimum standard of care.The federal government should set national standards regarding access to health care, and should fund studies undertaken in health care.
- Partnerships are needed between all levels of government in order to develop a holistic approach to health care.

Government Action

Results

- Twenty-seven projects of the Health Transition Fund focus on rural and remote community health care concerns, such as home care delivery and telehealth technology.
- Projects funded under the Community Animation Program help community groups work on environment and health issues.
- Nova Scotian clients of Veterans Affairs Canada are enjoying improved access to computer technology and health information.

Horizontal Initiatives

Health Canada

The Government has relied on Health Canada to bring partners together to improve health information and access to that information; to strengthen and integrate health services; and to improve the way we assess the health system and the factors that affect health.

The **1999 Budget Innovations in Rural and Community Health Initiative** includes a two-year, $11-million rural health funding program. This program supports innovative projects that address the health concerns of Canadians living in rural and remote communities.

The **Health Transition Fund** supports projects dealing with home care, pharmacare, primary care and integrated service delivery. Different levels of government work together to invest $30 million in national programs and $120 million in provincial and territorial projects. About 27 of the fund's projects directly address rural and remote health care. These projects overcome barriers to home-care delivery in rural areas and they look at improving access to health care through telehealth technology. In addition, they improve the way primary health care and integrated health services are organized in and delivered to rural regions. Several other fund projects also affect rural health. Most projects will be done by October 2000.

The **Centres of Excellence for Women's Health** provide information that helps legislators develop health policies, and they do research on the ways gender affects health. Several of their projects improve our understanding of the health needs of women living in rural and remote areas. These multi-disciplinary centres, located in five major cities across the country, are partnerships among academics, community-based organizations and policy makers.

The **Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program** has a component dedicated to First Nations and Inuit families. This program improves the health of pregnant women and of their babies. It also encourages breast-feeding. The community-based program is flexible enough to meet individual communities' needs. It offers training in regions and has links to Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

Similarly, the **Aboriginal Head Start (On-Reserve) Program** supports early-child development strategies run by First Nations communities. These strategies give preschool children a positive sense of themselves, foster a desire for learning and help children develop fully.

The **First Nations and Inuit Home and Community Care Program** is a three-year program. It includes a resource planning toolkit that will help First Nations and Inuit communities assess their needs, plan programs, and establish home and community care programs.

The $10 million **Health Infostructure Support Program**, established in 1998 and ending in December 2000, will make it easier for Canadians to find and use health information. It will do this by using information and communications technologies. Four of the 36 projects specifically target rural and remote areas.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) knows that preventing rural crime, suicide and family violence is integrally linked to improving rural health.

The **RCMP Suicide Intervention Program** confronts the increasingly serious suicide problem in many of Canada's isolated communities. The five-day program takes a community-based approach to suicide intervention. It links existing national training resources to local people and organizations.

More than 800 police and community members have been trained in workshops throughout Canada.

Family violence, particularly in Aboriginal communities, usually hurts the people who are represented by a predominantly male leadership: women and children. The RCMP is working with the Aboriginal Nurses Association of Canada to reach such victims of violence.

Drug awareness programs alert communities to new trends in drug abuse. They also show communities how to spot and deal with drug or substance abuse. **Drug Awareness for Life** (DEAL) works mostly with young people. It is a partnership with educators and various non-profit drug awareness and prevention groups. DEAL also has a useful Web site (http://www.deal.org). Three volunteer teachers are now working on a school curriculum unit.

Often, RCMP officers in rural communities do not have specialized medical equipment (for example, defibrillators) and, as a result, do not have the necessary training to operate them. The RCMP is now studying **Public Access to Defibrillation**, a partnership among private industry, emergency personnel, health officials and educators.

Western Economic Diversification Canada

Western Economic Diversification Canada's Innovation Strategy fosters business opportunities for small and medium-sized businesses in western Canada. It looks for projects and funds research relating to telehealth in Canada. The agency is working with several federal departments, provincial governments, businesses, health care providers and research organizations.

Contributing Departments and Agencies

Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency
Canadian Heritage
Environment Canada
Farm Credit Corporation
Health Canada
Industry Canada
Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Western Economic Diversification Canada

Priority Area: Access to Education

Rural Canadians' Concerns

- There is a concern about the unavailability of quality education for youth in their communities.
- There is also a concern over the number of youth who are not completing their education, especially high school.
- There is a need to attract qualified educators and ensure that the educational system provides a sufficient number of options for students. The development of a telecommunications infrastructure and incentives to attract educators is viewed as possible means of supporting education in rural communities.
- There is also a need to ensure that communities retain their schools.
- Making available the necessary financial resources would help maintain or improve access to education.
- The federal government should help develop educational standards and should fund and conduct educational studies.
- There was a desire to introduce educational programs that develop practical skills and to more closely link what is taught in school to the needs of employers.

Government Action

Results

- The National Literacy Secretariat funds projects that provide distance education for 28 communities in northern Saskatchewan. It also funds a training package for literacy practitioners in remote northern communities.
- The First Nations Forestry Program helped publish *The Aboriginal Resource Technician's Continuing Education Catalogue* (1999) and *Megwekob 2000: A Guide to Aboriginal Forestry in Canada*.
- The Canada Student Loans Program (CSLP) is enhancing access to post-secondary education for all qualified students with demonstrated financial need. The Program has a significant impact on reducing geographic, socio-economic and other constraints on participation in post-secondary education. In addition, the Program helps promote student mobility as Canada Student Loans are fully portable.
- Five regional offices of the Public Service Commission of Canada offer distance learning through Internet and classroom settings.

Horizontal Initiatives

Citizenship and Immigration Canada

Citizenship and Immigration Canada has created **Integration-Net**, a Web site that helps the Canadian settlement community share ideas for helping newcomers adapt to Canadian society.

Citizenship and Immigration Canada is working with federal and private sector partners to sponsor **Citizenship Week 2000**. This event will use communication tools designed for the classroom. It will feature quiz questions on the history of Canada and on the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

Department of Justice Canada

The Department of Justice Canada is funding the Centre for Initiative in Education at Carleton University. This centre is assessing the needs of Inuit post-secondary students. It is proposing a program that could be in place by September 2000. This program would provide undergraduate students with mentors in Nunavut. The emphasis would be on remedial education and courses in justice and law. About a dozen students could get an undergraduate degree in four years this way.

Eventually, this program will offer a bachelor of arts degree in social sciences, which could be useful to people working in any Nunavut-based federal department. The program could also feed into the Nunavut Law School Program. These students would be qualified to work as paralegals, assistants to victims and witnesses, court workers or justices of the peace.

The Nunavut-based Akitsiraq Law School Society and the Faculty of Law at the University of Victoria have submitted a joint proposal to the federal Department of Justice. They want to create a University of Victoria campus in Iqaluit. About a dozen students would attend pre-law and a three-year law program. After this, they could work in Nunavut as lawyers, federal prosecutors, territorial legal officials or legal aid officers.

Finally, the Department of Justice Canada is working on an Inuit trainee program. This would offer salaries to Inuit students who study in a justice-related field and who would work for the Department of Justice afterward. This program would apply to all categories of legal staff, including lawyers, paralegals and legal secretaries.

Human Resources Development Canada

Through its Community Learning Networks (CLN) initiative, the **Office of Learning Technologies** supports education in rural areas by funding learning technology projects. It also works directly with communities to help rural Canadians learn using computers and the Internet. CLN lets communities control the delivery of lifelong learning programs and of Human Resources Development Canada services.

CLN works with Industry Canada and its Community Access Program, as well as with Canadian Heritage, Health Canada and other federal departments. The project concentrates on communities experiencing high unemployment or abrupt change, or communities that are left out because they are far from such things as Internet access. CLN helps these communities evolve by providing funding, by emphasizing partnerships with different sectors, and by publicizing rural and remote issues.

Of the $29.7 million going into the CLN initiative over three years, half will be spent in rural and remote Canada. This should result in about 50 CLNs.

The **National Literacy Secretariat** funds rural literacy projects and works with the Rural Secretariat in Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. Project

recipients include Yukon College (Old Crow campus), St. Elias Community School (Haines Junction, Yukon), the Northwest Territories Literacy Council and Northlands College (Saskatchewan). For instance, the Secretariat funded distance education for 28 communities in northern Saskatchewan, a training package for literacy practitioners in remote northern communities, family literacy outreach projects and curriculum development for learners in the North. Projects are developed through partnerships with local, provincial, territorial, native and community organizations.

The **Canada Student Loans Program (CSLP)** supports eligible students living in rural communities by providing them with the financial assistance they need to pursue post-secondary education. CSLP is the largest single program of financial assistance for students in the country. Every year, CSLP provides assistance to approximately 400,000 students which represent about 30% of all students enrolled in universities, community colleges, vocational and technical institutes. Approximately 22% of all students assisted under CSLP are from rural communities. CSLP also provides Quebec and Northwest Territories with an alternative payment to assist them in administering comparable programs.

Learning Strategies and Support of the Learning and Literacy Directorate launched **CanLearn Interactive** in 1999. CanLearn is a bilingual Internet resource for learning information, products and services to support Canadians in pursuit of learning and career goals. By enabling access to a wide variety of information on learning and skills development opportunities, careers, the labour market, financial assistance and planning for personal lifelong learning goals, CanLearn is particularly invaluable for students located in rural and remote parts of Canada.

Contributing Departments and Agencies

Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency
Canadian Heritage
Citizenship and Immigration Canada
Department of Justice Canada
Federal Economic Development Initiative in Northern Ontario
Human Resources Development Canada
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Natural Resources Canada
Public Service Commission
Treasury Board Secretariat
Western Economic Diversification Canada

Priority Area: Partnerships for Community Development

Rural Canadians' Concerns

- Building partnerships, or sustaining those that already exist, is becoming more difficult due to the increased pressures being placed on community resources.
- The availability of local capacity to sustain partnerships is being questioned, as the time and resources that rural Canadians can dedicate to their community are becoming increasingly limited.
- Partnerships are also difficult to sustain because governments do not make long-term commitments to partnerships. All levels of government and rural communities should work cooperatively to establish long-term objectives.
- In many instances individuals building partnerships locally lack the expertise necessary to maximize the benefits available through partnerships. Communities would benefit from the acquisition of skills, or the leadership of a "champion" (organization or individual) who would help to lead the partnership efforts.
- The federal government should challenge rural communities to "move forward" by providing the necessary information and knowledge to build partnerships, by playing a leadership role in promoting partnerships, and by engaging in more horizontal discussions and activities.

Government Action

Results

- Community Futures Development Corporations have helped communities outside Atlantic Canada plan and develop their economies. In Atlantic Canada, the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency does this with help from other local partners in cooperation with provincial governments.
- The RCMP has coordinated more than 72 victim services programs (involving 800 volunteers) in rural communities across British Columbia.
- Human Resources Development Canada has published the *Community Development Handbook* and *Facilitator's Guide* (http://www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/community).

Horizontal Initiatives

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

Announced in January 1998, Gathering Strength — Canada's Aboriginal Action Plan sets directions for a new course among governments, Aboriginal groups and organizations, and the private sector based on the principles of mutual respect and recognition, responsibility and sharing. This initiative is built on the kind of partnerships which bring real and practical improvements to the lives of Aboriginal people.

The **Community Economic Development Program** helps First Nations identify economic priorities and capitalize on business opportunities. This program invests $47 million a year in 486 Community Economic Development Organizations.

The **Joint Economic Development Initiative (JEDI) in New Brunswick** connects federal, provincial and Aboriginal representatives with private sector businesses. Together, they pursue opportunities for Aboriginal New Brunswickers in business development, training and economic development planning. Currently, JEDI is involved in some 50 Aboriginal business projects.

There are other business forums that bring together partners from different sectors (private, Aboriginal and government) to help develop Aboriginal economies. These include Business at the Summit in British Columbia, the Ontario Economic Renewal Forum, the Corporate Circle in Saskatchewan and the Tripartite Process in Nova Scotia.

Natural Resources Canada

Natural Resources Canada set up the **Federal Building Incentive Program** as a voluntary program to help federal departments and agencies make their facilities more energy efficient. Some provinces and municipalities have adopted similar programs. The Department is helping the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to develop its **Sustainable Communities Program** and its **Municipal Building Retrofit Program**.

The **EnerGuide for Houses Program** gives homeowners unbiased, technically sound advice on energy improvements. Some of the 7,900 house assessments conducted in 1998–1999 were performed in rural areas.

The **Energy Innovators Initiative Program** promotes energy efficiency in the commercial, institutional and municipal sectors. This program encourages Canadian organizations to voluntarily register a commitment to improve their energy efficiency, thereby reducing their operating costs.

Parks Canada Agency

Parks Canada Agency's **National Volunteer Program** provides an opportunity for individuals to contribute to natural and cultural conservation projects supported by the Agency. It enhances service to the visiting public, develops local leadership skills, and contributes to heritage conservation.

The **National Cost-Sharing Program for National Historic Sites** matches up to 50% of the funding for conservation of national historic sites that the federal government does not own. The program fosters local care, support and awareness of national historic sites.

The **Canadian Heritage Rivers System** delivers national recognition and public awareness of river conservation, connecting communities for effective management of rivers at the community level. It provides national recognition for tourism along the rivers, and long-term management of natural, historical and recreational values by local communities. The system also develops local planning skills among citizens, as well as cleaner local environments and economic spinoffs.

Veterans Affairs Canada

Veterans Affairs Canada has been involved in various partnerships that develop communities. In particular, a pilot project at four Royal Canadian Legion sites in Nova Scotia has improved access to health information for the Department's clients. In this project, clients learned to use computers to surf the Internet for information on health and their communities. Twenty people at each pilot site took an eight-week course. Veterans Affairs Canada then expanded the project to two Legion sites in Prince Edward Island. It plans to expand the program to other provinces in the future as well.

The Department is also working with the Province of Prince Edward Island to enhance rural health capacity and to find out how health technology can be used in rural communities.

Contributing Departments and Agencies

Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency
Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
Canadian Heritage
Department of Justice Canada
Environment Canada
Farm Credit Corporation
Health Canada
Human Resources Development Canada
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Natural Resources Canada
Parks Canada Agency
Public Works and Government Services Canada
Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Treasury Board Secretariat
Veterans Affairs Canada
Western Economic Diversification Canada

Priority Area: Promotion of Rural Canada

Rural Canadians' Concerns

- Rural Canada is sometimes seen as a disadvantaged place to do business and raise a family, because there are not as many services as there are in cities.

- Canadians, including decision-makers, may not be aware of the ways that rural Canada strengthens national unity and social cohesion.

Government Action

Results

- Statistics Canada provides free community profiles based on 1996 selected census data on its Web site (http://www.statcan.ca).

- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada sent 40,000 *Teachers' Guides on Canada's Farming Heritage* to Canadian organizations, including schools, libraries, community centres, and boys and girls clubs.

Horizontal Initiatives

Canadian Heritage

Through the **Great Canadian Guide**, the Canadian Heritage Information Network helps rural museums and galleries get on the World Wide Web. The guide also provides rural Canadians with on-line information in both official languages on cultural institutions and attractions across Canada. Likewise, **Artefacts Canada** uses a national gateway to let rural museums present their collections on the Internet. Since it is on-line, the information on these Web sites is accessible in rural areas.

The **Heritage Forum** gives rural heritage professionals access to worldwide resources so that they can develop professionally. Rural professionals use e-mail lists to talk with the rest of the museum community about issues of common concern and interest.

The **Centre for Exhibition Exchange** brings together borrowers and lenders so that they can share information about travelling exhibits and bring these exhibits to rural areas. This exchange is a collaboration of the Canadian Museums Association, the Exhibition Exchange Special Interest Group, the Canadian Conservation Institute, Exhibit Transportation Services and Canadian Heritage.

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada works with think tanks, industry associations, other federal departments and other governments on many Aboriginal economic development issues. These issues include the role of Aboriginal cooperatives, regional labour markets and the investment climate in reserve communities. The Department is especially interested in the resource economy.

Statistics Canada

Statistics Canada provides information on rural Canada, not only to federal departments and agencies, but also to all Canadians. Statistics Canada has distributed 5,000 Rural Data Advisory Line brochures, which explain the sorts of regional (sub-provincial) data available.

It has also released eight **Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletins** and plans to release four more in the summer of 2000. These bulletins look at demography and labour market trends, spending patterns, Internet use and the factors behind local economic growth. On the Statistics Canada Web site (http://www.statcan.ca), the **Statistical Profile of Canadian Communities** summarizes 1996 census data for every Canadian community.

The journal *Canadian Social Trends* has recently looked at the Canadian North, while a study entitled **Rural Youth: Stayers, Leavers and Returners** explains why rural youth move in and out of communities. Another study will look at age projections for rural areas and small towns in each province, which will help communities plan for schools and services for the elderly. Finally, Statistics Canada is co-sponsoring the **12th Annual Rural Policy Conference** of the Canadian Rural Restructuring Foundation, to be held October 11–14, 2000.

Contributing Departments and Agencies

Canadian Heritage
Farm Credit Corporation
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Public Works and Government Services Canada
Statistics Canada

Looking Ahead: Putting the Vision into Action

The Government of Canada recognizes the unique challenges rural Canadians face and is addressing them. During the Rural Dialogue, Canadians articulated a clear vision for rural Canada.

- Vibrant communities and a sustainable resource base contributing to our national identity and prosperity.
- Citizens making informed decisions about their own future.
- Canadians sharing the benefits of the knowledge-based economy and taking full advantage of opportunities for personal and sustainable community development.

We will not achieve this vision overnight, and we can do so in the long term only if different levels of government work closely with rural people and their communities. Over the past two years, we have built a strong foundation of collaboration across the federal government, with other levels of government in every province and territory, and with local community organizations. Our network of rural groups and organizations is growing, and we are informing Canadians involved in the Rural Dialogue of our progress to date.

The Government of Canada has begun turning its commitments into specific, tangible actions. We are taking action to make concrete progress on rural Canadians' concerns. We want to ensure that the vision comes true.

Turning our Commitments into Actions

The Government of Canada is firmly engaged in delivering on its commitment to improving the quality of life of Canadians in rural and remote areas. This will be done on an ongoing basis and in a coordinated horizontal fashion. This dynamic approach to community-focused development will evolve over time and show rural Canadians how the Government is responding to their concerns. As outlined in this report, the Government of Canada is already doing a great deal in the 11 priority areas, but a great deal remains to be done — and will be done.

The Government's actions are building on the Federal Framework for Action in Rural Canada. They also address issues in rural and remote Canada mentioned in the 1999 Speech from the Throne. More importantly, these actions will build on the Government's plan to increase prosperity and improve Canadians' quality of life by making Canada a leader in the new global economy. Consistent with the themes announced in the Speech from the Throne, Budget 2000 re-iterated the Government's strong commitment to sound financial management, tax relief, a more innovative economy, investments in skills and knowledge, and stronger post-secondary education and health care.

Two major thrusts underlie the actions of the federal government: ongoing federal initiatives (see *Responding to the Priorities of Rural Canadians*) and new initiatives related to Budget 2000. In some cases, since many programs and services already exist, there is a need to assist departments

and agencies with similar programs to integrate their actions. For new activities, the Government is applying the rural lens to ensure that it considers the needs of rural and remote Canadians.

Budget 2000 focuses specifically on the needs of rural Canadians, and underlines the Government's determination to help sustain rural communities. The Budget addresses common concerns while providing the flexibility to accommodate the differences between the needs of urban and rural communities. *"The concerns of rural Canadians are those shared by all Canadians — quality, health care, the best education for their children, a good job."*[11] The measures contained in the Budget will certainly benefit Canadians living in those communities. Many national initiatives are already available to rural Canadians and will enhance their quality of life.

Future actions carried out by the Government will focus on five major areas that concern rural Canadians: strengthening community capacity, maintaining infrastructure, diversifying the economy, providing opportunities for youth and Aboriginal people, and protecting the environment.

Strengthening Community Capacity

Strong rural communities are able to plan for change. To strengthen communities, the Government will help rural Canadians develop necessary skills, including leadership skills. It will also promote access to government programs and services, including education and health care, and encourage partnerships.

Budget 2000 Initiatives

- The Government is giving the RCMP additional funding to strengthen federal policing, particularly in the area of organized crime, and to improve policing services provided to provinces, territories and municipalities.

- Health Canada is receiving additional funds to sustain existing services within the First Nations and Inuit health system.

- The federal government, in partnership with the provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, is providing $400 million, on a one-time basis, to help grain producers and their families adapt to changes in transportation policies and continuing low incomes. The federal government will consider additional support in 2002 if grain prices and farm incomes have not recovered.

- The Government is spending $160 million over two years in a project to offer federal government services on-line and to stimulate electronic commerce, as part of its efforts to make Canada the most connected country in the world.

Maintaining Infrastructure

The 21st century economy requires a backbone of sound physical infrastructure. Infrastructure includes traditional physical infrastructure, such as roads and bridges, as well as the modern knowledge and information infrastructure that helps rural communities participate in the information economy. This infrastructure will keep the nation growing and will keep improving our quality of life. As the Budget Speech said, "Whether it is

[11] Government of Canada, *The Budget Speech 2000*, Ottawa, February 2000, p. 15.

urban transit, a grain road on the Prairies or the highways of our country, the capacity to move people and goods safely and efficiently is key to an innovative and productive economy."[12]

Budget 2000 Initiatives

- The Government is consulting with other levels of government and with the private sector so that, by the end of the year, they will have agreed on a plan to improve provincial highways and municipal infrastructure in communities across Canada. This creative, multi-year plan will also be fiscally responsible.

- The federal government is investing $100 million for 2000–2001, $350 million for 2001–2002 and $550 million for each of the next four years, all on infrastructure. Of the $550 million per year, $150 million will go for highways, and the rest will go for municipal infrastructure, including affordable housing and green infrastructure, in cities and rural communities across Canada.

- Over the next five years, the Government will invest another $200 million per year improving safety. This money will repair federal bridges and wharves and it will refurbish many federal laboratories, many of which are in rural Canada.

- The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation is investing another $268 million over five years in the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program. This program helps low-income people fix their homes.

[12] Government of Canada, *The Budget Speech 2000*, Ottawa, February 2000, p. 16.
[13] Ibid., p. 15.

Diversifying the Economy

The central thrust in the Speech from the Throne was the need to build a dynamic economy. This theme was picked up in Budget 2000. As the Budget Speech put it: "To succeed in the new economy, we must ensure that it takes root in every part of the country."[13]

Communities also need other tools and information so that they can achieve their goals. The Budget pointed out that the new economy offers opportunities to rural Canada. And it also pointed out that a rural community can be threatened when a hospital closes, a school is cut back or a major employer closes up. Therefore, the federal government must expand economic development in smaller communities across the country.

For the most part, federal activities help develop economies and help people use programs and services, find financing, diversify their economies and build partnerships.

Budget 2000 Initiatives

- The Government has cut personal income taxes and corporate tax rates on business income. It has also deferred tax on capital gains from eligible small business investments. Small business will also benefit from EI premium reductions.

- The Government is providing an additional $54 million over the next three years for the Community Futures Program. This funding will support the creation of new Community Futures Development Corporations to provide complete rural coverage in every province, and increase funding of individual corporations, which in turn improves services such as mentoring, business counselling, training and loans.

- The Government is injecting $80 million in the Business Development Bank of Canada, which finances knowledge-based, export-oriented small and medium-sized companies. The bank has many rural clients and the new funding will help those clients get financing.

- The Government is infusing $15 million into Canada's three forestry research institutes: Forintek, the Forest Engineering Research Institute of Canada, and the Pulp and Paper Research Institute of Canada. This will help Canada's forest industry develop innovative value-added products for the new economy as well as maintaining the leadership of the Canadian expertise in forestry research and development.

- The Government is providing $5 million a year over three years for government geoscience. This will ensure that Canada's geological information infrastructure continues to be state-of-the-art, and will stimulate new investment in the mining sector.

Providing Opportunities for Youth and Aboriginal People

Young and Aboriginal Canadians are a key target of both the Federal Framework for Action in Rural Canada and the Speech from the Throne. Their importance is re-iterated in Budget 2000.

Budget 2000 Initiatives

- Students got more tax help from the Government, which increased the tax exemption for income from scholarships, fellowships and bursaries. The increase was from $500 to $3,000.

- The Government continues to support the Canada Student Loans Program. On average, this program lends $1.7 billion a year to about 350,000 students in colleges, CEGEPs or universities.

- The Government remains committed to the Canada Millennium Scholarships. Up to 100,000 full-time students in universities, community colleges and CEGEPs are getting $3,000 annual scholarships over 10 years.

- The Government continues to support the Community Action Program for Children. This program already gives $56 million a year to community groups that help young children at risk.

- While provincial governments directly fund elementary, secondary and post-secondary education, the federal government continues to support First Nations education. It spends $900 million annually to teach First Nations students on reserve. It also spends about $200 million per year to build and keep up on-reserve school facilities.

- The Government is not changing the $150 million it spends each year on the Youth at Risk program and on other projects that give work experience to young people who lack job skills.

- The Government is firmly committed to its ongoing investment of $155 million a year on the Youth Employment Strategy. Young Canadians benefit from the Strategy's summer jobs, internships, and career and labour market information services.

Protecting the Environment

The natural environment affects the long-term economic and social well-being of every Canadian. Canadians understand that clean air, clean water and healthy habitats are essential to a high quality of life. Rural Canada has its own role to play in managing the environment. During the Rural Dialogue, rural Canadians confirmed that sustainable development is the most important way to respond to their communities' needs. For its part, the Government is improving the quality of life of the rural environment while responding to our international commitments.

Budget 2000 Initiatives

- The Government is investing $25 million in the Green Municipal Enabling Fund. This fund helps municipalities and communities find the best way of handling such projects as using renewable energy, building retrofit, conserving water, and managing waste.

- The Government is creating a $100-million revolving fund called the Green Municipal Investment Fund. This fund helps communities to save energy and water and to divert waste.

- The Government is also providing $9 million over the next three years to the National Roundtable on the Environment and the Economy and to Environment Canada. This will help them work with Statistics Canada to find ways of measuring environmental and sustainable development so that we can see how the economy and the environment interact. This will make it easier to measure improvements to the environment.

- The Climate Change Action Fund is one of the federal energy efficiency and renewable energy programs that the Government is investing to meet our international climate change commitments. This is an incremental of $60 million over three years from the original commitment of $150 million.

- The Government wants to hold on to our natural habitats and species. As such, it is cutting in half the capital gains tax that would come from donating ecologically sensitive lands. It will also provide $90 million over three years to protect species at risk.

National and Regional Action Plans

Actions put in place by federal departments and agencies will have national and regional dimensions, recognizing that rural and remote Canada is diverse and that challenges facing rural people vary from region to region. The Rural Teams, in every province and territory, are already working in collaboration with other levels of government and rural communities to design an Action Plan for their area. Through cross-department and cross-government collaboration, the Teams are exploring new ways to work with rural communities in their region. The Action Plans of the Rural Teams will be an integral part of the federal government's overall coordinated approach to sustaining rural communities. The Plans will further demonstrate that the Government has listened to rural people and is working together in partnership with them and with other levels of government to help address more local needs.

Gauging Our Performance

We need to know if the Government of Canada has made a difference in improving the rural qualify of life and if we are helping these communities become more sustainable.

Therefore, even as we put in place federal initiatives, we are also putting in place a system so that we can measure and report our performance. This will keep the Government accountable for what it does and for what it spends.

To that end, federal departments and agencies are participating in the development of a cross-government performance framework for rural initiatives linking their actions to expected outcomes, practical indicators and relevant measures.

Much of our wealth is created in rural Canada. It is a place of great energy and great ingenuity. It is our past, it is our present and it is our future. It is a way of life, a way of unique traditions and a specific social structure. It is home to close to nine million Canadians. The Government of Canada is working to make sure that rural Canada has a strong and vibrant future.

Annex A: List of Canadian Rural Partnership (CRP) Pilot Projects — 1998–1999

For additional information on the following CRP Pilot Projects for 1998–1999, please contact the Rural Secretariat at 1-888-781-2222 or visit the federal rural Web site at http://www.rural.gc.ca.

Project Title	Lead Federal Partner
Newfoundland and Labrador	
Transfer Cod Farming Technology to the South and Southwest Coast of Newfoundland	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Community Coastal Resource Inventory	Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency
Furlong Brothers Limited Plate Cove West Bonavista Bay	Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency
Implementation of Community Based Pilot Projects to Deliver Micro-Business Support Services in Rural Newfoundland and Labrador	Human Resources Development Canada

Project Title	Lead Federal Partner
Prince Edward Island	
Connecting Rural Prince Edward Island	Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency
"Youth Opportunities": A Preliminary Funding Proposal With The Canadian Rural Partnership	Human Resources Development Canada
Remediation and Protection of Shellfish Growing Areas: A Demonstration Project	Environment Canada
Cultural Tourism	Canadian Heritage
"The Spirit and Practice of Business Thinking": A Training Workshop for Young Entrepreneurs	Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency

Project Title	Lead Federal Partner
Nova Scotia	
On Farm Composting in Nova Scotia Combining Poultry and Swine with Industrial Commercial and Institutional (IC&I) Sector Organics	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Netukulimk GIS Management Project	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Application of Coastal Geoscience Data to Rural Community Development	Natural Resources Canada
Smart Rural Technology Support Network	Industry Canada
Louisbourg Merchantile Exchange	Canadian Heritage
The Virtual CED Centre of Nova Scotia: 'Using Technology to Develop Networks'	Human Resources Development Canada
New Brunswick	
Social Capital and Regional Development	Canadian Heritage
Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Aboriginal Heritage Garden Inc.	Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency
Implementation of the Sustainable Rural Development Model in the Centre Péninsule Electoral District, New Brunswick	Canadian Heritage

Project Title	Lead Federal Partner
Quebec	
Community-based Health Co-operatives for Rural Areas	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Development of Alternative Silviculture Practices Adapted to Mixed Forests (SSAM Project)	Natural Resources Canada
Partenariat en vue d'assurer la pérennité des ressources naturelles sur I'lle d'Anticosti (Partnership to Ensure the Sustainability of Anticosti Island's Natural Resources)	Natural Resources Canada
Algonquin First Nations: developing sustainable forest management capacity	Natural Resources Canada
Transfer Information, Knowledge and Technology in the Field of Forestry	Natural Resources Canada
Working Together to Achieve Food Security: A Sustainable Local Development Project	Health Canada
Establishment of Deciduous and Northern Hardwood Management Information Centre	Natural Resources Canada
Trichinella Infections in Walrus: A Food Safety Issue in the Canadian Arctic	Canadian Food Inspection Agency
Development and Promotion of Tourism on the Lower North Shore	Canadian Heritage

Project Title	Lead Federal Partner
Quebec (cont'd)	
Local Development of the RCM of Drummond	Human Resources Development Canada
Solidarity Network to Revitalize the Gaspe	Human Resources Development Canada
Cooperative Education and Community Development	Farm Credit Corporation
Taxi Project Organized by the RCM of Montmagny and L'Islet (Club Taxi-Plus)	Human Resources Development Canada
Ontario	
Electronic Tools for Rural Partnerships	Industry Canada
Southern Ontario Aboriginal Business Service Centre	Industry Canada
Northern Ontario CAPC/CPCN Web-Networking Program	Health Canada
Haldimand-Norfolk Good Food Box	Health Canada
Replicating Co-operative Fish Farms in Other Communities	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Business Retention and Expansion Pilot Project	Industry Canada
Internship for Young Leaders	Human Resources Development Canada

Project Title	Lead Federal Partner
Manitoba	
French Tourist Partnerships in Manitoba Rural Communities	Canadian Heritage
Expediting Tourism Development Using GIS	Western Economic Diversification Canada
Manitoba First Nations/Aboriginal Procurement Pilot Project	Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Saskatchewan	
Sustainable Communities Initiative	Natural Resources Canada
Renforcement des collectivités rurales francophones de la Saskatchewan (To Strengthen Rural Francophone Communities in Saskatchewan — Investment in Human Resources)	Canadian Heritage
Northern Community and Economic Development Information Services Project	Industry Canada
Marieval Youth Enterprise Development Centre	Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration
An Ecotourism Pre-Employment and Training Initiative for Aboriginal Youth in Saskatchewan	Human Resources Development Canada
Grain Collection Alternatives Pilot Project	Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration

Project Title	Lead Federal Partner
Alberta	
Geographic Information System (GIS) for Grande Prairie and Rural Northwestern Alberta	Industry Canada
Value Adding Community Based Linkages	Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration
Towards Sustainable Agroforestry in Alberta	Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration
Drug Abuse Resistance Education Training RCM Police 'K" Division Fiscal Year 1998/99	Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Tools for Schools	Western Economic Diversification Canada
British Columbia	
B.C. Mussel Farming Techniques Pilot	Human Resources Development Canada
West Coast Fishing Communities Marketing Assistance Project	Human Resources Development Canada
Sayward Community Animation Project	Human Resources Development Canada
Distance Learning / Distance Work Project	Human Resources Development Canada
Shared Community Shellfish Pilot Project Proposal	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Community-Based Food Policy Project	Health Canada
Peace Marketing Corporation Proposal	Human Resources Development Canada
The South Okanagan and Similkameen Multi-Stakeholder Communities Partnership for the Development of a Sustainable Rural Value-added Wood Industry	Human Resources Development Canada
Yukon Territory	
Yukon On-Line Pilot Project	Public Works and Government Services Canada
Yukon Lodgepole Pine Wood Attributes Study	Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Yukon Youth Community Development Training Pilot Project	Health Canada
Northwest Territories	
Kivalliq Community Planning Project	Human Resources Development Canada
Community Learning and Networking Pilot Project	Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

Project Title	Lead Federal Partner
National	
La Voix des Villages (The Voice of Communities)	Canadian Heritage
Assessing the Impact of Government Funding on Voluntary Associations in Rural Canada	Human Resources Development Canada
Pilot Project to Develop Quality of Life Indicators for Small and Rural Communities	Health Canada

Annex B: Membership List of the Interdepartmental Working Group on Rural

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

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

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

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

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

Canada Post Corporation
http://www.canadapost.ca

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

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

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

Citizenship and Immigration Canada
http://www.cic.gc.ca

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

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

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

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

Farm Credit Corporation
http://www.fcc-sca.ca

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Statistics Canada
http://www.statcan.ca

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

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

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

Annex C: List of Government Initiatives Affecting Rural Canada

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

Access to Information On Government Programs and Services

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Electronic Information Service (ACEIS)
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada: Canadian Western Agribition
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada: Five Natural Resources Departments Initiative
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada: InfoHort
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada: Rural Exhibits Program
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada: Virtual Trade Shows
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency: Atlantic Canada Business Service Centres — toll-free telephone, fax and Internet services
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency: Agency Web site
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency: Internet Site for Business Enquiries
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency: 24/7 Automated Telephone Enquiries Services
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency: Aboriginal Peoples Information Service
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency: Teaching Taxes Program
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency: CANPASS Private Aircraft Program, Private Boats Program, Remote Ports Program
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency: New Employer Visit Program
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency: Income Tax Clinics
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency: CCRA External Recruitment Web site
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency: Community Visits Program
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency: Additional Customs Service on Request
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency: Farming Community Information Sessions
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency: Business/Individual Information Sessions
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency: Community Relations Customer Service
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency: OUTREACH Program — Aboriginal and Asian Communities
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency: Business registration On-Line
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency: Community Volunteer Income Tax Program
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency: Expansion of 1-800 telephone enquiries services to all Canadians
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency: Info-fairs (collaborative effort between departments)
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency: Joint Small Business Seminars/Small Business Information Seminars
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency: NETFILE
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency: NISA — Net Income Stabilization Account
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency: AIDA — Agriculture Income Disaster Assistance
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency: TELEFILE
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency: Remote Ports Program
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency: Profile Port Review
Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions: Service Canada Pilot — Community Network
Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions: Canada Business Service Centres — toll-free telephone, fax and Internet services
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation: Affordability and Choice Today
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation: Circumpolar Housing Forum
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation: Homegrown Solutions
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation: Housing Awards Program
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation: Northern Research and Technology in Housing Web site
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation: First Nations National Housing Conference
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation: National Aboriginal Achievement Awards
Canada Post Corporation: Access to Government Forms and Applications
Canada Post Corporation: Canada Multi Service Centre
Canada Post Corporation: Community Access Program sites in P.E.I.
Canada Post Corporation: Delivery and Retail Standards for Rural Canada

Canada Post Corporation: Electronic Post Office
Canada Post Corporation: Firearms Registration
Canada Post Corporation: HRDC Info Center — Proof of Concept
Canada Post Corporation: Service Canada Pilot Project
Canadian International Development Agency: Agency Web site providing information concerning international activities
Citizenship and Immigration Canada: 1-888-242-2100
Citizenship and Immigration Canada: Rural Information Kiosks Initiative (Pilot Project)
Citizenship and Immigration Canada: Web site
Environment Canada: Atlantic Coastal Zone Database Directory
Environment Canada: Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA) Registry
Environment Canada: Participation in Government of Canada Info Centre Pilot Project
Environment Canada: Millennium Eco-Communities
Environment Canada: Environment Canada — Access through 1-800-668-6767
Environment Canada: Strong regional program and service delivery for community outreach, information, dissemination and environmental action
Environment Canada: Environment Canada's Web Site: The Green Lane
Environment Canada: Service Canada Pilot Project with NWT Government and 4 Communities
Environment Canada: Weather Forecasts and Warnings
Environment Canada: Great Lakes 2000 Program
Farm Credit Corporation: Internal publications — Farmland Values and Business Contact
Farm Credit Corporation: Joint Brochure describing 4 financial corporations (FCC, BDC, EDC, CCC)
Farm Credit Corporation: Over 100 offices mainly located in rural communities
Farm Credit Corporation: Presence at local and regional fairs and exhibitions
Farm Credit Corporation: Web site (information on programs and services)
Farm Credit Corporation: Yearly advertising campaign in major agricultural newspapers to broadcast products and services
Farm Credit Corporation: 1-800-387-3232
Federal Economic Development Initiative in Northern Ontario (FedNor): Community Futures Development Corporations (Ontario-wide)
Fisheries and Oceans Canada: Department Web site
Health Canada: Canadian Health Network
Health Canada: Family Violence Initiative
Health Canada: Farm Family Health Newsletter
Health Canada: Health Promotion and Programs Branch (HPPB) Regional Office Web sites
Health Canada: Northern and Arctic Contaminant Health Initiative
Health Canada: Pest Management Information Service
Health Canada: Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) Web site
Health Canada: Regional Office Web sites
Human Resources Development Canada: Canada Jobs Fund (CJF) — Information component
Human Resources Development Canada: HRDC — Industry/Canada MoU involving regional agencies
Human Resources Development Canada: HRDC Web site
Human Resources Development Canada: Rural and Remote Kiosks
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada: Aboriginal Business Development Initiative
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada: INAC Web Site
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada: Procurement Strategy for Aboriginal Business Workshops
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada/Industry Canada: Aboriginal Map of Canada — Service Canada Pilot Project
Industry Canada: Canada Business Service Centres — toll-free telephone, fax and Internet services
Industry Canada: Service Canada Pilot in Quebec
Industry Canada: SME Info Fairs
Industry Canada: Strategis
Industry Canada: Toronto Enterprise Centre Pilot Project — Service Canada Pilot Project
Industry Canada: Consumer Information Gateway — Service Canada Pilot Project
Industry Canada: Voice-to-Voice Web Support — Service Canada Pilot Project
Industry Canada: Community Networks Pilot Projects in Ontario and New Brunswick — Service Canada Pilot Project
Industry Canada/ Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions: Service Canada Pilot in Quebec
Department of Justice Canada: Child Support Initiative
Department of Justice Canada: Needs Assessment Studies, Part III
Department of Justice Canada: Canadian Firearms Centre's Outreach Program
National Research Council: Industrial Research Assistance Program
Natural Resources Canada: Canadian Geoscience Knowledge Network
Natural Resources Canada: GeoConnections
Natural Resources Canada: Energy Innovators Initiative
Natural Resources Canada: Global Positioning System — Corrections (GPS.C)
Natural Resources Canada: Minerals and Metals Sector Web site
Natural Resources Canada: Sustainable Communities Initiative
Natural Resources Canada: ResSources (Knowledge Management Initiative)
Public Service Commission: Canada/Newfoundland and Labrador Community Access Program
Public Service Commission: Job Information
Public Service Commission: Delegated External Recruitment Authority
Public Service Commission: Memorial University of Newfoundland Partnership

Public Works and Government Services Canada: Public Access Program — 1-888-333-7767 Call Centre Services
Public Works and Government Services Canada: Public Access Program — 1 800 O-CANADA and Web site
Public Works and Government Services Canada: Public Access Program — Blue Pages (Pilot Project)
Public Works and Government Services Canada: Public Access Program — Infocentres (Pilot Project)
Public Works and Government Services Canada/ Industry Canada: Lumby Integrated Community Resource Sites — Service Canada Pilot Project
Royal Canadian Mounted Police: Aboriginal Liaison Officers
Royal Canadian Mounted Police: Local Radio Program — Norway House, Manitoba
Royal Canadian Mounted Police: Local Television Program — Neepawa, Manitoba
Royal Canadian Mounted Police: RCMP Detachments
Royal Canadian Mounted Police: RCMP Web site
Transport Canada: Civil Aviation Program
Transport Canada: Dangerous Goods Safety Program
Transport Canada: Development of Web Site
Transport Canada: Establishment of Transport Canada Centres
Transport Canada: Regional Airport Operators Councils/Committees
Transport Canada: Regional Aviation Safety Councils in Western Canada
Transport Canada: Regional Canadian Marine Advisory Council — Northern
Transport Canada: Road Safety Program
Treasury Board Secretariat: Canada Infrastructure Works Program
Treasury Board Secretariat: Service Canada Initiative
Treasury Board Secretariat: Web site
Veterans Affairs Canada: Improving Access to Health Information in NS/PEI
Veterans Affairs Canada: Web site
Western Economic Diversification Canada: Aboriginal Business Service Network
Western Economic Diversification Canada: Canada Business Service Centres — toll-free telephone, fax and Internet services
Western Economic Diversification Canada: CFDC Workshops
Western Economic Diversification Canada: Information Trade Shows
Western Economic Diversification Canada: Library at CFDC Offices
Western Economic Diversification Canada: Web site

Access to Financial Services

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada: Agriculture Income Disaster Assistance
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada: Farm Improvement and Marketing Cooperatives Loans Act
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency: Atlantic Groundfish Strategy (TAGS)
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency: Business Development Program
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency: Canada Business Service Centres
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency: Community-Based Economic Development
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency: Community Business Development Corporations
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency: Seed Capital ConneXion Program for Young Entrepreneurs
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency: Canada/Newfoundland Economic Development Component of the Canadian Fisheries Adjustment and Restructuring Initiative
Business Development Bank of Canada
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency: Agriculture Income Disaster Assistance
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency: Net Income Stabilization Account
Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions: Rural Enterprises Pilot Project (Bas St-Laurent/Gaspésie/Iles de la Madeleine)
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation: Mortgage Loan Insurance
Canada Post Corporation: Electronic Post Office
Canada Post Corporation: Financial Services in Nain (Labrador), Inuvik (NWT) and St. Appollinaire (Quebec)
Department of Finance: Canadian Financial Services Ombudsman
Department of Finance: Database on SMEs
Department of Finance: Financial Consumer Agency
Department of Finance: New Policy Framework for the Financial Services Sector
Farm Credit Corporation: Long-Term Loan
Farm Credit Corporation: Personal Property Loan
Farm Credit Corporation: One-year Convertible Loan
Farm Credit Corporation: Variable-rate Loan
Farm Credit Corporation: AgriStart Products
Farm Credit Corporation: Plant Now Pay Later Loan
Farm Credit Corporation: Farmbuilder Construction Loan
Federal Economic Development Initiative in Northern Ontario (FedNor): Community Futures Development Corporations (Ontario-wide)
Federal Economic Development Initiative in Northern Ontario (FedNor): Access to Capital
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada: Aboriginal Business Development Initiative
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada: Aboriginal Financial Services Forum
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada: Opportunity Fund
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada: Community Economic Development Program

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada: Land Claims and Treaty Agreements
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada: Resource Acquisition Initiative
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada: Resource Royalty Agreements
Industry Canada: Aboriginal Business Canada
Industry Canada: Canada Community Investment Plan
Industry Canada: Canada Small Business Financing Act
Industry Canada: $ources of Financing Web Site
National Research Council: Industrial Research Assistance Program
Natural Resources Canada: Commercial Building Incentive Program
Natural Resources Canada: Energy Innovators and Energy Innovators Plus
Transport Canada: Airport Capital Assistance Program
Transport Canada: Contribution Program for Safety Improvements for Highway/Railway Crossings
Western Economic Diversification Canada: Access to Capital
Western Economic Diversification Canada: Loan Fund to Small Rural Business
Western Economic Diversification Canada: Loans to Disabled Rural Entrepreneurs
Western Economic Diversification Canada: Loans to Rural Youth

Opportunities for Rural Youth

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada: Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development (CARD) — Councils
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada: Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development (CARD) — National Programs
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency: Young Entrepreneur Program
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency: Young Entrepreneur Training Initiative
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency: Young Entrepreneurs ConneXion Seed Capital and Counselling Program
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency: YMCA-YWCA Enterprises Centres in St John's Newfoundland and Glace Bay, Nova Scotia
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency: Futures in Newfoundland and Labrador Youth Initiative
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency: Centre for Entrepreneurship Education and Development (CEED) in Nova Scotia
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency: I Want to Be A Millionaire
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency: Open for Business (OFB)
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency: Youth Corps Initiative
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency: Internship Program
Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions: CED Youth Strategy
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation: Housing Internship Initiative for First Nations and Inuit Youth
Canadian Heritage: Native Citizen's Program
Canadian Heritage: Young Canada Works
Citizenship and Immigration Canada: CITZINE Web site
Department of National Defence: Canadian Cadet Organization
Department of National Defence: Canadian Forces Primary Reserve
Department of National Defence: Canadian Rangers
Department of National Defence: Junior Canadian Rangers
Farm Credit Corporation: Payday Loan
Farm Credit Corporation: 1-2-3 Grow
Farm Credit Corporation: Canadian Young Farmers Forum
Farm Credit Corporation: Family Farm Loan
Farm Credit Corporation: Young Speakers for Agriculture
Federal Economic Development Initiative in Northern Ontario (FedNor): Youth Internship Initiative
Human Resources Development Canada: Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy
Human Resources Development Canada: Summer Student Job Action
Human Resources Development Canada: Youth Info Fairs
Human Resources Development Canada: Youth Information
Human Resources Development Canada: Youth Information Line
Human Resources Development Canada: Youth Internship Canada
Human Resources Development Canada: Youth Link
Human Resources Development Canada: Youth Resource Network
Human Resources Development Canada: Youth Service Canada
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada: Aboriginal Masters Program
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada: Aboriginal Workforce Participation Initiative
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada: First Nations and Inuit Youth Employment Strategy
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada: First Nations/Energy Industry Employment and Training Demonstration Program
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada: Post-Secondary Education Program
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada: Workforce Opportunities Program
Industry Canada: SchoolNet distributed "Rural Quiz" to Team magazine
National Research Council: Partnership with Canadian Aboriginal Science and Engineering Association
Natural Resources Canada: Canadian Communities Atlas
Natural Resources Canada: Eco-Efficiency Projects
Public Service Commission: Federal Summer Work Experience Program
Public Works and Government Services Canada: Aboriginal Career Day
Public Works and Government Services Canada: Aboriginal Internship Pilot Project
Public Works and Government Services Canada: Extension to School of Agriculture (Guelph, Ont.)

Public Works and Government Services Canada/Industry Canada: Lumby Integrated Community Resource Sites (Service Canada project)
Public Works and Government Services Canada: Promotional Materials on Aboriginal Initiatives for Post-Secondary Recruitment
Public Works and Government Services Canada: Public Access Program — Interprovincial Association on Native Employment Inc. Annual Conference (Prince Albert, Sask.)
Public Works and Government Services Canada: Public Access Program — Job Shadow Project
Public Works and Government Services Canada: Registry of Aboriginal Employment Service Providers
Royal Canadian Mounted Police: Coaching Certification Program
Royal Canadian Mounted Police: Life Skills Training
Royal Canadian Mounted Police: National Youth Strategy
Royal Canadian Mounted Police: Police Liaison School
Royal Canadian Mounted Police: Summer Student Program
Treasury Board Secretariat: Canada Infrastructure Works Program
Treasury Board Secretariat: Federal Public Sector Youth Internship Program
Western Economic Diversification Canada: Community Economic Development Internship Program
Western Economic Diversification Canada: Loan Fund for Rural Youth
Western Economic Diversification Canada: Youth Internship
Western Economic Diversification Canada: Western Youth Entrepreneur Program

Human Resource Leadership Development and Community Capacity Building

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada: Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development (CARD) — Councils
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada: Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development (CARD) — National Programs
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency: Business Development Program
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency: Community-Based Economic Development
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency: Community Development Component of Atlantic Groundfish Strategy
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency: Cooperation Program
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency: Information Sessions in Collaboration with RCMP to Baie Comeau Residences and Businesses
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency: Community Volunteer Income Tax Program
Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions: 3 Pilot Projects in 10 CFDCs
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation: Aboriginal Capacity Building
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation: Assisted Housing Program — Devolution of Property Management to Aboriginal Property Management Groups
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation: Emergency Repair Program
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation: Home Adaptation for Seniors Independence
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation: Non-profit On-Reserve Housing Program
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation: Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation: Circumpolar Housing Program
Canadian Heritage: Interdepartmental Partnership with Official Language Communities
Canadian Heritage: Official Languages Assistance Program
Citizenship and Immigration Canada: CIVICANADA Youth Web site
Department of National Defence: Canadian Cadet Organization
Department of National Defence: Canadian Forces Primary Reserve
Department of National Defence: Canadian Rangers
Department of National Defence: Junior Canadian Rangers
Environment Canada: Multi-Layered Resource Information Database (INAC)
Environment Canada: Voluntary Sector Joint Initiative
Farm Credit Corporation: Canadian Young Farmers Forum
Farm Credit Corporation: Young Speakers for Agriculture
Federal Economic Development Initiative in Northern Ontario (FedNor): Community Futures Development Corporations (Ontario-wide)
Federal Economic Development Initiative in Northern Ontario (FedNor): Community Partnerships
Fisheries and Oceans Canada: Pacific Fisheries Adjustment and Restructuring Program
Health Canada: Aboriginal Head Start (Urban and Northern) (AHS)
Health Canada: Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program (CPNP)
Health Canada: Canadian Strategy on HIV/AIDS
Health Canada: CAPC/CPNP National Projects Fund
Health Canada: Community Action Program for Children (CAPC)
Health Canada: Community Animation Program (CAP) — joint Health Canada and Environment Canada initiative
Health Canada: National First Nations Environmental Contaminants Program (NFNECP)
Health Canada: Population Health Fund
Human Resources Development Canada: Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy
Human Resources Development Canada: Canada Jobs Fund
Human Resources Development Canada: Child Care Visions (CCV)
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada: Community Economic Development Program
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada: Governance Capacity Building
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada: Mentoring — CESO Aboriginal Services Support
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada: Resource Management Capacity-Building
Industry Canada: Canadian Tourism Commission Products Club

Industry Canada: Canadian Tourism Exchange
Industry Canada: Rural Expansion and Export Development
Department of Justice Canada: Development of a Program for Action in Rural Canada
Department of Justice Canada: Nunavut Law School
Department of Justice Canada: Departmental Inuit Trainee Program
Department of Justice Canada: Practice in the North — Pilot Project for the Yukon
Department of Justice Canada: Community Mobilization Program
National Research Council/ Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council/Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council: Innovation Systems Research Network
Natural Resources Canada: Aboriginal Communities and The Mining Sector
Natural Resources Canada: Biomass Heating Alternatives
Natural Resources Canada: Canadian Communities Atlas
Natural Resources Canada: Coastal Communities and Offshore Mining
Natural Resources Canada: Community Land Administration Certificate Program
Natural Resources Canada: Eco-Efficiency Projects
Natural Resources Canada: Elk Lake Community Forest
Natural Resources Canada: First Nation Forestry Program
Natural Resources Canada: Geomatics Capacity Building — Legal Surveys Training
Natural Resources Canada: Information Centres on Mixed-Broad Leafed Tree Development
Natural Resources Canada: Information Technology and Knowledge Transfer in Forestry
Natural Resources Canada: Model Forest Program
Natural Resources Canada: Community Capacity Building Initiative
Natural Resources Canada: Pilot Project on Forestry Systems
Natural Resources Canada: Polar Continental Shelf Project and Traditional Knowledge Program
Natural Resources Canada: Renewable Energy for Remote Communities Program
Natural Resources Canada: Sustainable Communities Initiative
Parks Canada Agency: Co-operating Association Program
Parks Canada Agency: National Volunteer Program
Public Works and Government Services Canada/Industry Canada: Lumby Integrated Community Resource Sites — Service Canada Pilot Project
Royal Canadian Mounted Police: National Aboriginal Policing Review
Royal Canadian Mounted Police: Restorative Justice
Royal Canadian Mounted Police: Sustainable Community Development Project in Kelowna, BC
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council: Cape Breton Chair on Environmental Technology in Non-Urban, Resource-Based Industries
Treasury Board Secretariat: Service Canada Initiative
Western Economic Diversification Canada: Community Futures Offices

Rural Infrastructure

Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency: Canada Infrastructure Works Program
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency: Canadian Forces Base Closure Adjustment Program
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency: Rebuilding of port structures in Coutts, Alberta and Emerson, Manitoba
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation: Assisted Housing Program
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation: Emergency Repair Program
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation: Healthy Housing
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation: Rural and Native Housing Program
Federal Economic Development Initiative in Northern Ontario (FedNor): Community Economic Infrastructure
Health Canada: Environmental Health Program — Medical Services Branch
Health Canada: Federal/Provincial/Territorial Subcommittee on Drinking Water
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada: Capital Programs (housing and community infrastructure)
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada: Resource Access Negotiations Program
Industry Canada: Canada-Ontario Infrastructure Works
National Research Council: National Farm Building Code
National Research Council: National Technical Guide for Municipal Infrastructure
Natural Resources Canada: Community Impact Development Models
Natural Resources Canada: Global Positioning System — Corrections (GPS*C)
Natural Resources Canada: Surficial Geoscience and Hydrogeology
Public Works and Government Services Canada: Extension to School of Agriculture (Guelph, Ont.)
Public Works and Government Services Canada: Infrastructure in Nunavut
Public Works and Government Services Canada: Mould Bay Weather Station on Prince Patrick Island
Public Works and Government Services Canada: Real Property Services across Canada
Public Works and Government Services Canada: Remedial Work at Contaminated Sites
Public Works and Government Services Canada: Water and Sewage Facilities in the Pacific Region
Transport Canada: Airport Capital Assistance Program (ACAP)
Transport Canada: Bilateral Highway Funding Agreements
Transport Canada: Contribution Program for Safety Improvements for Highway/Railway Crossings
Transport Canada: Grain Reform Initiative
Transport Canada: Intelligent Transportation Systems Plan
Transport Canada: Provision of VIA Rail and Non Rail Remote and Regional Services
Transport Canada: Studies on Modal Shifts in Grain Transportation in Western Provinces

Transport Canada: Trade and Transportation Corridor Study
Treasury Board Secretariat: Canada Infrastructure Works Program
Western Economic Diversification Canada: Canada-Manitoba Partnership Agreement on Red River Valley Flood Protection
Western Economic Diversification Canada: Economic Restoration Initiative
Western Economic Diversification Canada: Infrastructure Works Program

Rural Telecommunications and Use of the Information Highway

Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency: Canada/Nova Scotia Agreement on Economic Diversification, Information Technology Association of Nova Scotia
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency: Canada/Newfoundland Economic Development Component of the Canadian Fisheries and Restructuring Initiative
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency: Knowledge Economy Partnership in Prince Edward Island
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency: ACIS (Automated Customs Information Services)
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency: EFILE
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency: Internet Filing
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency: Participation with Industry Canada at the various CAP sites across Canada
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency: Partnership with Service Canada Pilot sites to host Community Volunteer Income Tax Program activities in rural locations.
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency: TELEFILE
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency: TIPS (Tax Information Phone Service)
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency: Virtual Customs Office
Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions: Workshop on Issues Facing the Information Society
Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions: Workshop on New Information Technologies in Rural Areas
Canada Post Corporation: Community Access Program
Canadian Heritage: Assistance to Francophone Youth in Rural Areas (U of Moncton)
Canadian Heritage: CRTC approval of Bell Canada's four-year Service Improvement Program
Canadian Heritage: Multimedia Fund
Canadian Heritage: Museum Assistance Program
Canadian Heritage: National Distant Learning Network Programming Service
Canadian Heritage: National Francophone Community Radio Service
Environment Canada: Kugluktuk Information Sharing Service Pilot Project
Farm Credit Corporation: Web site Development to Community Relations Partners
Federal Economic Development Initiative in Northern Ontario (FedNor): Frame Relay Services to Northern Ontario Rural Communities
Federal Economic Development Initiative in Northern Ontario (FedNor): Telecommunications Infrastructure
Federal Economic Development Initiative in Northern Ontario (FedNor): Information and Communications Technology Applications
Health Canada: First Nations Health Information System
Health Canada: National First Nations Telehealth Research Pilot Project
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada: Business Development Support
Industry Canada: Canada On-line (Smart Communities, Electronic Commerce, Canadian Governments On-line)
Industry Canada: Canada's SchoolNet
Industry Canada: Community Access Program (CAP)
Industry Canada: Community Futures Program
Industry Canada: Canadian Tourism Exchange
Industry Canada: Connecting Canadians
Industry Canada: Disaster Mitigation for Development of Rapid Deployment Satellite Communications
Industry Canada: Consumer Information Gateway — Service Canada Pilot Project
Industry Canada: Voice-to-Voice Web Support — Service Canada Pilot Project
Industry Canada: Community Networks Pilot Projects in Ontario and New Brunswick — Service Canada Pilot Project
Industry Canada: First Nations SchoolNet
Industry Canada: Funding for a trailer bringing training and public access into very small communities in Northern Saskatchewan
Industry Canada: Geographic Information System on-line in Grande Prairie, Alberta
Industry Canada: Healthcare and Education Access for Remote Residents by Telecommunications
Industry Canada: National Graduate Register
Industry Canada: PACE 2000 for post-operative geriatric patients
Industry Canada: Project OUTREACH for telepsychiatry
Industry Canada: Project-I Site for teleophthalmology
Industry Canada: Remote Communities Services Telecentre
Industry Canada: Telecommunications in Northern Ontario
Industry Canada: Voluntary Sector Network Support Program
National Research Council: BayBYTES Rural Technology Forum
National Research Council: Canadian Technology Network
National Research Council: Information Technology Innovation Centre in Cape Breton
Natural Resources Canada: Canadian Communities Atlas
Natural Resources Canada: GeoConnections
Natural Resources Canada: Sustainable Communities Initiative
Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council: TeleLearning Network of Centres of Excellence

Public Works and Government Services Canada: Government Mobile Satellite Service
Public Works and Government Services Canada: Direct Deposit
Public Works and Government Services Canada: GENet (Remote Access Services, Government Fibre Network Service, Government Frame Delay Service, Government Satellite Service, Government Electronic Delivery Infrastructure Service, Secure Applications and Key Management Service, MERX Electronic Tendering Service, Vendor Information Service, Buying Power 2000, On-line Informatics Professional Services Marketplace, Government of Canada Primary Internet Site)
Public Works and Government Services Canada: Government Electronic Directory Service
Public Works and Government Services Canada: Yukon On-line Pilot Project
Treasury Board Secretariat: Canada Infrastructure Works Program
Treasury Board Secretariat: Service Canada Initiative
Veterans Affairs Canada: Provision of surplus computers and internet training to local Legion branches in Nova Scotia/Prince Edward Island

Economic Diversification

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada: Agri-Food Innovation Program
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada: Agri-Food Trade Service
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada: Annual Field Days and Commodity Specific Days
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada: Business Planning for Agri-Ventures
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada: Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development (CARD) — Councils
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada: Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development (CARD) — National Programs
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada: Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development Fund in Saskatchewan
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada: Canadian Farm Business Management Program
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada: Farm Consultation Service
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada: Farm Debt Mediation Service
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada: Matching Investment Initiative (MII)
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada: PFRA Community Pasture Program
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada: Protein Oil and Starch (POS) Pilot Plant
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada: Scotch Pine Potential
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada: Sea-Buckthorn Development and Potential
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada: Sustainable Water Well Initiative
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada: Vegetable Production Demonstration
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency: Atlantic Groundfish Strategy (TAGS)
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency:Canadian Forces Base Closure Adjustment Program
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency: Federal/Provincial Economic Development Agreements such as the Canada/Newfoundland Comprehensive Economic Development Agreement
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency: Economic Adjustment Measures such as the Canada/Newfoundland Economic Development Component of the Canadian Fisheries Adjustment and Restructuring Initiative
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency: Canada/Newfoundland Agreement on Economic Renewal
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency: Tourism and Export Development
Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions: Adaptation of Coastal Communities Program
Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions: Regional Strategic Initiatives
Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions: Rural Enterprise Program
Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions: Special Fund for the Economic Development and Adjustment of Quebec Fishing Communities (Coastal Quebec)
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation: Circumpolar Housing Forum
Citizenship and Immigration Canada: Entrepreneur and Self-Employment Program
Citizenship and Immigration Canada: Provincial Nominee Program
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade: International Business Development Strategy
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade: Investment Partnerships Canada
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade: Program for Export Market Development
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade: Team Canada Trade Missions
Farm Credit Corporation: Financially support value-added businesses on and off the farm
Federal Economic Development Initiative in Northern Ontario (FedNor): Community Futures Development Corporations (Ontario-wide)
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada: Community Economic Development Program
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada: Diamond Industry Development Strategy
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada: Federal Provincial Territorial Regional Partnerships Program
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada: First Nations Forestry Program
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada: Joint Economic Development Initiative
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada: Opportunity Fund
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada: Procurement Strategy for Aboriginal Business
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada: Resource Access Negotiations Program
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada: Resource Acquisition Initiative
Industry Canada: Canada Cooperatives Act
National Research Council: Biotechnology Program
National Research Council: Chair in Managing Knowledge-Based Agri-Food Development
Natural Resources Canada: Alternative Transport Fuels Program

Natural Resources Canada: Canadian Industry Program for Energy Conservation
Natural Resources Canada: Community Capacity Building Initiative
Natural Resources Canada: Eastern Ontario Model Forest Program
Natural Resources Canada: EnerGuide for Houses Program
Natural Resources Canada: Exploration Science and Technology — EXTECH II (support for Mineral Exploration in New Brunswick)
Natural Resources Canada: First Nation Forestry Program
Natural Resources Canada: Forest Tracks Program
Natural Resources Canada: GeoConnections
Natural Resources Canada: Global Positioning System — Corrections (GPS*C)
Natural Resources Canada: Ice Storm Economic Recovery Assistance Program
Natural Resources Canada: Minerals and Metals Value-Added Initiatives
Natural Resources Canada: Moose Band Development Corporation
Natural Resources Canada: National Geoscience Mapping Program (NATMAP)
Natural Resources Canada: NRCan S and T Activities
Natural Resources Canada: R-2000 Home Program
Natural Resources Canada: Reno$ense Program
Natural Resources Canada: Resource Innovation Initiative
Natural Resources Canada: Seal of Quality Program for the Maple Syrup industry
Natural Resources Canada: Trade and Investment Promotional Activities
Public Works and Government Services Canada: Aboriginal Business Support
Public Works and Government Services Canada: Supplier Promotion Program
Transport Canada: Maintaining Air Service to Small Communities
Transport Canada: Northwest Corridor Development Corporation B.C.
Transport Canada: Value-Added Processing of Western Grain Study
Western Economic Diversification Canada: Fisheries Adjustment Program
Western Economic Diversification Canada: Massett Community Adjustment Committee
Western Economic Diversification Canada: Whiteshell Economic Development Fund

Access to Health Care

Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency: Canada/New Brunswick Agreement, Hospital to Home Technology Initiative
Canadian Heritage: Official Languages Assistance Program
Environment Canada: Community Animation Program (Health Canada)
Farm Credit Corporation: Health Promotion Program
Health Canada: Aboriginal Head Start (On-Reserve) (AHS)
Health Canada: Canada Health Infostructure Partnership Program
Health Canada: Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program — First Nations and Inuit Component (CPNP — FNIC)
Health Canada: Centres of Excellence for Women's Health
Health Canada: First Nations and Inuit Home and Community Care Program
Health Canada: Health Infostructure Support Program
Health Canada: Health Transition Fund (HTF)
Health Canada: Home Care in Rural/Remote Areas
Health Canada: Knowledge Development and Exchange Program Health Transition Fund (HTF)
Health Canada: Rural and Remote Care component — 1999 Budget Innovations in Rural and Community Health Initiative
Industry Canada: Healthcare and Education Access for Remote Residents by Telecommunications
Industry Canada: PACE 2000 for post-operative geriatric patients
Industry Canada: Project OUTREACH for telepsychiatry
Industry Canada: Project-I Site for teleophthalmology
Royal Canadian Mounted Police: Drug Awareness for Life
Royal Canadian Mounted Police: Initiative on Family Violence
Royal Canadian Mounted Police: Public Access to Defibrillation
Royal Canadian Mounted Police: Suicide Intervention Program
Western Economic Diversification Canada: CFDC CED
Western Economic Diversification Canada: Support for Research and Projects affecting SMEs in Telehealth

Access to Education

Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency: Canada/Nova Scotia Agreement on Economic Diversification, Centre for Entrepreneurship Education and Development
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency: Joint Economic Development Initiative (JEDI), Entrepreneurial and Skills Development for NB Aboriginal Communities
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency: Help people with literacy problems complete documents/forms
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency: Teach Taxes
Canadian Heritage: Assistance to Francophone Youth in Rural Areas (University of Moncton)
Canadian Heritage: Collège de l'Acadie
Canadian Heritage: National Distant Learning Network Programming Service
Canadian Heritage: Networking of Ontario Francophone School Boards
Canadian Heritage: On-Line Courses
Canadian Heritage: Reference Databases
Canadian Heritage: Virtual Exhibitions
Citizenship and Immigration Canada: Citizenship Week 2000
Citizenship and Immigration Canada: Integration-Net
Citizenship and Immigration Canada: Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada Program

Federal Economic Development Initiative in Northern Ontario (FedNor): Community Futures Development Corporations (Ontario-wide)
Federal Economic Development Initiative in Northern Ontario (FedNor): Community Partnerships
Human Resources Development Canada: Aboriginal Human Resources Strategy
Human Resources Development Canada: Canada Students Loans
Human Resources Development Canada: CanLearn Interactive
Human Resources Development Canada: Community Access Program
Human Resources Development Canada: Community Learning Networks Initiative
Human Resources Development Canada: Employment Benefits and Measures
Human Resources Development Canada: Internet Service Provider
Human Resources Development Canada: National Literacy Secretariat
Human Resources Development Canada: Office of Learning Technologies
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada: Cultural/Educational Centres Program
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada: First Nations and Inuit Post-Secondary Education Program
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada: Inuit Cultural Grants Program
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada: Kindergarten/Elementary/Secondary Education
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada: Northern Scientific Training Program
Department of Justice Canada: Development of a Program for the Post-Secondary Program
Department of Justice Canada: Nunavut Law School
Department of Justice Canada: Departmental Inuit Trainee Program
Natural Resources Canada: Lake Superior First Nation Development Trust
Natural Resources Canada: Sustainable Communities Initiative
Public Service Commission: Distance Learning for Adults
Treasury Board Secretariat: Canada Infrastructure Works Program
Western Economic Diversification Canada: CFDC CED
Western Economic Diversification Canada: Entrepreneurial Training

Partnerships for Community Development

Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency: Community Business Development Centres
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency: Operational Funding for Regional Economic Development Agencies such as the Regional Economic Development Commissions in New Brunswick; the Regional Development Authorities in Nova Scotia; the Regional Economic Development Boards in Newfoundland and Labrador; and the Community Economic Development Corporations in Prince Edward Island
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency: Partnership between Canada Customs and Revenue Agency and Nova Scotia Government regarding the use of Business Numbers
Canada Customs and Revenue Agency: Service Canada
Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions: Community Development Program (54 CFDCs)
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation: Assisted Housing Programs
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation: Homegrown Solutions
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation: Northern Research and Technology in Housing Web site
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation: Rural and Native Housing Program
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation: Shelter Enhancement Program
Canadian Heritage: Interdepartmental Partnership with Official Language Communities
Environment Canada: Atlantic Coastal Action Program
Environment Canada: Sustainable Communities (Nova Scotia Federal Council)
Environment Canada: Livestock Manure Pollution Prevention Project
Environment Canada: Sustainable Communities Initiative — Sustainable Development Coordination and Planning (SD CAP)
Farm Credit Corporation: Alliances with 23 Partners
Farm Credit Corporation: Health Promotion Program
Farm Credit Corporation: Safe Drinking Water Foundation
Farm Credit Corporation: Computers for Schools Program
Health Canada: Atlantic Community Action Program for Children (CAPC) Evaluation Sub-Committee
Health Canada: Atlantic Joint Management Committee (JMC)
Health Canada: Compliance Outreach
Health Canada: First Nations and Inuit Health Services Transfer Health Canada: Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) Committees:
a. The Pest Management Advisory Council
b. The Federal/Provincial/Territorial Committee on Pest Management and Pesticides
Health Canada: PMRA IPM Partnership Projects
Human Resources Development Canada: Employment Benefits and Support Measures
Human Resources Development Canada: Sectoral Partnerships
Human Resources Development Canada: Social Development Partnerships
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada: Business Partnership Fora (Business at the Summit in B. C., Ontario Economic Renewal Forum, Corporate Circle in Saskatchewan, Tripartite Process in N.S.)
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada: Community Economic Development Program
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada: Economic Partnerships
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada: Joint Economic Development Initiative (JEDI)
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada: Support for Tripartite Partnerships
Department of Justice Canada: Community Mobilization Program
Natural Resources Canada: Agreement with Government of Quebec to assist forestry owners affected by the Ice Storm
Natural Resources Canada: Canadian Communities Atlas

Natural Resources Canada: Canadian GeoScience Knowledge Network
Natural Resources Canada: Community Capacity Building Initiative
Natural Resources Canada: EnerGuide for Houses Program
Natural Resources Canada: Energy Innovators Initiative
Natural Resources Canada: Federal Building Incentive Program
Natural Resources Canada: Federal-Municipal Cooperation on Energy Efficiency
Natural Resources Canada: FleetWise Program
Natural Resources Canada: FleetSmart
Natural Resources Canada: GeoConnections
Natural Resources Canada: Sustainable Communities Initiative
Parks Canada Agency: Co-operating Associations
Parks Canada Agency: Canadian Heritage Rivers System
Parks Canada Agency: National Cost-Sharing Program for National Historic Sites
Parks Canada Agency: National Historic Sites Alliance for Ontario
Parks Canada Agency: National Volunteer Program
Parks Canada Agency: Park/Site Management Planning
Public Works and Government Services Canada: British Columbia Buildings Corporation
Royal Canadian Mounted Police: Aboriginal Liaison Officers
Royal Canadian Mounted Police: Client/Acquire and Analyze/Partnering/Respond/Assess (CAPRA) problem solving model
Royal Canadian Mounted Police: Contract Advisory Committee
Royal Canadian Mounted Police: Local Radio Program — Norway House, Manitoba
Royal Canadian Mounted Police: Local Television Program — Neepawa, Manitoba
Royal Canadian Mounted Police: National Strategy on Community Safety and Crime Prevention
Royal Canadian Mounted Police: Victim Services Programs
Treasury Board Secretariat: Federal Public Sector Youth Internship Program
Treasury Board Secretariat: Service Canada Initiative
Veterans Affairs Canada: Partnership with P.E.I. to enhance rural health capacity
Veterans Affairs Canada: Provision of surplus computers and Internet training to Legion in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.
Western Economic Diversification Canada: CFDC Associations
Western Economic Diversification Canada: CFDCs
Western Economic Diversification Canada: Service Delivery Network Boards

Promotion of Rural Canada

Canadian Heritage: The Centre for Exhibition Exchange
Canadian Heritage: The Great Canadian Guide, and Artefacts Canada
Canadian Heritage: The Heritage Forum
Farm Credit Corporation: Community Relations Program
Farm Credit Corporation: Over 100 offices located in rural municipalities and with employees living in rural Canada
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada: Statistical Trends 1991–1996
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada: Think tanks on Aboriginal economic development issues
Public Works and Government Services Canada: Promotional Activities in support of Fairs and Exhibitions
Statistics Canada: 12th Annual Rural Policy Conference
Statistics Canada: 1996 Census — Statistical Profile of Canadian Communities
Statistics Canada: Community Health Survey
Statistics Canada: Metropolitan Influence Zones
Statistics Canada: New Rural Economy, Options and Choices
Statistics Canada: North-South Delineation
Statistics Canada: Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletin
Statistics Canada: Rural and Small Town Canada: Demographic Projections by Age Group
Statistics Canada: Rural Data Advisory Line
Statistics Canada: Rural Youth: Stayers, Leavers and Returners