

WHAT IS RURAL POLICY TODAY?

A pan-Canadian scan of
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CONTENTS

1. Introduction	3
2. Methods	4
3. Findings	7
A. Overview of Provincial and Territorial Strategies, Plans and Programmes	7
B. Provincial and Territorial Profiles	13
i. Alberta	14
ii. British Columbia	17
iii. Manitoba	20
iv. New Brunswick	23
v. Newfoundland and Labrador	26
vi. Northwest Territories	29
vii. Nova Scotia	32
viii. Nunavut	34
ix. Ontario	37
x. Prince Edward Island	40
xi. Quebec	43
xii. Saskatchewan	46
xiii. Yukon	49
C. Overview of Federal Rural Policies	52
4. Discussion and analysis	59
5. Conclusion	67

INTRODUCTION

Rural regions are at the forefront of change. As our great green places—with the vast majority of land and natural resources—they are central to climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts.

The rapid need to de-carbonise economies is leading to large new investments in renewable energy infrastructure, transforming rural landscapes and coastlines. Key industries, from agriculture to forestry, are pressed to adopt more sustainable practices. As places with less diversified economies, the Covid-19 pandemic has revealed how fragile many rural economies can be (e.g., those that are tourism-reliant) while at the same time reinforcing their critical importance as producers in the wake of global value chain disruptions. Seeking more affordable housing and more space, many rural regions have seen an influx of newcomers over the course of the pandemic and yet, at the same time, these shifts have reinforced divides between the attraction of those rural regions with high quality broadband, public services and other amenities, and those without.

Rural strategies and plans serve to bring an important rural vision and lens to a wide range of public sector interventions and investments important to rural places and across its many complex dimensions—in a way that speaks to community diversity while recognising the need for strategic actions. Rural development strategies are important not just for rural communities themselves, but for local/regional governance more broadly. Within the government/public sector, they serve to highlight rural considerations, complementing the ‘rural lens’ approach to Cabinet submissions for instance. Rural strategies identify opportunities and challenges for the future, signify strategic actions and investments, and signify multi-actor coordination, communications and engagement. Inherently, rural strategies have the challenge of navigating scale and diversity.

What are the characteristics of rural policy today and how do practices differ across Canada? *This report shares a pan-Canadian content analysis of rural-related provincial and territorial strategies, plans and programmes.* This scan of government websites has identified the lead departments responsible for rural development and searches rural-related related strategies, plans and programmes across the thematic areas of: economic development; climate, energy and natural resources, agriculture; transportation and infrastructure; broadband and connectivity; tourism and culture; and justice and social service (in both English and French). The resulting information was coded in Excel and thematically analysed in order to develop an overarching understanding of how provincial and territorial governments approach rural policy; how departments coordinate and; whether there are targeted interventions for communities facing economic transition. Rural policies are constantly evolving and this content analysis was conducted over the period of January 5, 2021 and July 30, 2021. It represents a point-in-time snapshot.

There are **six key findings** from this research (see Part 4 for details).

1 The Yukon, Northwest and Nunavut territories exceed expectations in all categories

The territories have a disproportionately high number of interventions that impact rural areas relative to their population. These three regions collectively contributed 74 — or 22% of the 331 plans, programmes and strategies reviewed through this research. The plans, programmes and strategies in the territories direct attention and resources to high quality rural priorities integrated in virtually all subject areas.

2 Sector-specific approaches dominate

Targeted approaches for rural economic development are rare. Of the 331 plans, programmes and strategies, only 21 (6%) were targeted to specific rural communities or regions, while 241 approaches (73%) targeted overarching sector priorities. Rural priorities and opportunities are often absent within the broad sector-oriented approaches that consider provincial or territorial needs.

3 Natural resources, climate, energy and agricultural strategies and interventions largely ignore opportunities for rural community economic development

Despite their occurring in rural areas, strategies, plans and programmes related to natural resources, energy, climate and agriculture almost universally ignore opportunities for rural economic development. The documents are primarily written as sector level strategies to achieve provincial-level objectives. Of 33 agricultural approaches assessed across all regions, only seven were identified as having high rural content. Of the 74 plans, programmes and strategies related to climate, energy and natural resources, only 16 have a high rural content, and of those, all but three (13, or 81%) are programmes.

4 Opportunities for rural tourism are missing from policy interventions in almost all regions

All tourism strategies across all regions (except Nunavut) are silent on rural needs and opportunities, while a few programmes target rural communities. Despite tourism's reliance on rural and remote areas, and the opportunities for economic development articulated by many rural communities for their transitions from resource based economies, the focus of virtually all tourism strategies remained at the sector level. They most commonly focus on branding strategies, online portals, marketing and leadership.

5 Regions that address rural priorities through internal entities have more coordinated approaches

Provinces and territories with higher proportions of their populations in rural areas (Nunavut, NWT, Yukon and PEI) appear to more consistently coordinate high impact approaches related to rural development activities. Prairie provinces appear to continue to view the development of rural areas from an agricultural lens, and focus on overarching export, trade and investment activities. Neither Alberta, Manitoba nor Saskatchewan have rural development strategies, and all Provinces are organized to deliver resources to rural communities through arms length organisations. In the Atlantic provinces, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia deliver their rural priorities through external bodies, and limited resources are oriented to this subject inside core government.

6 Rural innovation is not on the agenda in most places

Innovation, a subject that tends to cross sectoral boundaries, rarely includes rural priorities or opportunities anywhere in the country. Innovation activities tend to be oriented to specific sector as incentive approaches to support economies in transition. Only Quebec offers a regional approach to innovation.

METHODS

This study employs a qualitative and quantitative comparative content analysis of publically accessible and online strategies, plans and programmes related to rural development among Canadian provinces and territories. This includes both initiatives that are specifically targeted to rural areas alongside overarching government initiatives and sectorial strategies that include rural areas as one among other focusses.

For the quantitative component of the content analysis, inductive coding analysis was used to identify seven thematic areas where governments specially address rural areas in some way: i) agriculture, ii) broadband/connectivity, iii) climate, energy and natural resources, iv) economic development, v) social services, vi) tourism and culture, vii) transportation and infrastructure. Publicly available web-based content was searched from government websites through comprehensive reviews, and the resulting information was collected and analysed in Excel.

Quantitative data collection proceeded in five steps as follows:

- 1. Structure of government documented.** Navigate to the “About Government” or equivalent section of the government website to determine the organisation/structure of the public service in relevant province/territory.
- 2. Lead rural development department/ministry identified.** Document the lead economic development ministry and request confirmation of the lead economic development ministry and the lead economic development strategies (both overarching and rural focused documents if available) by contacting the Premier of each region, and the general government contact email.
- 3. Economic development strategy identified.** Search (using search engine of choice) for the region’s main economic development strategy, keywords “economic development” and/or “strategy,” “plan,” or “approach”, “COVID-recovery plan”, “rural economic development strategy” etc.
- 4. Rural-related strategy documents, action plans and programmes identified and documented.** In alphabetical order, visited each department/ministry website and scan content to identify strategy documents, action plans and programmes and document:
 - a. *Main Subject* categorised according to thematic areas: Agriculture, Economic Development; Climate, Energy and Natural Resources; Transportation and Infrastructure; Broadband/Connectivity; Tourism and Culture, and Justice and Social Services.
 - b. *Rural Content* quantified according to the following categories:
 - i. Targeted Sector: focuses on a general overarching subject, rural is not the focus (e.g. climate, aviation, housing)
 - ii. Broad Rural: includes a focus on rural development in a specific subject (e.g. rural infrastructure, rural broadband)
 - iii. Targeted Rural: designed for a specific community or group of communities (e.g. communities in transition affected by a mill/factory closure or industry downturn, or to prepare a specific community/region for upcoming projects)

- c. *Title of the plan, policy or programme documented.*
- d. *Type of document* described as one of the following:
- i. *Strategy*: Provides high level strategic direction/guidance on a subject. Usually contains goals, vision statements, overarching principles.
 - ii. *Plan*: usually the name “plan” is in the title, and includes action plans. Usually contains specific action items, often in response to an overarching strategy.
 - iii. *Programme*: usually an operational funding programme to deliver on a plan or strategy.
- e. *Lead ministry/department identified.* The most reliable source of information about who is responsible for the document (plan, programme, strategy) is in the news release. The lead minister is almost always quoted first in public-facing documents.
- f. *Descriptions captured.* Copy and paste or paraphrase high level information directly from the document and/or news release. Identify if there is a timeframe (e.g. 10 years), and any funding associated. If there are key goals or “pillars”, include these details.
- g. *News releases searched* using the name of the programme/plan/strategy, and link it within the document, document the date released.
- h. *Links to documents captured.*

5. Rural Content assessed:

- i. Identify the page count for documents, otherwise, note n/a (typical for programmes).
- ii. Use word search for “rural” and “community”, and document individual counts. Note: for the territories, the word “rural” is not relevant. The language used in the territories is “remote”.
- iii. Read the entire document, and see how and where the needs of rural/remote communities are considered. Identify any mention of rural in either the context, specific actions, or as part of any of the overarching priority/goal statements. Copy or note any rural-relevant information.
- iv. *Provide a rural content “score” using the following guide:*
 - *High*: Designed specifically for the needs of rural communities. Rural is the focus of the document, or appears as a critical component of the document in many places.
 - *Medium*: May have one or two actions identified that address the needs of rural communities, but is primarily a sector-specific plan/programme or strategy.
 - *Low*: May describe the needs of rural communities in the context of the document, but does not offer any specific actions or priorities that are responsive to those needs. May occur in rural areas (e.g. tourism, forestry), but also be completely silent on rural. For programmes, does not differentiate between the needs of rural and urban applicants.

The resulting dataset has been used to quantify the main thematic areas of government interventions (within strategies, plans and programmes); the degree to which these focus on rural areas (through the assignment of a rural content score) and; the frequency that “rural” and “community” appear within documents. Complementing this approach, documents were analysed through a qualitative content analysis (deep reading approach) in order to understand in greater detail how rural communities were addressed in key government documents, the focus of initiatives, how they are structured and how they are coordinated across levels of government and entail engagement with other social actors.

Programmes and policies established to support recovery from the economic contents of the COVID-pandemic were not generally included in this analysis because they were time limited and not responsive to rural priorities. For example, many Provinces and Territories have created temporary programmes related to wage supplements, business relief, rehiring, and tourism stimulation programmes. Where a COVID-responsive programme built onto an existing programme, it is noted in the description how the programme was adapted for COVID. Furthermore, this search has focussed on federally, provincially or territorially delivered plans, programmes and strategies. It includes initiatives delivered by Crown Corporations or arms length government agencies when they were noted on the main government webpages as funded by government, and directly related to rural economic development. For example, Ontario’s “Community Building Fund” is funded by the Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture to support local community tourism (as an economic diversification activity), and is delivered by the Ontario Trillium Foundation and was included in the analysis. Finally, we describe this research as a ‘snapshot’ as it captures the data at a moment in time. Rural policies are constantly evolving and this content analysis was conducted over the period of January 5, 2021 and July 30, 2021.

FINDINGS

The information in this section is based on data collected in an online review and analyzed according to the methods above between January 5 and July 30, 2021.

The provincial and territorial summary below is organized into two parts:

The first is an overarching summary of findings across all provinces and territories, reflecting high-level findings common to more than one region.

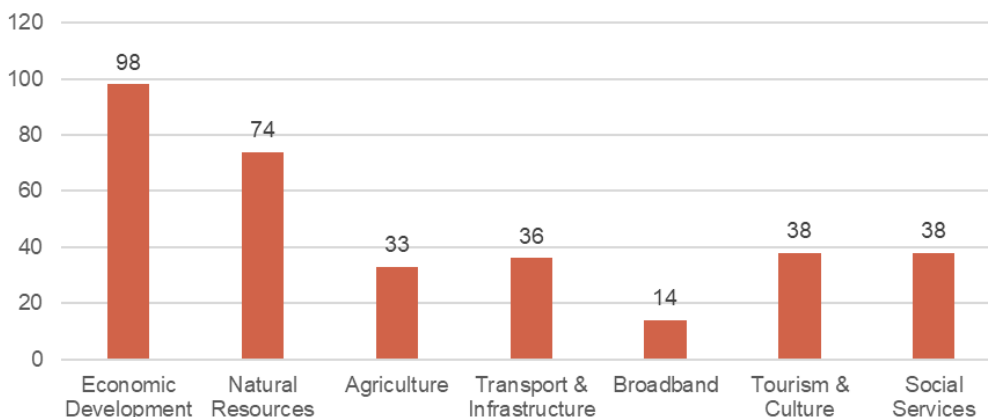
The second section contains a summary of findings unique to each province or territory.

A. OVERVIEW OF PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL STRATEGIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

The majority of strategies, plans and programmes impacting rural communities are focussed on the topics of economic development and natural resource management.

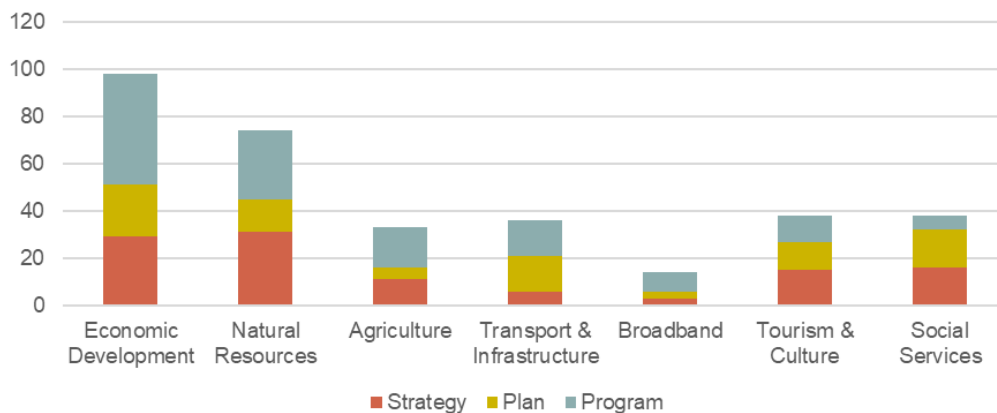
A total of 331 strategies, plans and programmes with potential rural impact were identified and reviewed across 13 provinces and territories on the topics of: economic development; climate, energy and natural resources, agriculture; transportation and infrastructure; broadband and connectivity; tourism and culture; and justice and social services (Figure 1). Food policies were included in agricultural analysis.

FIGURE 1 STRATEGIES, PLANS, PROGRAMMES BY MAIN TOPIC AREAS, ALL PROVINCES AND TERRITORIES



The majority of plans, programmes, and policies are found to be focused on economic development, natural resources, with a relatively even distribution across the other subject areas. Strategies appeared most commonly (as a proportion of total activities) within the topic of natural resource development, whereas plans and programmes were most commonly targeted to transportation, agriculture, and broadband activities (Figure 2).

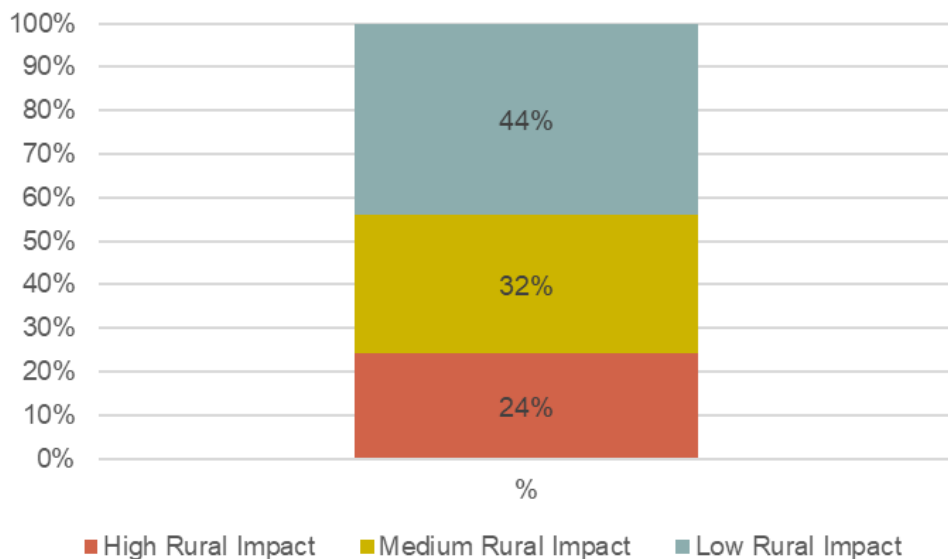
FIGURE 2 NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS (COUNT), BY SUBJECT AREA AND TYPE, ALL PROVINCES AND TERRITORIES



Overall, broadband related activities had the highest rural content, and tourism and social services had the lowest rural content.

Of the 331 strategies, plans and programmes reviewed, 44% (146) had a low rural content, meaning that the needs of rural areas were not considered or addressed in meaningful terms in the document (Figure 3). Approximately 32% (105) of the initiatives identified some consideration of rural needs, by, for example, the inclusion of an action item that named rural priorities, and the remaining 24% (80) approaches had a high rural content, in that they were specifically designed with the needs of rural communities in mind.

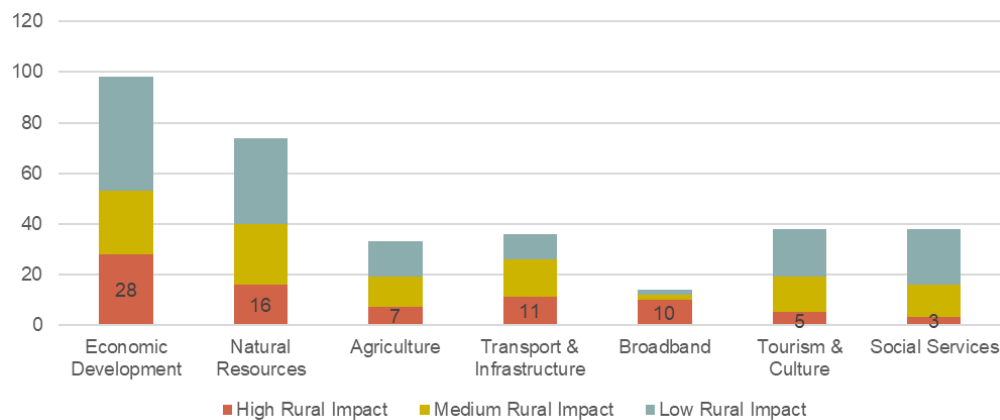
FIGURE 3 RURAL CONTENT (HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW), FOR ALL PLANS PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES (ALL TYPES), AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL, ALL PROVINCES AND TERRITORIES



With the exception of broadband activities, which are more generally designed to support the economic development of rural areas, no specific subject area stands out as primarily oriented to support rural communities. Within this generalization, activities related to social services and tourism and culture appear to have less of a focus on rural areas, while economic development, natural resources, agriculture and transport and infrastructure appear to have a relatively equal distribution of activities related to rural priorities (Figure 4). It is further notable that:

- *Around a third of economic development strategies, plans and programmes had high rural content in contrast to a fifth of those in natural resources and agriculture.* Around a third of all economic development documents reviewed (29% or 28/98) have a high rural content. Around a fifth (22% or 16/74) of strategies, plans and programmes focussing on natural resources activities and (21% or 7/33) agricultural activities have a high rural content.
- *Broadband activities are mostly targeted to rural areas.* While lowest in number in terms of number of strategies, plans and programmes, broadband activities consistently had the highest rural content (10 of 14, 71%).
- *A rural lens is mostly missing from strategies, plans and programmes in the social services and tourism and culture sector.* The social services and tourism and culture activities tended to acknowledge the content on economic development of these activities on rural areas (to support access to and quality of life for marginalized peoples or communities, or help diversify local economies), but almost universally these documents were silent on specific actions to support the needs of rural communities. Only 8% of social services approaches have a high rural content (3/38) and 13% of those in tourism and culture (5/38).
- *With some exceptions (e.g. Nunavut), there is a consistent disconnect between social services and an articulation of the needs of rural communities.* Occasionally these plans, programmes and strategies note that the needs of rural areas may be unique or important to consider, but as with tourism, the programmes, plans and strategies for social services do not differentiate in their approaches to urban versus rural areas.
- *Rural economic development is absent from most tourism strategies, plans and programmes.* While tourism often relies on rural areas of most provinces and territories, almost universally the opportunity for rural economic development was ignored in these strategies, plans and programmes.

FIGURE 4 STRATEGIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMMES BY LEVEL OF CONTENT (HIGH, MEDIUM LOW), AND BY THEME

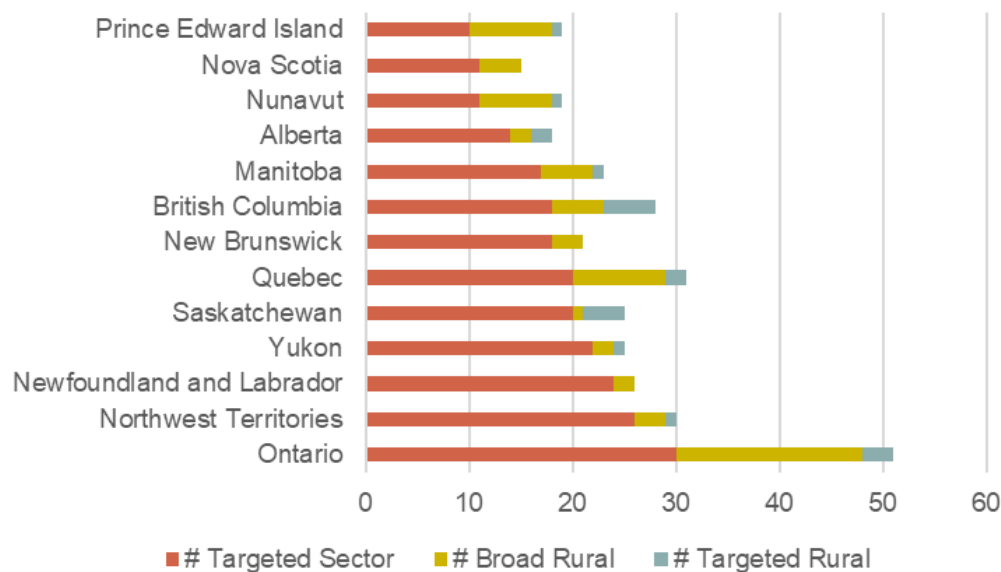


Sector specific strategies, plans and programmes are far more common than broad regional or targeted rural approaches.

In the rural development literature there are longstanding debates about how the needs for rural areas can be best addressed in the policy process and within government administration. This translates into how policy documents address rural areas. *This review finds that sector specific approaches dominate: the vast majority of plans, programmes, and strategies reviewed through this process were targeted to an overarching sector (241/331, or 73%), while 21% (69/331) addressed broad rural priorities, and only 6% (21/331) targeted specific rural areas with economies in transition. Broad rural approaches focus on rural development in a specific overarching subject (e.g. rural infrastructure, rural broadband) while targeted rural approaches are designed for a specific community or group of communities (e.g. communities in transition affected by a mill/factory closure or industry downturn, or to prepare a specific community/region for upcoming projects).*

The average percentage of interventions focused at the sector level was 72.8%. Among provinces and territories, a sector-specific approach was most evident in Newfoundland (92%), the Yukon (88%), the Northwest Territories (87%), New Brunswick (86%), Saskatchewan (80%) and Alberta (78%) (Figure 5). The provinces and territories that had the highest proportion of broad and targeted rural interventions were Prince Edward Island (47%), Nunavut (42%), Ontario (41%), British Columbia (36%), and Quebec (35%).

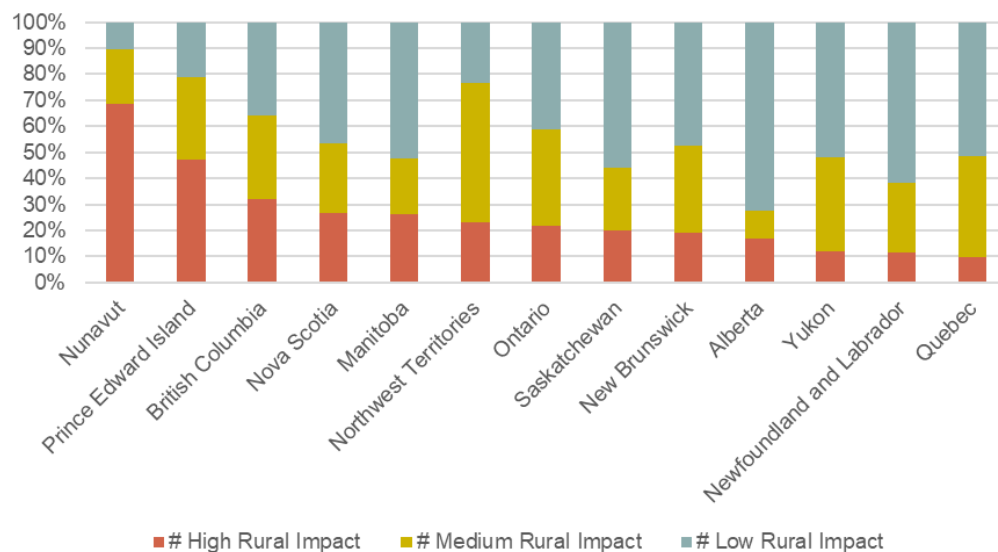
FIGURE 5 PLANS, PROGRAMMES, AND STRATEGIES BY SCOPE (SECTOR SPECIFIC, BROAD, TARGETED RURAL), BY COUNT, PROVINCES AND TERRITORIES



The content of plans, programmes and strategies on rural areas varies significantly across regions.

Nunavut and PEI have the highest percentage of strategies, plans and programmes with a strong rural focus, while Quebec has the lowest percentage of approaches with a rural lens. The provinces and territories with the lowest percent content of interventions on rural areas (relative to the Canadian mean of 44%) were Alberta (72%), Newfoundland (62%), and Saskatchewan (56%).

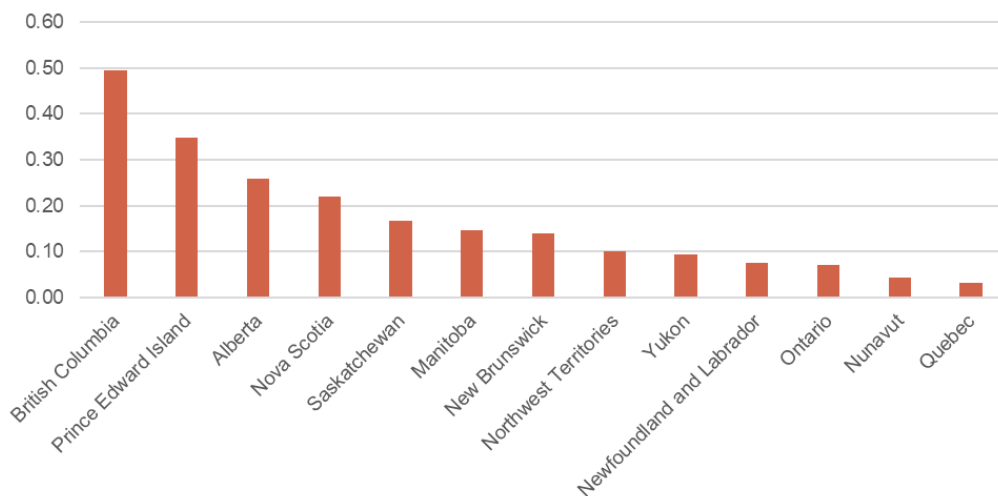
FIGURE 6 PLANS, PROGRAMMES, AND STRATEGIES BY SCOPE (SECTOR SPECIFIC, BROAD, TARGETED RURAL), PERCENTAGE OUT OF TOTAL, PROVINCES AND TERRITORIES



Provinces and territories tend to speak more about “communities” than “rural” areas

The word count of “rural” in publicly facing documents is an indicator of how prevalent this topic is in the discourse of strategies, plans and programmes. Rural most commonly appears in literature in BC and PEI, and interestingly in Alberta, who as illustrated in the previous figure have one of the lowest percent rural content of their strategies, plans and programmes (Figure 7).

FIGURE 7 WORD COUNT OF “RURAL” OUT OF TOTAL PAGE COUNT, PLANS AND STRATEGIES, BY PROVINCE AND TERRITORY

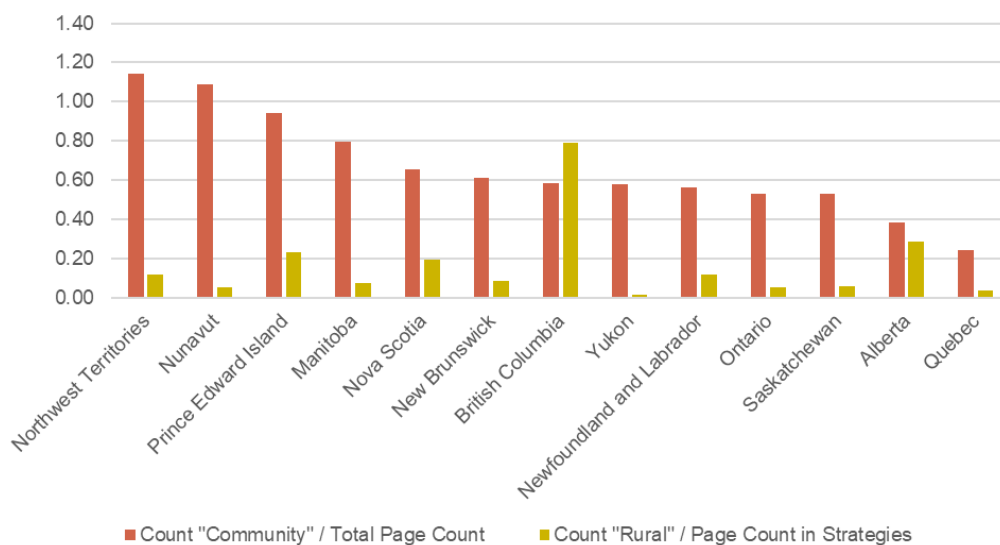


In a comparison of the word count of “rural” versus “community” per page count, BC is the only jurisdiction reviewed that uses the word rural more than the word community in its economic development strategies and plans (Figure 8). Also, despite their small population, the territories, particularly the Northwest Territories and Nunavut punch far above their weight in terms of their efforts towards rural/remote economic development. The central role of Indigenous peoples in the development of these documents and programmes generates unique cross-disciplinary, broad reaching, and highly specific targeted activities to support rural

economic development. The territories typically use the word “remote” rather than “rural” in their plans, programmes, and strategies.

It is important to note that virtually no “programmes” in any region had formal documents to be reviewed for a word count that would contribute to this analysis, as compared to strategies and plans which were often found in a searchable desktop published format (e.g. pdf). This means that the results for the word count analysis effectively exclude programmes, which in many regions are the primary mechanisms for achieving rural economic development. This may explain why the word count information for regions with a relatively large number of high rural content approaches (e.g. Nunavut and Northwest Territories) appear less focused on rural/remote than regions such as Alberta, which has a relatively low percentage of plans, programmes and strategies related to rural economic development.

FIGURE 8 WORD COUNT OF “COMMUNITY” AND “RURAL” OUT OF TOTAL PAGE COUNT, PLANS AND STRATEGIES, BY PROVINCE AND TERRITORY



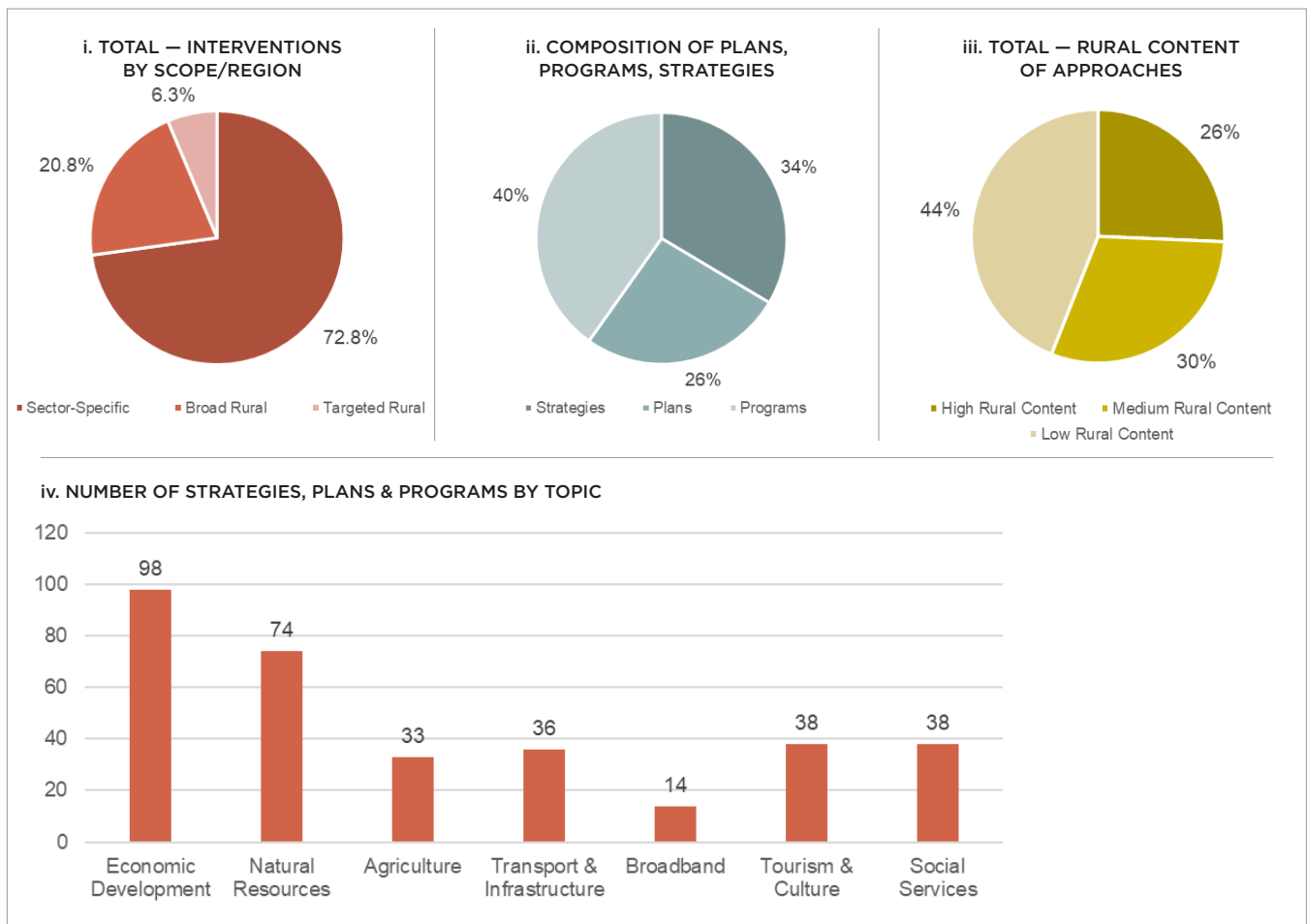
B. PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL PROFILES

This section provides individual profiles for each of the provinces and territories reviewed in this process, providing high level information regarding the lead rural economic development department/ministry, overarching strategies, plans, and programmes, a summary of the impact and reach of these activities, and a sample of recent news releases related to rural economic development from each region.

For each of the provinces and territories, a breakdown of the percentage of strategies, plans, and programmes, the nature of those approaches (sector specific, broad rural and targeted rural), and the percent rural content (high, medium, low) is provided. For reference, the national average for each of those indicators is provided immediately below.

FIGURE 9. PERCENT BREAKDOWN OF THE TOTAL PROPORTION OF ALL PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES TO HIGHLIGHT THE:

- i) Average distribution of approaches/interventions by region, to highlight the composition of approaches to pursue sector-level priorities, broad rural priorities, and targeted rural interventions.
- ii) Average overall composition of approaches reviewed, to understand the percent of strategies, plans and programmes designed to address economic development with impacts on rural regions.
- iii) Average percent rural content of all interventions in all regions.
- iv) Total number of strategies, plans and programmes across all regions by topic area.



ALBERTA

Lead Rural Economic Development Ministry	Agriculture and Forestry
Primary Rural Development Document/Strategy	N/A
Primary Overarching Economic Development Strategy	Alberta's Recovery Plan
Current Governing Party	United Conservative Party — Apr 2019

Institutional Organisation: The lead organisation responsible for rural economic development is the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Publicly funded programmes are delivered through a mixed model that includes a 10 year \$370 million research relationship with the arms length organisation called “Results Driven Agriculture Research”. The province identifies that other key activities to support rural economic development include a broadband strategy led by Service Alberta, an immigration strategy through the Ministry of Labour and Immigration, and a Northern Strategy (in development) led by the arms length Northern Alberta Development Council.

	Strategies	Plans	Programmes	Total	High Content	Med Content	Low Content	Count “Rural”/ Page count	Count “Community”/ Page count
#	10	3	5	18	3	2	13	0.26	0.38
%	56%	17%	28%	100%	17%	11%	72%	26%	38%

FIGURES: BREAKDOWN OF THE COMPOSITION OF AB PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES BY SCOPE, TYPE AND CONTENT.

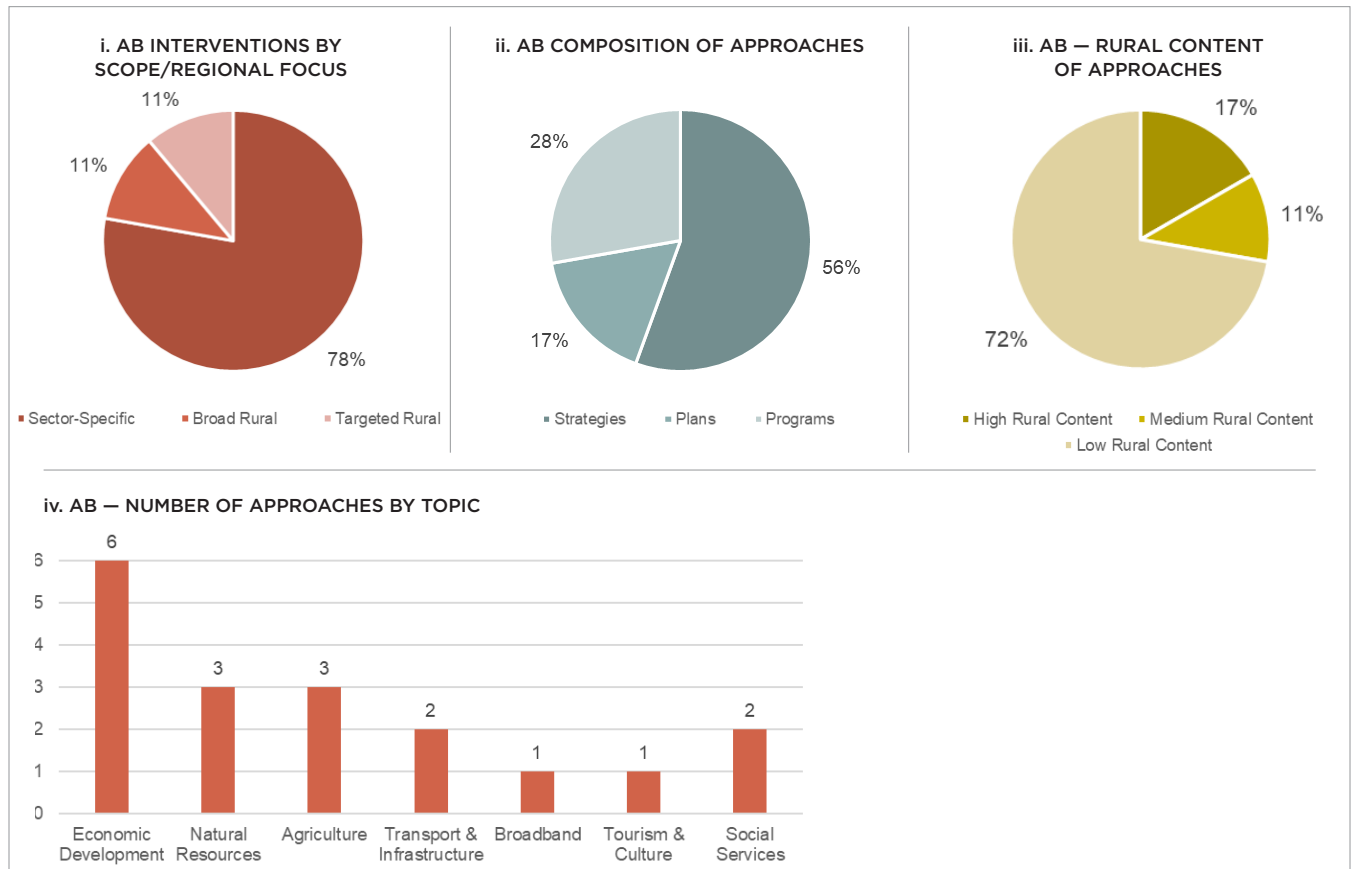


TABLE: SUMMARY OF THE PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES REVIEWED FOR ALBERTA

Subject	Broad Rural	Targeted Rural	Targeted Sector	Involved Ministries	#
Economic Development			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alberta's Recovery Plan • Alberta 2030: building skills for jobs • Selling Alberta to the world • Community and Regional Economic Support (CARES) • Alberta Community Partnership • Community Initiatives Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jobs, Economy and Innovation • Municipal Affairs • Culture, Multiculturalism and Sport • Finance • Advanced Education • Service Alberta 	6
Climate, Energy And Natural Resources			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alberta's water research and innovation strategy annual report • Knowledge for a changing environment: 2019-2024 science strategy • Alberta's natural gas vision and strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jobs, Economy and Innovation • Energy • Environment and Parks 	3
Agriculture		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status report: Agricultural strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alberta's Irrigation : a strategy for the future • Alberta Fusarium management plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture and Forestry 	3
Transportation And Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investing in Canada Infrastructure Programme — Rural and Northern Communities Infrastructure 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation • Infrastructure 	2
Broadband / Connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accelerating broadband enablement in rural Alberta 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance and Enterprise 	1
Tourism And Culture		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Castle Region Tourism Strategy 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culture and Tourism 	1
Justice And Social Services			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alberta Disability Strategy • National Housing Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community and Social Services • Alberta Social Housing Corporation 	2
TOTAL	2	2	14	-	18

Provincial Context:

- While the word count for rural is relatively high in Alberta, the actual plans, programmes, and strategies contain few details that outline meaningful actions responsive to the needs of rural communities.
- The lead ministry responsible for rural economic development is Agriculture and Forestry, and this ministry is not named as a partner in any of the Province's economic development approaches.
- Alberta has more strategies, more sector specific approaches, and fewer rurally focused approaches than the national average.

RECENT GOVERNMENT NEWS RELEASES OUTLINING SUPPORTS TO RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- 1 Energy: Apr 23, 2021: Coal exploration halted on Category 2 lands

- 2 Jobs, Economy and Innovation: Apr 23, 2021: Relief for businesses now available: Application intake for the spring 2021 payment from Alberta's small business grant is now open.

- 3 Jobs, Economy and Innovation: Apr 22, 2021: Alberta's tech sector is growing and creating jobs

- 4 Premier's Office: Apr 14: Alberta signs small modular nuclear reactor MOU with New Brunswick, Ontario and Saskatchewan

- 5 Justice and Solicitor General: Apr 13, 2021: A new plan will add 10 RCMP officers in Wetaskiwin to address high crime rates in the city and surrounding rural areas.

- 6 Advanced Education: Apr 13, 2021: Legislation modernizing apprenticeship education and skilled trades

- 7 Environment and Parks: Apr 12, 2021: Improving sustainable recreation, protecting Crown land, especially along the Eastern Slopes, which is more popular than ever.

- 8 Associate Minister of Red Tape Reduction: Apr 08, 2021: Alberta's government has reduced red tape by more than 15 per cent and is well on its way to meeting the commitment of a one-third reduction by 2023.

- 9 Infrastructure: Feb 12: Infrastructure projects support jobs, economy

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Lead Rural Economic Development Ministry	Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
Primary Rural Development Document/Strategy	BC Rural Economic Development Strategy
Primary Overarching Economic Development Strategy	StrongerBC: Economic Recovery Plan
Current Governing Party	New Democrat Party - Oct 2020

Institutional Organisation: While the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is the lead ministry responsible for rural economic development, many ministries interface with rural communities through a range of sector-specific plans, programmes, and strategies.

	Strategies	Plans	Programmes	Total	High Content	Med Content	Low Content	Count "Rural"/ Page count	Count "Community"/ Page count
#	12	9	7	28	9	9	10	0.49	0.58
%	43%	32%	25%	100%	32%	33%	37%	49%	58%

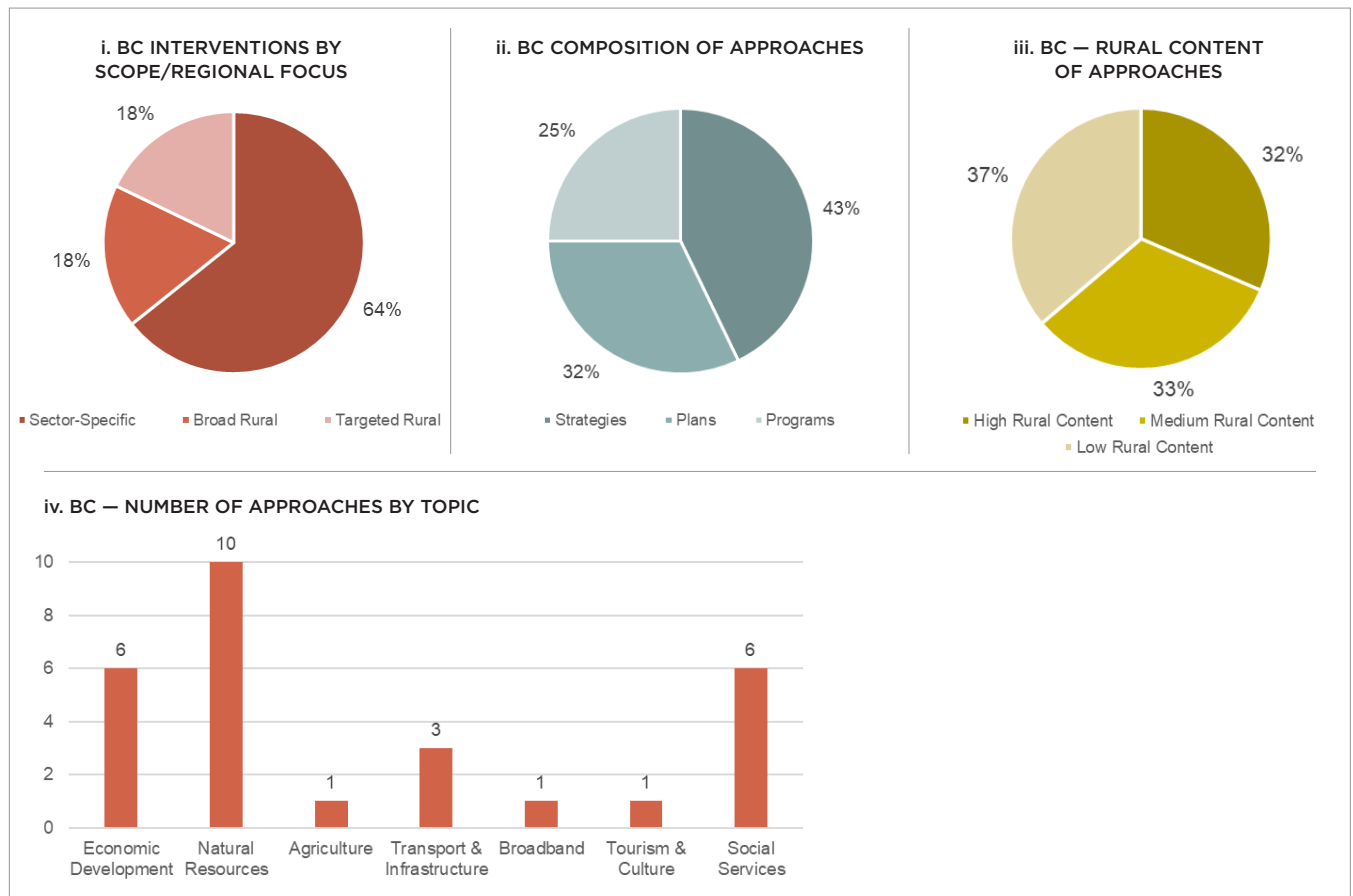


TABLE: SUMMARY OF THE PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES REVIEWED FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA

Subject	Broad Rural	Targeted Rural	Targeted Sector	Involved Ministries	#
Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BC Rural Economic Development Strategy • Community Transition Services 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • StrongerBC: Economic Recovery Plan • BC Procurement Strategy • BC Technology and Innovation Policy Framework • Emerging Economy Task Force 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development • Jobs, Economic Recovery, and Innovation • Finance • Citizens' Services 	6
Climate, Energy and Natural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BC Indigenous Clean Energy Initiative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remote Community Clean Energy Strategy • Community Support Grants Programme • Short-term Forest Employment Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean BC • Clean BC Communities Fund • BC Bioenergy Strategy • Forest Health Strategy • BC Mining Compliance and Enforcement Strategic Plan • Action Plan: Responding to Wildfire and Flood Risks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment & Climate Change Strategy • Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation • Jobs, Economic Recovery, and Innovation • Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development • Emergency Management BC 	10
Agriculture			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Security Task Force 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture, Food and Fisheries 	1
Transportation and Infrastructure		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highway 16 Transportation Action Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BC On the Move • The Pacific Gateway Transportation Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation and Infrastructure 	3
Broadband / Connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connecting BC 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizens' Services 	1
Tourism and Culture			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcoming Visitors – Benefiting Locals – Working Together 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport 	1
Justice and Social Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Plan of Aboriginal Programmes and Relationships Branch 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BC Policing and Community Safety Plan • Justice & Public Safety Sector Digital Strategy • A Pathway to Hope: Mental Health/ Addictions • TogetherBC: Poverty Reduction Strategy • Homes for BC: A 30-Point Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Safety & Solicitor General & Emergency B.C. • Citizens' Services • Mental Health & Addictions • Social Development & Poverty Reduction • Municipal Affairs 	6
TOTAL	5	5	18		28

Provincial Context:

- Forestry is the major sector of the economy in decline that has affected rural areas in British Columbia. The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development has taken the lead to coordinate a cross-government policy response to address this issue.
- British Columbia has an above average number of impactful approaches that focus on rural economic development relative to other regions of Canada.

RECENT GOVERNMENT NEWS RELEASES OUTLINING SUPPORTS TO RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- 1 Social Development and Poverty Reduction – March 5: “Inclusive employment pilot project” providing Eligible Powell River residents with on-the-job experience and skills training where they earn a fair wage in a new social enterprise.

- 2 Advanced Education and Skills Training – March 5: Mass timber housing being constructed as part of affordable housing initiative at OK College’s Vernon, Salmon Arm and Kelowna campuses.

- 3 Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sports – March 5 (multiple): Regional awards of millions to support arts and culture organisations across BC (many in rural areas) through the StrongerBC plan for economic recovery.

- 4 Citizens’ Services March 5: Launch of high speed internet in rural community of Wynndel through the Connecting British Columbia programme.

- 5 Municipal Affairs March 5: Launch of a new \$15-million Local Government Development Approvals Programme to support local governments to improve their development approvals process builds on the Province’s commitment to help people and communities get the homes they need built faster. Administered by UBCM, municipalities, regional districts and the Islands Trust will be eligible for up to \$500,000 for projects that improve their development approvals process.

- 6 Emergency Management BC March 5: Announcement of Local governments and First Nations in 28 communities approved to receive their share of more than \$1 million in provincial emergency preparedness funding to support evacuation route planning.

- 7 Jobs, Economic Recovery, and Innovation March 4: Government has extended the deadline for the Small and Medium Sized Business Recovery Grant programme to ensure businesses have the time they need to apply. Not specific to rural areas, but the \$345-million programme provides fully funded grants to businesses that employ up to 149 B.C. residents. Grants of \$10,000 to a maximum of \$30,000 are available, with up to an additional \$5,000 to \$15,000 available to tourism-related businesses.

- 8 Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development March 3: Announces \$2.4 million to complete wildfire risk reduction projects in the Columbia Basin as part of its economic recovery plan to create jobs and help communities recover from COVID-19 impacts. The funding will be allocated in partnership with Columbia Basin Trust.

- 9 Agriculture, Food and Fisheries March 2: Announcement of \$5.6 million to expand food processing infrastructure as part of the BC Food Hub Network to Victoria, Bowser, Cowichan Valley, Abbotsford, Kamloops, Creston and the Kootenay-Boundary region.

- 10 Transportation and Infrastructure March 1: Announced more than \$3.9 million in joint fed-Prov funding to install approximately 150 new and refitted public bus shelters throughout the province (outside metro-Van).

MANITOBA

Lead Rural Economic Development Ministry	Economic Development and Jobs
Primary Rural Development Document/Strategy	N/A
Primary Overarching Economic Development Strategy	Manitoba Economic Growth Action Plan
Current Governing Party	Progressive Conservative Party – Sept 2019

Institutional Organisation: The responsibility for rural economic development in Manitoba rests within the Ministry of Economic Development and Jobs, in the Department of Industry Programmes and Partnerships. The Province identifies that the key strategies related to rural economic development are the Provincial Tourism Strategy (Sport, Culture and Heritage), the Skills, Talent and Knowledge Strategy (Advanced Education, Skills and Immigration), and the Manitoba Protein Advantage (Agriculture and Resource Development). The Rural Manitoba Economic Development Corporation is a publicly-funded arms length organisation specifically designed to support the needs of rural communities and businesses. While not noted in official correspondence, the Ministry of Agriculture and Resource Development website notes that they provide “front-line service delivery and extension programmes to accelerate the growth and renewal of the agrifood industry and rural economy.”

	Strategies	Plans	Programmes	Total	High Content	Med Content	Low Content	Count “Rural”/ Page count	Count “Community”/ Page count
#	10	6	7	23	6	5	12	0.15	0.80
%	43%	26%	30%	100%	26%	22%	52%	15%	80%

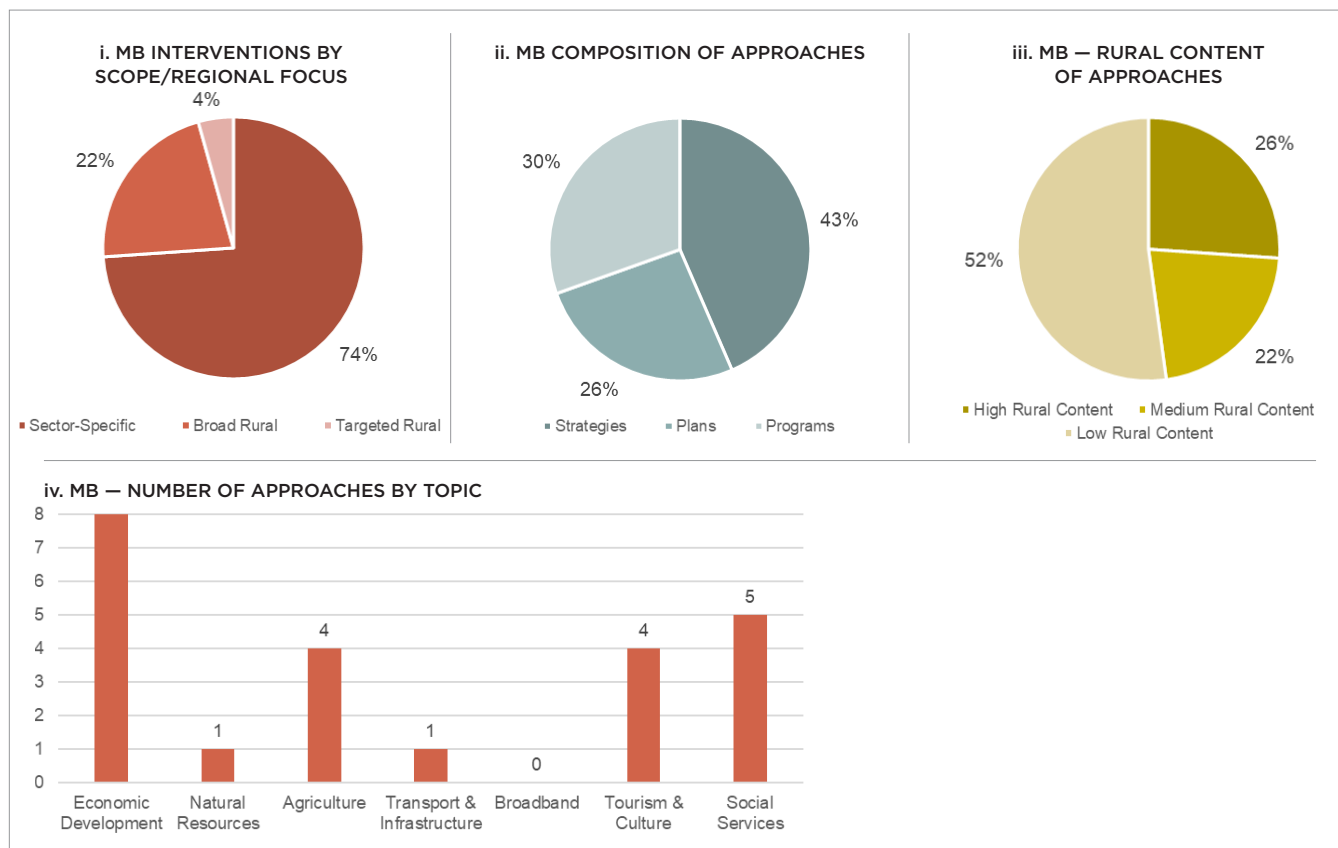


TABLE: SUMMARY OF THE PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES REVIEWED FOR MANITOBA

Subject	Broad Rural	Targeted Rural	Targeted Sector	Involved Ministries	#
Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look North: Report and Action Plan for Manitoba's Northern Economy 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Growth Action Plan • Growing Manitoba's Economy: Co-Chairs' Findings and Recommendations • Innovation Growth Programme • Community Enterprise Development Tax Credit • Building Sustainable Communities Programme • Skills, Talent and Knowledge Strategy • Manitoba Works Capital Incentive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Development and Jobs • Advanced Education, Skills and Immigration • Municipal Relations • Finance 	8
Climate, Energy and Natural Resources			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Made in Manitoba Climate and Green Plan – Discussion Paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture and Resource Development • Premier's Office 	1
Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Healthy Foods Initiative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable Food in Remote Manitoba 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Manitoba Protein Advantage • Water Management Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture and Resource Development 	4
Transportation and Infrastructure			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transforming the Manitoba Public Service: A Strategy for Action 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Council 	1
Broadband / Connectivity					0
Tourism and Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Manitoba Tourism Strategy • Manitoba Aboriginal Languages Strategy 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provincial Tourism Strategy • Our Way Forward: Manitoba's Culture Policy and Action Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sport, Culture and Heritage 	4
Justice and Social Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Youth Empowerment Initiative 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better Education Starts Today: Putting Students First • Poverty Reduction Strategy • Criminal Justice Strategy Modernization Strategy • Shared Priorities Sustainable Progress: A 12 Month Action Plan for Manitoba Families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Families • Health, Seniors and Active Living • Indigenous and Northern Relations • Justice 	5
TOTAL	5	1	17	-	23

Provincial Context:

- Manitoba appears to be primarily focused on rural development from an export development and industry attraction lens. It is interesting to note that the province does not have a broadband strategy, instead communicating that they have excellent broadband coverage which is a strategic advantage for investors.

RECENT GOVERNMENT NEWS RELEASES OUTLINING SUPPORTS TO RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- 1 February 25, 2021: Province's Second Protein Summit a Resounding Success
- 2 May 13, 2021: Protecting Manitobans, Advancing Manitoba by Improving Broadband and Cellular Service in Communities and Along Transportation Corridors: Pallister, Helwer
- 3 May 7, 2021: Investment Maintains Connections and Continuity for Vulnerable Young Manitobans
- 4 May 6, 2021: Province Invests in Creation of New Water Management Strategy
- 5 May 5, 2021: Manitoba Government Invests \$1.3 Million in Northern Healthy Food Initiative

NEW BRUNSWICK

Lead Rural Economic Development Ministry	None, fulfilled by arms-length Regional Development Corporation
Primary Rural Development Document/Strategy	N/A
Primary Overarching Economic Development Strategy	Economic Recovery and Growth Action Plan
Current Governing Party	Progressive Conservative - Nov 2018

Institutional Organisation: There is no lead department for rural economic development in New Brunswick. The arms-length “Regional Development Corporation” was established as a crown corporation in the 1960s to manage land assets associated with dam infrastructure. This entity runs some community development funding opportunities and federal, provincial, territorial agreements, but does not set direction. An external organisation “Opportunities New Brunswick” delivers economic development programmes, but does not distinguish between rural and urban in programming or approach.

	Strategies	Plans	Programmes	Total	High Content	Med Content	Low Content	Count “Rural”/ Page count	Count “Community”/ Page count
#	9	8	4	21	4	7	10	0.14	0.61
%	43%	26%	19%	100%	19%	33%	48%	14%	61%

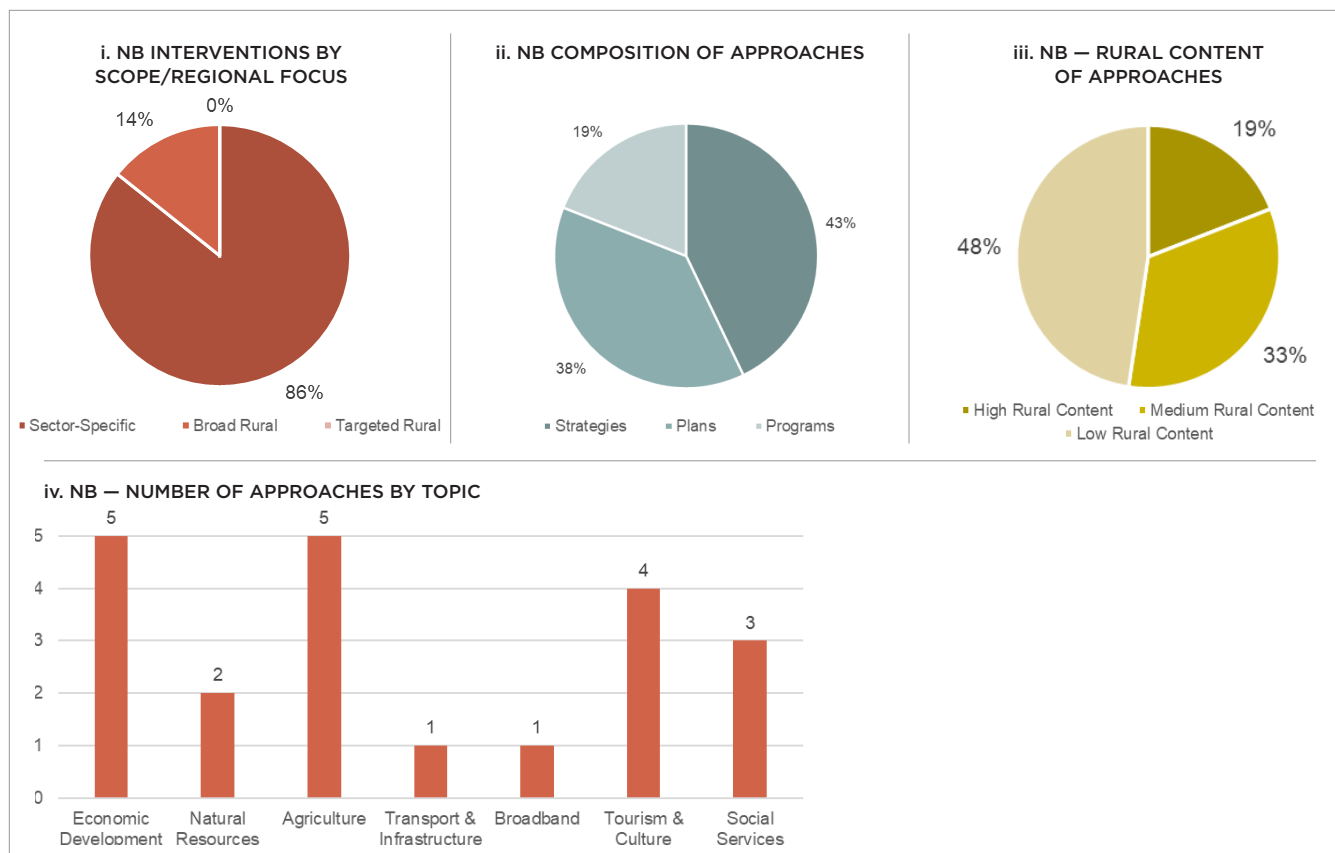


TABLE: SUMMARY OF THE PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES REVIEWED FOR NEW BRUNSWICK

Subject	Broad Rural	Targeted Rural	Targeted Sector	Involved Ministries	#
Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Economy Fund 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Recovery and Growth Action Plan • New Brunswick First Procurement Strategy • Action Plan for a New Local Governance System in New Brunswick • New Beginnings: A Population Growth Strategy for New Brunswick 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities NB Brunswick • Service New Brunswick • Environment and Local Government • Regional Development Corporation • Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour 	5
Climate, Energy and Natural Resources			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Brunswick's Climate Change Action Plan • A Water Strategy for New Brunswick 2018-2028 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment and Local Government 	2
Agriculture			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farming in New Brunswick A Road Map for New Entrants • New Brunswick Shellfish Aquaculture Development Strategy • Road Map to Develop the Industrial Hemp Sector in New Brunswick • Fisheries Renewal Framework • New Brunswick Local Food and Beverages Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries 	5
Transportation and Infrastructure			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term strategic capital planning framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation and Infrastructure 	1
Broadband / Connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadband Upgrades 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Development Corporation 	1
Tourism and Culture			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSVP: A Plan for Renewal. A Plan for Recovery • 2021 Summer Explore NB Travel Incentive Programme • Creative Futures: A Renewed Cultural Policy for New Brunswick • A Sport Plan for New Brunswick 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism, Heritage and Culture 	4
Justice and Social Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • French Language Opportunities for Rural Areas (FLORA) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Brunswick plan to prevent and respond to violence against Aboriginal women and girls • 2019 - 2022 New Brunswick Action Plan — Housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aboriginal Affairs • Social Development • Education and Early Childhood Development 	3
TOTAL	3	0	18	-	21

Provincial Context:

- Virtually all industries in New Brunswick are in transition (manufacturing, fisheries, agriculture, forestry, etc.), particularly in terms of requiring more labour. An emerging issue for the province impacting rural economic development is housing, which is often not available to support the areas where work is in demand, leading to a focus on “economic housing” as a strategic priority.

RECENT GOVERNMENT NEWS RELEASES OUTLINING SUPPORTS TO RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- 1 16 June 2021: Atlantic provinces continue collaboration to encourage growth in aquaculture industry

- 2 11 June 2021: Vibrant communities, environment and education focus of 60th legislative assembly

- 3 01 June 2021: REVISED / Explore NB programme to include Atlantic provinces this summer, tourism recovery and growth plan released

- 4 27 May 2021: Explore NB Travel Incentive Programme returns this summer

- 5 11 May 2021: Amendments introduced to reduce provincial personal income tax due to carbon tax revenue

- 6 28 April 2021: Increased investments to maintain roads and buildings

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Lead Rural Economic Development Ministry	Industry, Energy and Technology > Regional Economic Development Division
Primary Rural Development Document/Strategy	N/A
Primary Overarching Economic Development Strategy	<u>The Way Forward Plan</u> (2018)
Current Governing Party	Liberal - Nov 2015

Institutional Organisation: The lead organisation responsible for rural economic development in Newfoundland and Labrador is the Department of Industry, Energy and Technology, specifically the Regional Economic Development Division. This group is also responsible for the broadband portfolio for the province. A number of regional development officers support regions in their ability to access a portfolio of programmes regarding community and economic development, such as loan assessments and community development initiatives. Other departments contributing to economic development activities include Immigration, Population Growth and Skills Education; Advanced Education, Skills and Labour; and Municipal and Provincial Affairs.

	Strategies	Plans	Programmes	Total	High Content	Med Content	Low Content	Count "Rural"/ Page count	Count "Community"/ Page count
#	5	13	8	26	3	7	16	0.08	0.56
%	19%	50%	31%	100%	12%	27%	62%	8%	56%

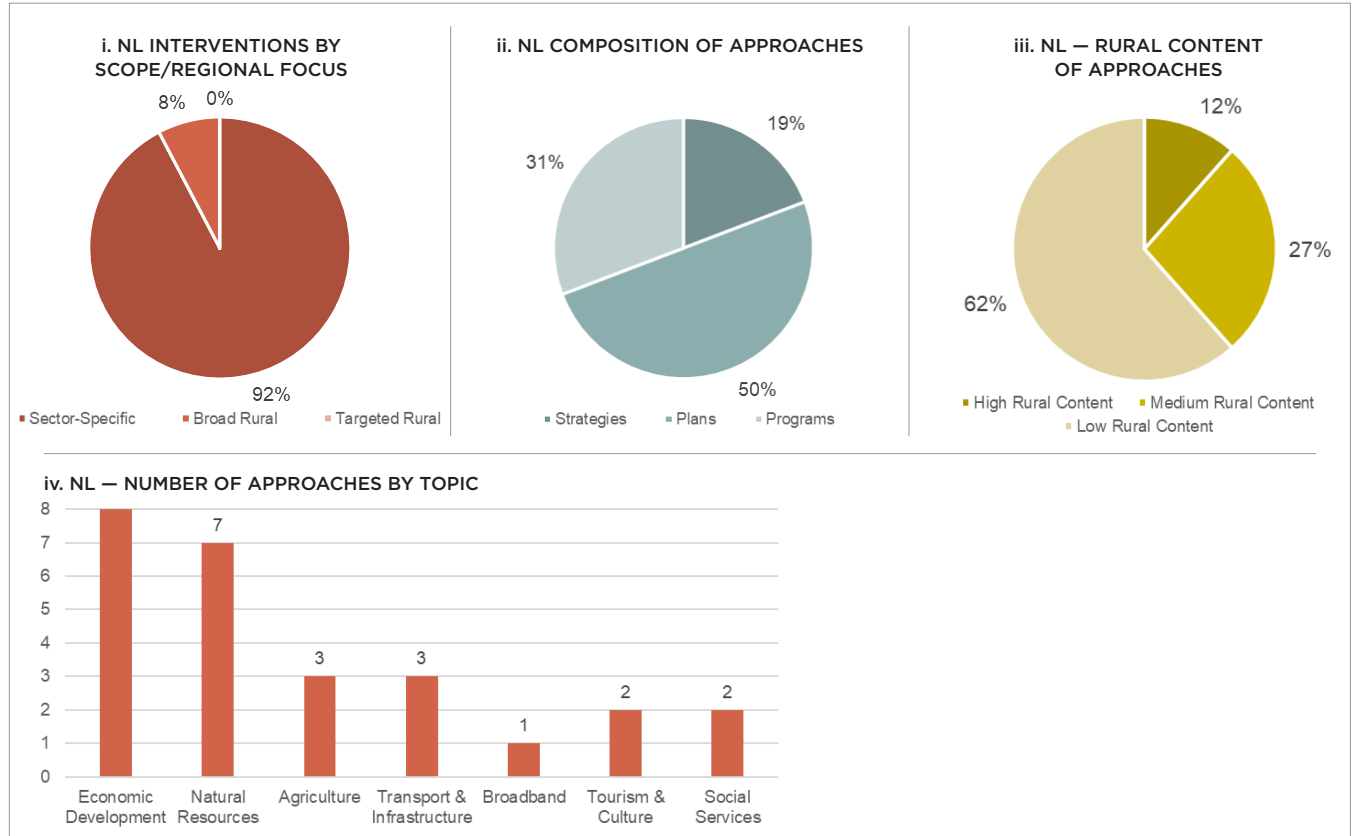


TABLE: SUMMARY OF THE PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES REVIEWED FOR NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Subject	Broad Rural	Targeted Rural	Targeted Sector	Involved Ministries	#
Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Enhancement Employment Programme 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Way Forward Plan • The Way Forward with Community • The Way Forward on Workforce Development • The Way Forward on Immigration in Newfoundland and Labrador • Community Capacity Building Programme • Workforce Innovation Centre • Vision for Technology Sector Growth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Premier's Office • Industry, Energy and Technology • Immigration, Population Growth and Skills • Education • Advanced Education, Skills and Labour • Municipal and Provincial Affairs 	8
Climate, Energy and Natural Resources			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Way Forward on Climate Change • Provincial Sustainable Forest Management Strategy • Mining the Future 2030 • The Way Forward on Forestry • The Way Forward on Oil and Gas: Advance 2030 – A Plan for Growth • Oil and Gas Innovation and Business Development Fund • Waste Management Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment and Climate Change • Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture • Industry, Energy and Technology 	7
Agriculture			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aquaculture Capital Equity Programme • Provincial Agrifoods Assistance Programme • Community Garden Support Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture 	3
Transportation and Infrastructure			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Way Forward Five-Year Marine Infrastructure Plan • A Multi-Year Plan for Infrastructure Investments • Five-Year Provincial Roads Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation and Infrastructure 	3
Broadband / Connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Development Fund 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry, Energy and Technology 	1
Tourism and Culture			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision 2020: Uncommon Potential – A Vision for Newfoundland and Labrador Tourism • Cultural Action Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation 	2
Justice and Social Services			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Now is the Time • Social Enterprise Action Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Industry, Energy and Technology 	2
TOTAL	2	0	24	-	26

Provincial Context:

- The primary document guiding overarching economic development for the province is titled “The Way Forward”, and is connected to the previous administration, but remains a central focus of many initiatives and approaches. A series of sub-plans have been generated under “The Way Forward” heading, such as the Way Forward on Forestry, The Way Forward on Oil and Gas, and The Way Forward for Marine Infrastructure. A new strategy titled “Newfoundland 2030” is in development, with a primary focus on research, innovation and economic development.
- Regional economic development activities in Newfoundland and Labrador tend to be broad in their scope and flexible to respond to changing needs in communities. No plans, programmes, or strategies are targeted to specific rural areas with economies in transition.
- Newfoundland and Labrador is unique in that it is comprised of almost 300 municipalities, and the province has a long history of exploring regional development models to achieve and balance efficiency and service delivery needs of communities.
- Currently, the province’s economy is dominated by non-renewable resources such as oil and mineral extraction. Additionally, forestry has been identified as an emerging priority area (since 2014), to move the economy away from non-renewable resource extraction, and to address the impacts of downturns in the fisheries sector.

RECENT GOVERNMENT NEWS RELEASES OUTLINING SUPPORTS TO RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- 1 June 18: Investing \$50 million in Public Infrastructure for Newfoundland and Labrador Residents

- 2 June 16: Statement from Premier Furey and Minister Parsons on Terra Nova Project

- 3 June 9: Rural mental health programme: Bridge the Gap Featured in the Council of the Federation’s Promising Practices Podcast

- 4 June 28: Supporting an Economic Generator in Cow Head (population 428) – Provincial Government is contributing \$147,750 for a two-year business development initiative. This is in addition to \$80,000 from the Cultural Economic Development Programme to support the 2021 Gros Morne Theatre Festival season.

- 5 June 23: Budget 2021 Investments Supporting Newcomers and Population Growth: increasing immigration and welcoming 5,100 newcomers annually by 2026

- 6 January 15: Supporting the Oil and Gas Supply and Service Industry: \$907,000 in programme funding to support various companies with the development and marketing of new and innovative technologies

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Lead Rural Economic Development Department	Industry, Tourism, and Investment
Primary Rural Development Document/Strategy	Sustainable Livelihoods Action Plan (2019)
Primary Overarching Economic Development Strategy	Economic Opportunities Strategy (2013)
Current Governing Party	Independents Operating by Consensus

Institutional Organisation: The lead organisation responsible for rural economic development is the department of Industry, Tourism, and Investment. The federal government plays an important role in funding economic development programmes in the Northwest Territories (NWT):

- Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor) supports northern businesses under its Strategic Investments in Northern Economic Development (SINED) programme.
- The NWT Community Futures organisations, supported by both the federal government and the GNWT, provides loans and other support at a regional level.
- The Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC), a federal crown corporation, provides loans targeted to new and emerging entrepreneurs.
- The federal Department of Innovation, Science and Economic Development (ISED, formerly Industry Canada) supports manufacturers and other businesses.

	Strategies	Plans	Programmes	Total	High Content	Med Content	Low Content	Count "Rural"/ Page count	Count "Community"/ Page count
#	11	6	13	30	7	16	7	0.10	1.14
%	37%	20%	43%	100%	23%	53%	23%	10%	114%

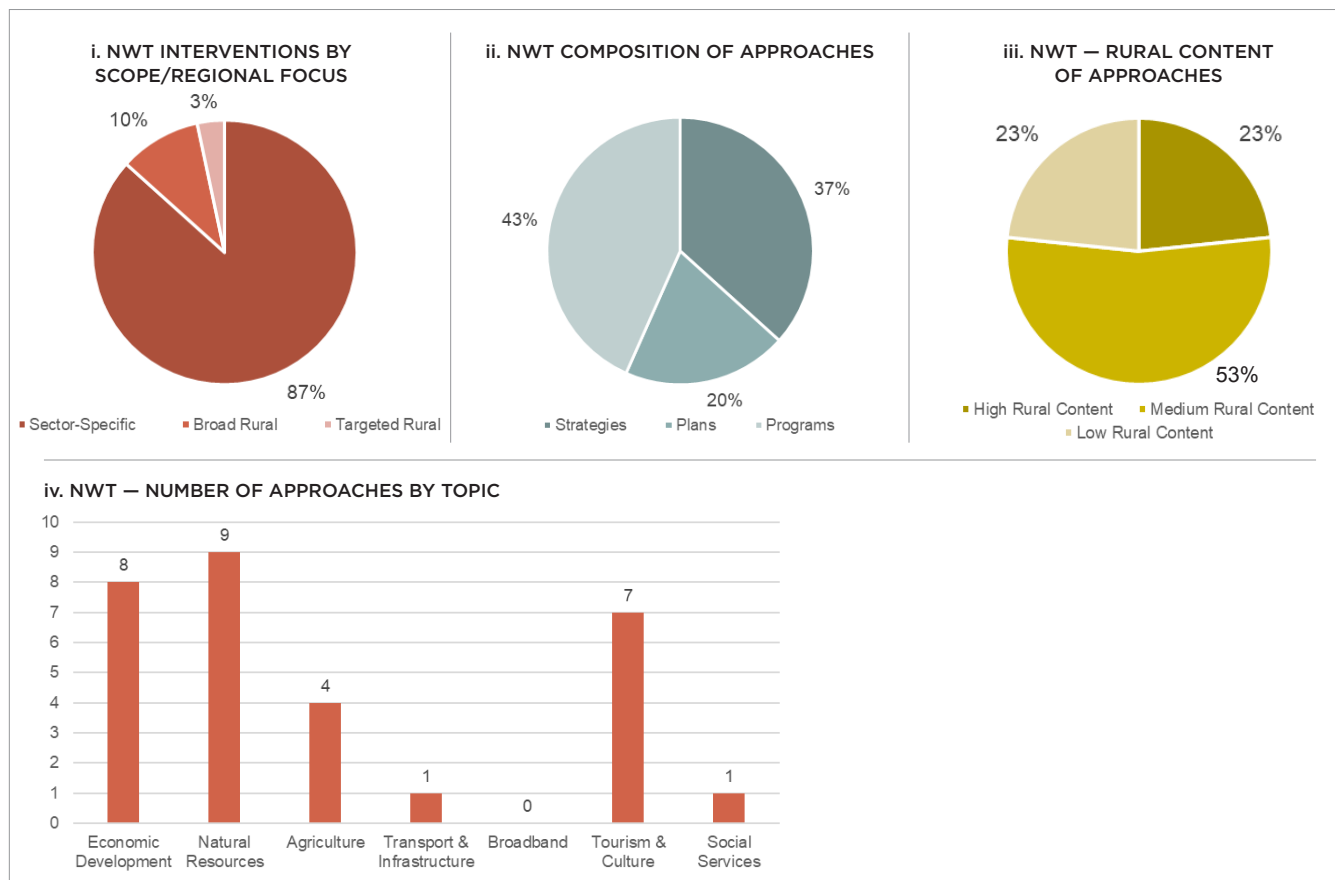


TABLE: SUMMARY OF THE PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES REVIEWED FOR THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Subject	Broad Rural	Targeted Rural	Targeted Sector	Involved Ministries	#
Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Livelihoods Action Plan 2019-2023 • Small Communities Employment Strategy • Community Economic Development (SEED) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emerging Stronger: COVID-19 Social and Economic Recovery Plan • Support for Entrepreneurs and Economic Development Policy (SEED) • NWT Manufactured Products Strategy and Policy • Economic Opportunities Strategy • Skills 4 Success 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive and Indigenous Affairs • Industry, Tourism and Investment • Environment and Natural Resources • Education, Culture and Employment 	8

Subject	Broad Rural	Targeted Rural	Targeted Sector	Involved Ministries	#
Climate, Energy and Natural Resources		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interim Resource Management Assistance Programme (IRMA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2030 Energy Strategy • 2030 NWT Climate Change Strategic Framework • Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur Programme • Mining Incentive Programme • Northwest Territories Mineral Development Strategy • Finding Common Ground • Healthy Land, Healthy People • Northern Lands, Northern Leadership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy • Environment and Natural Resources • Industry, Tourism and Investment • Lands 	9
Agriculture			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Harvesters Assistance Programme • Northern Food Development Programme • Small Scale Foods Programme • Canadian Agricultural Partnership Funded Programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry, Tourism and Investment • Environment and Natural Resources 	4
Transportation and Infrastructure			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Access Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure 	1
Broadband / Connectivity					0
Tourism and Culture			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism 2025: Roadmap to Recovery • NWT Film Rebate Programme • Rolling, Action: Film and Media Sector Strategy and Action Plan • Tourism Product Diversification and Marketing Programme • Community Tourism Infrastructure Contribution Programme • Tourism Training Fund • Culture and Heritage Strategic Framework 2015-2025 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry, Tourism and Investment • Education, Culture and Employment 	7
Justice and Social Services			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working Together II: An Action Plan to Reduce or Eliminate Poverty in the Northwest Territories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Social Services 	1
TOTAL	3	1	26	-	30

Provincial Context:

- The integration of economic development into communities and culture is common in materials found related to the Northwest Territories. This includes recreation management, film and media sector plans, and the use of furs. There are many programmes in place in the NWT relative to strategies and plans, and most demonstrate a commitment to local knowledge and place-based policies.
- The NWT has a higher relative proportion of approaches addressing the needs of rural communities than other regions in Canada.

RECENT GOVERNMENT NEWS RELEASES OUTLINING SUPPORTS TO RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- 1 June 29, 2021 - Industry, Tourism and Investment: GNWT begins the work to advance an NWT Knowledge Economy

- 2 June 16, 2021: Caroline Wawzonek: Minister's Address - Arctic Development Expo

- 3 June 7: GNWT Launches Two New Support Programmes for Tourism and Accommodations

- 4 June 4: The GNWT to provide over \$14 million in Financial Support to NWT Airlines

- 5 June 4: Diane Archie: Update on Community Access Programme for the construction and rehabilitation of transportation and marine infrastructure.

- 6 June 3: GNWT appoints two MACA Pathfinders to support communities impacted by flooding

- 7 June 1: New Film Strategy Launches for Next Five Years with Producer Incentive Pilot

- 8 May 31: Caroline Cochrane: Emerging Stronger: COVID-19 Social and Economic Recovery Plan

- 9 May 18: GNWT Seeks public input on Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur Programme and the Community Harvesters Assistance Programme

- 10 May 10: Hay River Companies Chosen to Build New Fish Plant

- 11 April 29: New e-Mental Health Programme Available to NWT Youth and Young Adults

- 12 April 28: MTS to discontinue service to Cambridge Bay

- 13 April 21: The Office of the Chief Public Health Officer Allows Remote Tourism Activities to Resume

NOVA SCOTIA

Lead Rural Economic Development Department	Inclusive Economic Growth
Primary Rural Development Document/Strategy	N/A
Primary Overarching Economic Development Strategy	Department of Business – Business Plan (2021)
Current Governing Party	Progressive Conservatives – August 2021

Institutional Organisation: The lead organisation responsible for rural economic development is the Department of Business, with responsibility in this area primarily focused on broadband connectivity projects. Many publicly funded programmes and priorities are delivered by Crown Corporations and private entities that have arms length relationships with government. A Department of Economic and Rural Development and Tourism existed as part of the Government of Nova Scotia (NS) from 2011 to April 2015, when it was dissolved and superseded by the Department of Business. Also, 12 Regional Development Authorities that supported local and regional economic development activities in NS were discontinued in 2012. This was replaced by a “Regional Enterprise Network” programme in 2013.

	Strategies	Plans	Programmes	Total	High Content	Med Content	Low Content	Count “Rural”/ Page count	Count “Community”/ Page count
#	6	3	6	15	4	4	7	0.22	0.66
%	40%	20%	40%	100%	27%	27%	47%	22%	66%

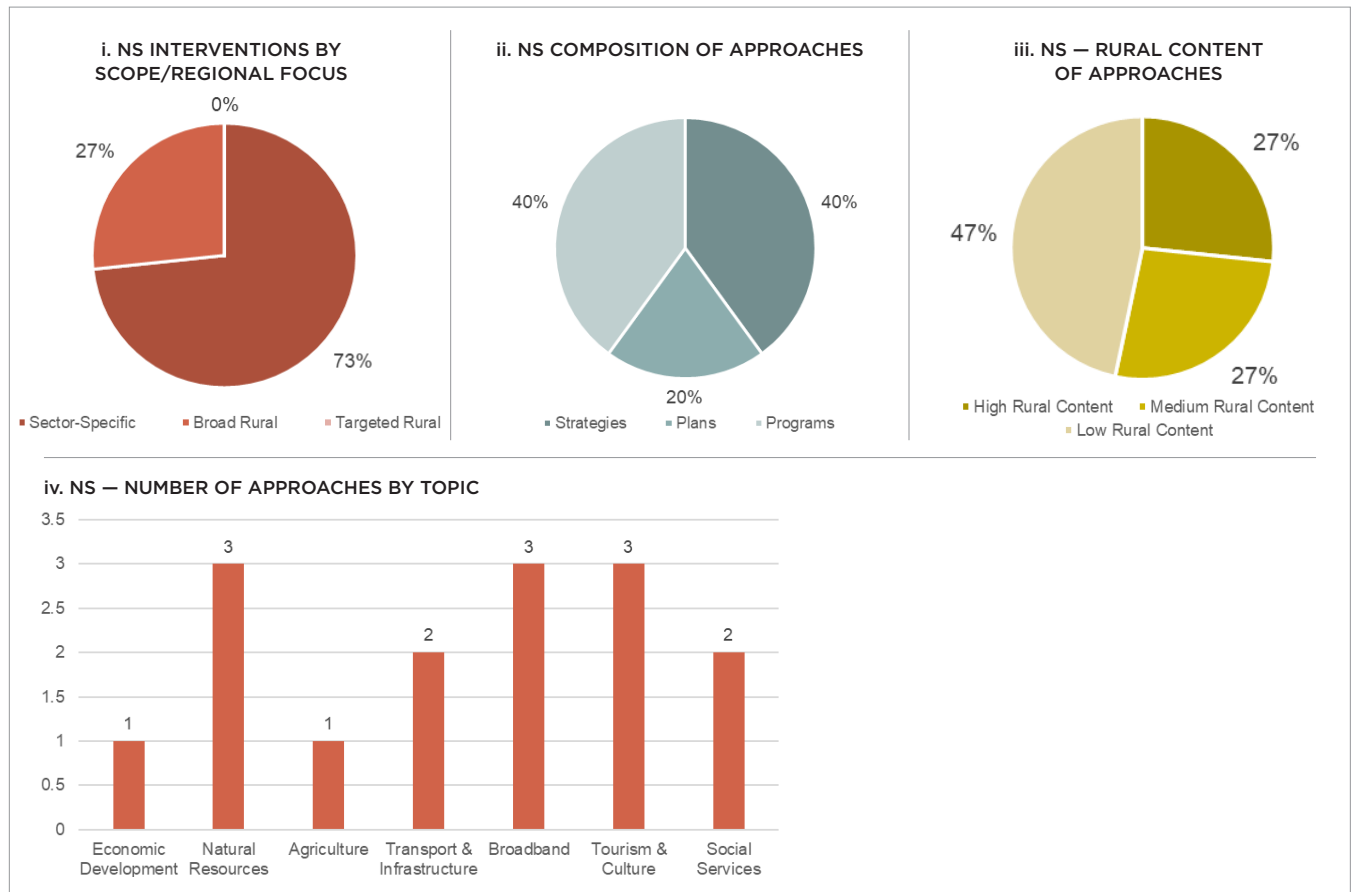


TABLE: SUMMARY OF THE PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES REVIEWED FOR NOVA SCOTIA

Subject	Broad Rural	Targeted Rural	Targeted Sector	Involved Ministries	#
Economic Development			• Department of Business – Business Plan (2020)	• Inclusive Economic Development (formerly “Business”)	1
Climate, Energy and Natural Resources	• Nova Scotia Mineral Resources Development Fund (2017)		• Natural Resources Strategy (2011) • Forest Innovation Transition Trust (2020)	• Energy and Mines • Lands and Forestry • Business	3
Agriculture			• Seafood Accelerator Programme (2019)	• Fisheries and Aquaculture	1
Transportation and Infrastructure	• Gravel Road Programme (2017)		• Five Year Highway Improvement Programme (2019)	• Transportation and Infrastructure	2
Broadband / Connectivity	• Last Mile Strategy (2018) • Middle Mile Strategy (2018) • Internet for Nova Scotia (2020)			• Business	3
Tourism and Culture			• Culture Action Plan (2017) • Shared Strategy for Trails in Nova Scotia (2019) • Driving Export Revenue (2018)	• Communities, Culture and Heritage • Lands and Forestry • Tourism Nova Scotia	3
Justice and Social Services			• Housing Strategy (2013) • Early Learning Child Care Agreement (2017)	• Municipal Affairs and Housing	2
TOTAL	4	0	11	-	15

Provincial Context:

- There is no rural economic development strategy and rural is generally not a stated priority of government departments (evidenced in their annual business plans).
- The closure of the Northern pulp mill in Abercrombie, Pictou Co. has initiated a policy response to support forestry sector workers and businesses, which included the Premier’s announcement of a Forestry Transition Team in January 2020.

RECENT GOVERNMENT NEWS RELEASES OUTLINING SUPPORTS TO RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- 1 Department of Business – February 23, 2021: Province invests in female entrepreneurs with venture capital
- 2 Department of Business – February 4, 2021: Forestry Innovation Transition Trust approves additional projects

NUNAVUT

Lead Rural Economic Development Department	Economic Development and Transportation
Primary Rural Development Document/Strategy	Nunavut's Vision: Arctic and Northern Policy Framework
Primary Overarching Economic Development Strategy	Same as above
Current Governing Party	Independents Operating by Consensus

Institutional Organisation: The lead organisation responsible for rural economic development in Nunavut is the department of Economic Development and Transportation. The majority of government efforts (as found in news releases on the main government website) are related to managing the COVID-19 pandemic.

	Strategies	Plans	Programmes	Total	High Content	Med Content	Low Content	Count "Rural"/ Page count	Count "Community"/ Page count
#	5	1	13	19	13	4	2	0.04	1.09
%	26%	5%	68%	100%	68%	21%	11%	4%	109%

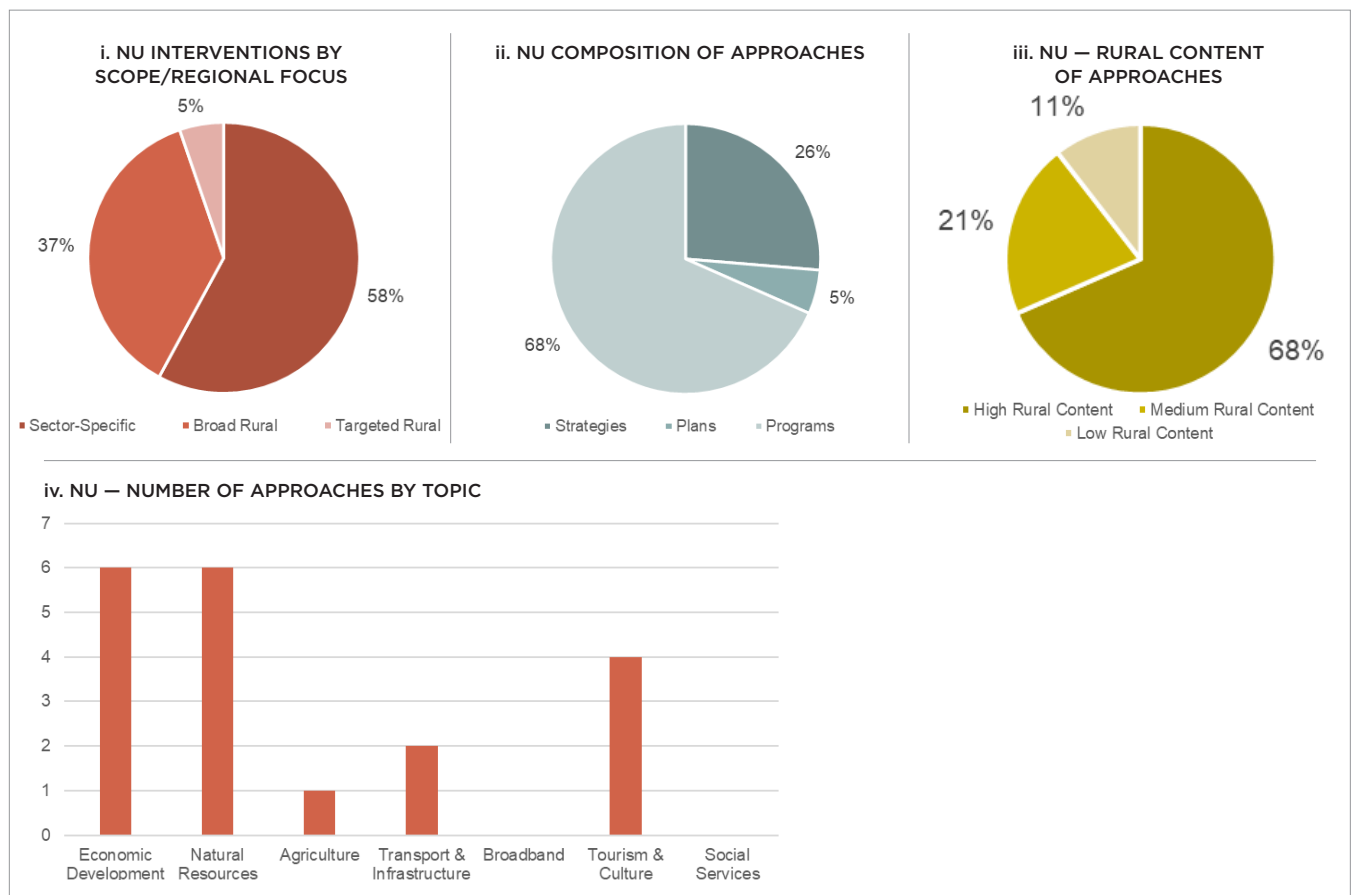


TABLE: SUMMARY OF THE PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES REVIEWED FOR NUNAVUT

Subject	Broad Rural	Targeted Rural	Targeted Sector	Involved Ministries	#
Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nunavut's Vision: Arctic and Northern Policy Framework • Community Capacity Building Programme • Community Development Fund 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Baffin Employment and Training Support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Investments Programme • Nunavut Entrepreneurship Incentive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Development and Transportation • Community and Government Services • Premier's Office • Family Services 	6
Climate, Energy and Natural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Engagement Support Programme • Municipal Green Infrastructure Fund • Nunavut Prospectors Programme 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ikummatiit Energy Strategy • Parnautit: A foundation for the future – Mineral Exploration and Mining Strategy • Nunavut Mine Training Fund 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Development and Transportation • Community and Government Services • Energy 	6
Agriculture			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country Food Distribution Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Development and Transportation 	1
Transportation and Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Transportation Initiatives Programme 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ingirrasiliqta / Let's Get Moving: Nunavut Transportation Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Development and Transportation 	2
Broadband / Connectivity					0
Tourism and Culture			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tunngasaiji: A Tourism Strategy for Nunavummiut • Authentic Nunavut: Nunavut Arts & Craft Brand • Community Tourism and Cultural Industries Programme • Nunavut Marine Tourism Management Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Development and Transportation 	4
Justice and Social Services					0
TOTAL	7	1	11	-	19
%	37%	5%	58%	-	-

Provincial Context:

- Nunavut is the only Canadian jurisdiction to have a majority Indigenous population – 86 per cent of Nunavummiut are Inuit, with a total population of roughly 38,000 living in 25 remote, isolated communities spread across approximately one fifth of Canada’s land mass.
- Consistent with other territories, Nunavut exceeds the national averages in terms of strategies and programmes per capita that support economic development of remote areas. All of the sector strategies in Nunavut have been given Indigenous names, to reflect that they have been created in partnership with Indigenous peoples.
- Nunavut offers an integrated approach to support the needs of remote communities. Virtually every plan, programme and strategy is based on principles that reflect value for remote places, cultures, economies, languages and traditions.

RECENT GOVERNMENT NEWS RELEASES OUTLINING SUPPORTS TO RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- 1 March 19, 2021: Nunavut Prospectors Programme (NPP) Applications

- 2 July 8, 2020: Guidelines for Non-Nunavut Residents to Enter for Economic Activities

- 3 Dec 6, 2019: North Baffin employment and training support

- 4 May 28, 2021: Ottawa announces \$7 million to improve internet affordability, connectivity

ONTARIO

Lead Rural Economic Development Ministry	Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Primary Rural Development Document/Strategy	N/A
Primary Overarching Economic Development Strategy	Ontario's Action Plan
Current Governing Party	Progressive Conservative - June 2018

Institutional Organisation: Although the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs appears to be the lead for rural economic development, there are no high level strategies or plans in place for this ministry. The overarching action plan guiding economic development activity for the province is focused on affordable electricity, skills and training, red tape reduction, job retention, and infrastructure.

	Strategies	Plans	Programmes	Total	High Content	Med Content	Low Content	Count "Rural"/ Page count	Count "Community"/ Page count
#	16	12	23	51	11	19	21	0.07	0.53
%	31%	24%	45%	100%	22%	37%	41%	7%	53%

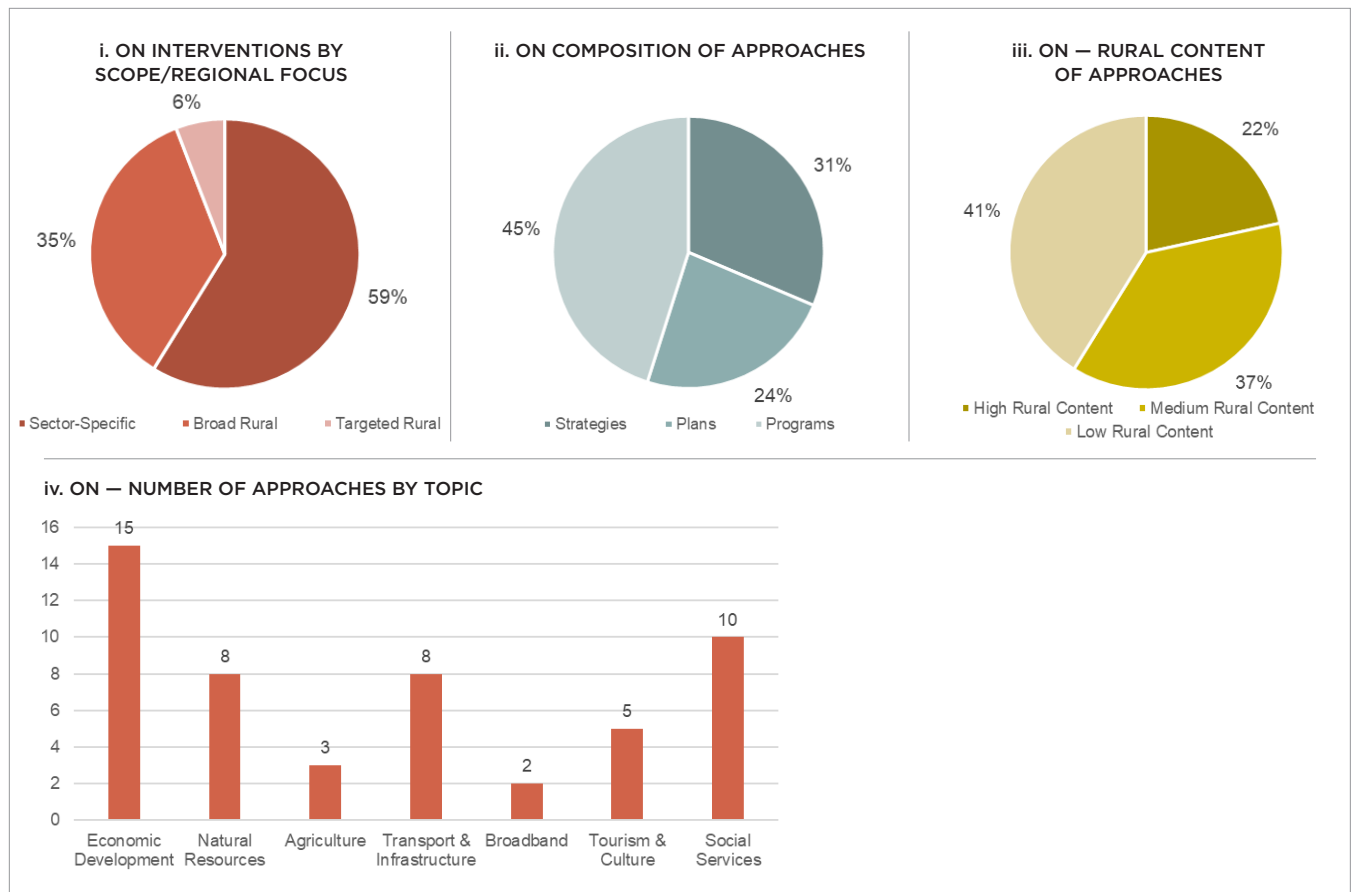


TABLE: SUMMARY OF THE PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES REVIEWED FOR ONTARIO

Subject	Broad Rural	Targeted Rural	Targeted Sector	Involved Ministries	#
Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund • Indigenous Economic Development Fund • Indigenous Community Capital Grants • COVID-19 Support to Indigenous Business • New Relationship Fund • Northern Ontario Recovery Programme • Micro-credentials rapid training • Rural Economic Development programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Ontario Heritage Fund 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ontario's Action Plan • Growth Plan for Northern Ontario • Driving Prosperity: The Future of Ontario's Automotive Sector • Small Business Strategy • Rebuilding Main Street • Ontario's Skilled Trades Strategy • Better for People, Smarter for Business 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance • Energy, Northern Development and Mines • Infrastructure • Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade • Small Business and Red Tape Reduction • Labour, Training and Skills Development • Indigenous Affairs • Energy, Northern Development and Mines • Colleges and Universities • Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs 	15
Climate, Energy and Natural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aboriginal Participation Fund • Forest Sector Investment and Innovation Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Impressions Community Exchange 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Made in Ontario Environment Plan • Ontario's Mineral Development Strategy • An Introduction to the Far North Land Use Strategy • Sustainable Growth: Ontario's Forest Sector Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment, Conservation and Parks • Natural Resources and Forestry • Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs • Energy, Northern Development and Mines • Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs 	8
Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural and horticultural societies annual grants • Supporting the Commercial Fishing Industry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted Rural Economic Development Programme 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs 	3
Transportation and Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connecting the North: A Draft Transportation Plan for Northern Ontario • Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund • Investing in Canada Infrastructure Programme • Construction Funding Subsidy 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ontario Builds: Our infrastructure plan • Rebuilding Ontario: An infrastructure plan for the people • The Highway Programme • Northern Highways Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation • Infrastructure • Long-Term Care 	8
Broadband / Connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving Connectivity for Ontario (ICON) programme 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to Speed: Broadband and Cellular Action Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure 	2

Subject	Broad Rural	Targeted Rural	Targeted Sector	Involved Ministries	#
Tourism and Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism Economic Development Recovery Fund 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ontario Culture Strategy • Discovering Ontario: A Report on the Future of Tourism • A Francophone Tourism Plan for Northern Ontario • Community Building Fund 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries • Francophone Affairs • Transportation 	5
Justice and Social Services			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Justice Accelerated Strategy • Ontario Onwards • Black Youth Action Plan • Anti-Human Trafficking Strategy • Recovery and Renewal: Social Assistance Transformation • Building a Strong Foundation for Success: Reducing Poverty in Ontario • Indigenous Healing and Wellness Strategy • Indigenous Student Safety and Well-being • More Homes, More Choice • Community Housing Renewal Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attorney General • Treasury Board • Children, Community and Social Services • Solicitor General • Attorney General • Indigenous Affairs • Education • Health • Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries • Transportation • Municipal Affairs and Housing 	10
TOTAL	18	3	30	-	51

Provincial Context:

- While there are many programmes in Ontario oriented towards broad rural areas, rural rarely appears as a focus area in these strategies, plans, or programmes. Rather, these strategies, plans and programmes are consistently framed in terms of benefits to the province overall, rather than opportunities to support the development of or unique needs of rural areas (e.g. northern transportation strategy; critical minerals strategy; forest recovery strategy; targeted rural economic development programme).

RECENT GOVERNMENT NEWS RELEASES OUTLINING SUPPORTS TO RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- 1 March 19, 2021: Ontario Supports Economic Development in the Northwest – Energy, Northern Development and Mines

- 2 March 2021: Launch of Ontario’s Justice Accelerated Strategy

- 3 March 2021: Additional investments in the Future of Francophone Tourism – Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries

- 4 February 11 2021: Ontario Takes Steps to Increase Economic Development and Job Creation in the North renewed Northern Ontario Heritage Fund to build stronger communities – Energy, Northern Development and Mines

- 5 February 2021: Ontario Increasing Supports for Victims and Survivors of Human Trafficking in York Region – Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries

- 6 February 2021: Ontario upgrades infrastructure at Parry Sound airport – Energy, Northern Development and Mines

- 7 February 2021: Ontario Invests in Mineral Exploration and Mining Research at Lakehead University – Energy, Northern Development and Mines

- 8 December 2020: Ontario Improves Access to French Justice Services in the North – Children, Community and Social Services

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Lead Rural Economic Development Ministry	Fisheries and Communities
Primary Rural Development Document/Strategy	Rural Growth Initiative
Primary Overarching Economic Development Strategy	N/A
Current Governing Party	Progressive Conservative - April 2019

Institutional Organisation: Prince Edward Island (PEI) is one of the only provinces that has a public policy framework for rural economic development, launched originally through a Throne speech in 2017, and which appears to have been continued through the pandemic. There does not appear to be an overarching economic development plan for the Province. There is a process underway to develop a “2021-2026 Economic Action Plan” that will provide an action-oriented roadmap to PEI’s economic recovery and growth.

	Strategies	Plans	Programmes	Total	High Content	Med Content	Low Content	Count “Rural”/ Page count	Count “Community”/ Page count
#	1	8	10	19	9	6	4	0.35	0.94
%	5%	42%	53%	100%	47%	32%	21%	35%	94%

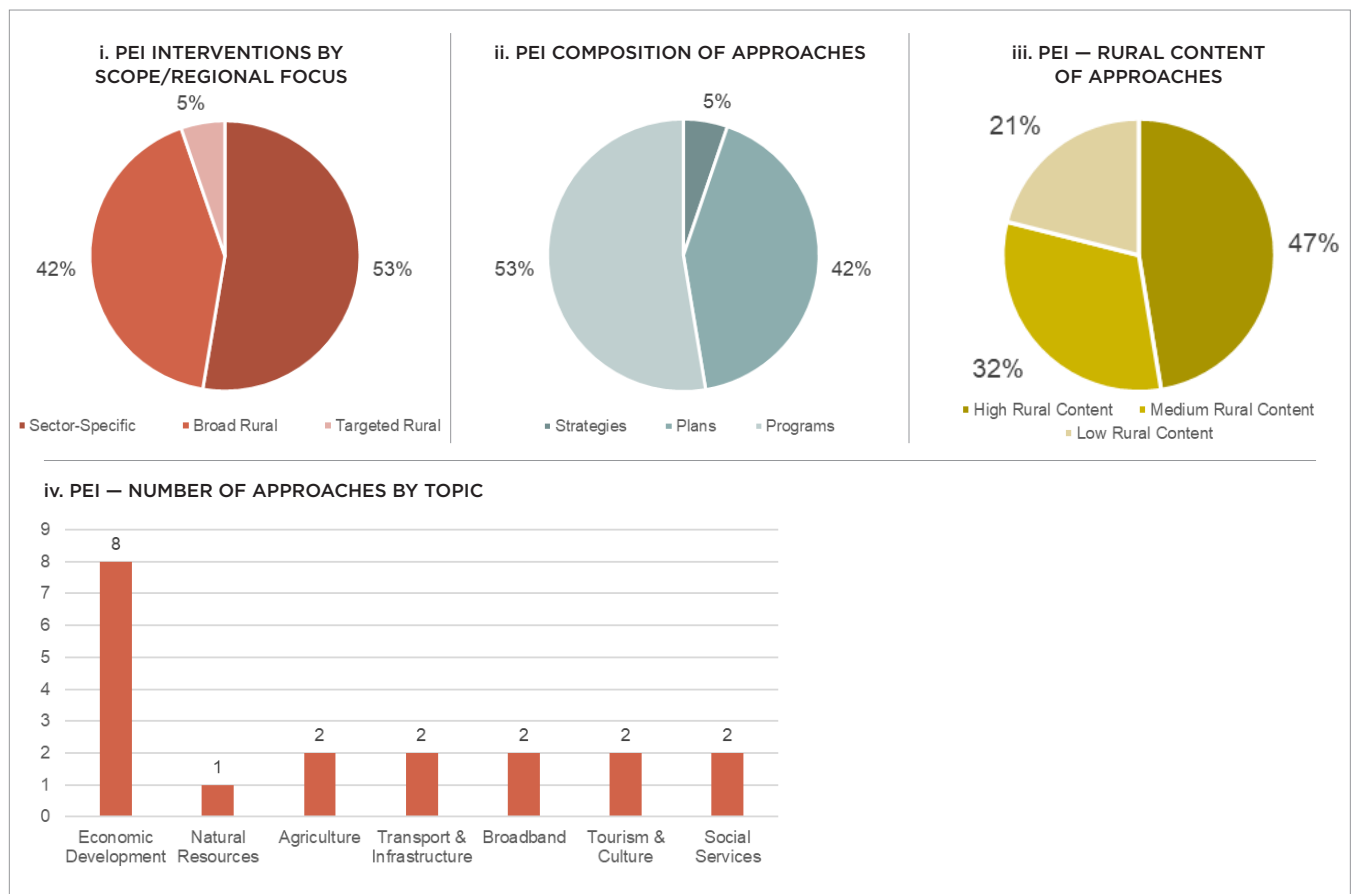


TABLE: SUMMARY OF THE PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES REVIEWED FOR PEI

Subject	Broad Rural	Targeted Rural	Targeted Sector	Involved Ministries	#
Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Jobs Initiative • Rural Growth Initiative • Community Revitalization Programme • Inclusive Communities Programme • Economic Growth Programme • Community Capacity Building Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northside Windmill Enhancement Fund 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population Action Plan for PEI 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fisheries and Communities • Economic Growth, Tourism and Culture 	8
Climate, Energy and Natural Resources			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change Action Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment, Energy and Climate Action 	1
Agriculture			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEI Agriculture Climate Solutions Programme • Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture and Land 	2
Transportation and Infrastructure			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal — Strategic Plan • Sustainable Transportation Action Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation and Infrastructure 	2
Broadband / Connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEI Broadband Fund for Communities 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEI Broadband Fund for Internet Service Providers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Growth, Tourism and Culture 	2
Tourism and Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Leadership Programme 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEI's 2021 Tourism Season Tactical Action Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Growth, Tourism and Culture • Health and Wellness 	2
Justice and Social Services			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty Reduction Action Plan • Housing Action Plan for Prince Edward Island 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Development and Housing 	2
TOTAL	8	1	10	-	19

Provincial Context:

- PEI has a focus on rural economic development and has established public logic model with clear outcomes, in addition to a variety of programmes and a simple website that makes access to information and resources relatively straightforward. The government reports that the results of the public policy framework for rural economic development in 2019-20 were that \$1.7 million was invested in 111 projects in over 64 island communities.

RECENT GOVERNMENT NEWS RELEASES OUTLINING SUPPORTS TO RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- 1** June 17, 2021: Canada and Prince Edward Island invest in 11 community infrastructure projects in Western PEI

- 2** June 17, 2021: More funding and supports available for Island seniors

- 3** June 16: Canada and Prince Edward Island invest in education and active transportation infrastructure to help reduce the impacts of COVID-19

- 4** June 14: Grants available for community wellness projects

- 5** June 10: New incentive to support PEI tourism accommodations

- 6** June 7: Input wanted from Islanders on rural public transit

- 7** May 31: Islanders asked for their input on investments in agriculture

- 8** May 27: Province unveils new Moving Forward plan (COVID)

- 9** May 10: Abegweit First Nation to benefit from active transportation and social infrastructure investments

- 10** May 6: New supports for PEI film industry

- 11** April 16: New support for Prince Edward Island hog producers

- 12** March 30: Mental health support available for Island fisheries and aquaculture industries

QUEBEC

Lead Rural Economic Development Ministry	Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Primary Rural Development Document/Strategy	The Government Strategy for Ensuring the Occupation and Vitality of the Territories 2018-2022
Primary Overarching Economic Development Strategy	N/A
Current Governing Party	Coalition Avenir Québec - October 2018

Institutional Organisation: The Government Strategy for Ensuring the Occupation and Vitality of the Territories 2018-2022 (La Stratégie gouvernementale pour assurer l'occupation et la vitalité des territoires 2018-2022) is the main strategy for rural communities. Each of the priorities listed in the strategy relate to a specific region. For example: Priority 5 of the strategy is focussed on rural community vitality: rural social, economic and cultural development in the lower Laurentian regions, including rural-urban partnerships and linkages. There is an emphasis on rural access to services.

	Strategies	Plans	Programmes	Total	High Content	Med Content	Low Content	Count "Rural"/ Page count	Count "Community"/ Page count
#	11	11	9	31	3	12	16	0.03	0.24
%	35%	35%	29%	100%	10%	39%	52%	3%	24%

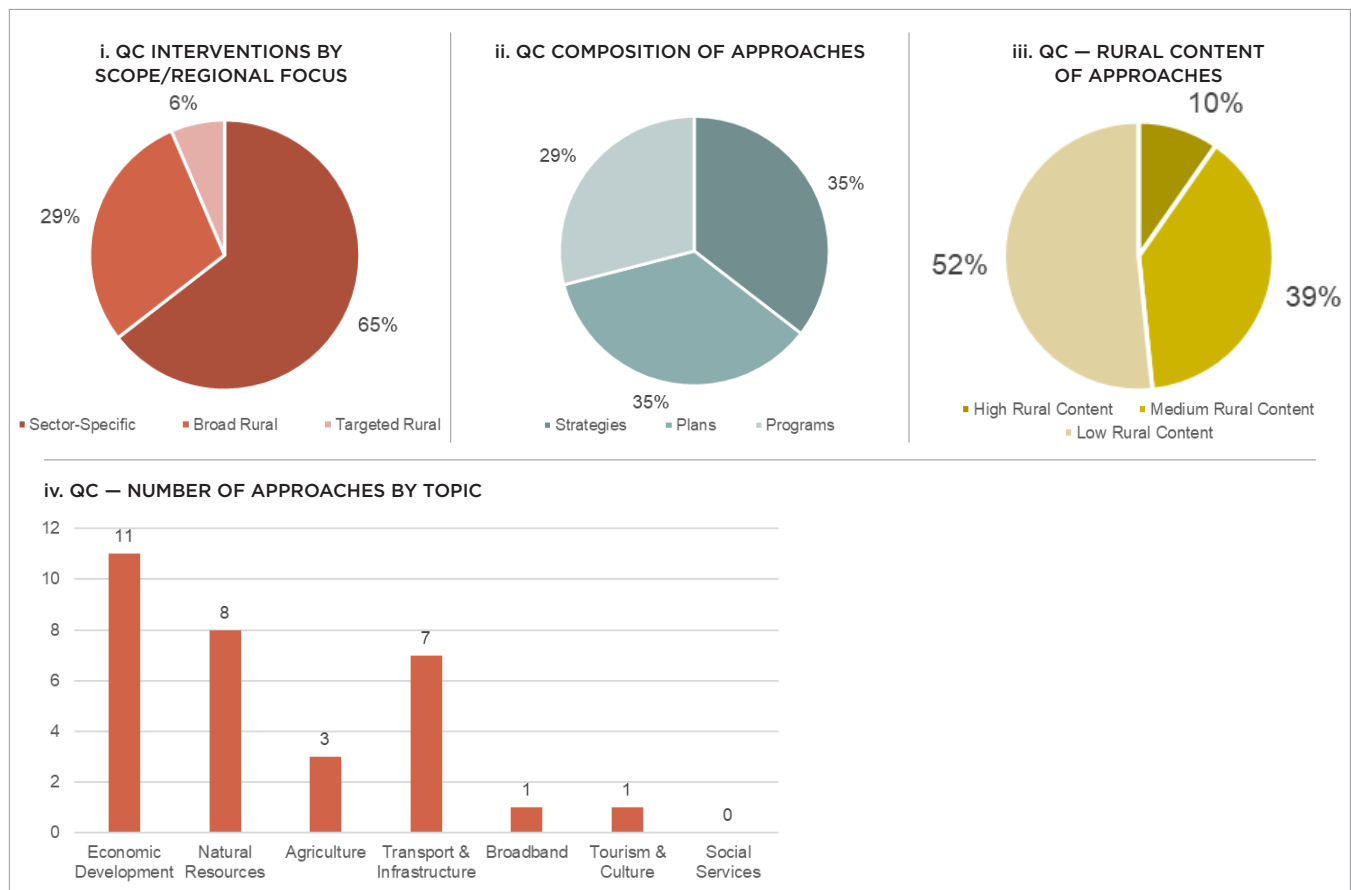


TABLE: SUMMARY OF THE PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES REVIEWED FOR QUEBEC

Subject	Broad Rural	Targeted Rural	Targeted Sector	Involved Ministries	#
Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government Strategy for Ensuring the Occupation and Vitality of the Territories • Town planning and land use planning • Regions and rurality fund • Quebec Research and Innovation Strategy • Action Plan for the Occupation and Vitality of the Territories 2018-2020 • Support for vitalization and intermunicipal cooperation • “Signature innovation” projects of the MRCs • Support Fund for the outreach of the regions • Support for the local and regional development competence of MRCs 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Québec Life Sciences Strategy • Plan for a Green Economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing • Ministry of Economy and Innovation • Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food 	11
Climate, Energy and Natural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Sustainable Development Plan 2021-2022 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Action Plan 2020-2023 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy 2030 • Plan for the Development of Critical and Strategic Minerals • Climate change adaptation strategy • Sustainable Development Strategy • Québec Energy Transition, Innovation and Efficiency Master Plan • Québec Aluminium Development Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food • Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources • Minister of the Environment and combatting climate change 	8
Agriculture			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable agriculture plan • Biofood policy 2018-2025 • Action Plan for the Biofood policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food 	3

Subject	Broad Rural	Targeted Rural	Targeted Sector	Involved Ministries	#
Transportation and Infrastructure	• Building Canada-Quebec Fund, Small Communities Fund (PFC) component		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Plan 2019-2023 • Sustainable Mobility Policy • Municipal Water Infrastructure Fund (FIMEAU) • Transport Strategic Plan 2019-2023 • Public Transport Development Support Programme • Active transit programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing • Ministry of Transportation 	7
Broadband / Connectivity			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada-Quebec High speed internet connectivity fund 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Speed Internet and Special Connectivity Projects Secretariat 	1
Tourism and Culture			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Tourism Plan 2019-2023 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Tourism 	1
Justice and Social Services					0
TOTAL	9	2	20	-	31

Provincial Context:

- There are five Territorial Development funds under the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Only the Regions and Rurality fund directly addresses rural communities. Quebec had a national policy on ruralite 2007-2014 which is widely viewed as successful and to have achieved its objectives. It was a formal agreement between the government of Quebec and regional county municipalities (MRCs); included a financial envelope managed by the MRC for carrying out projects aimed at supporting the development of rural areas.

RECENT GOVERNMENT NEWS RELEASES OUTLINING SUPPORTS TO RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- 1 August 27, 2021: Nearly \$1.1 million for the development of agriculture and agri-food in Mauricie
- 2 August 24, 2021: Regions and rurality fund - Seven structuring projects supported in Laval
- 3 August 23, 2021: Regions and rurality fund - Nearly \$ 4.1 million for the implementation of 16 regional development projects in the Gaspé
- 4 August 4, 2021: Regions and rurality fund - \$ 735,000 to support the arts in Gaspésie
- 5 July 28, 2021: Regions and rurality fund - \$ 350,000 for the sustainability of local services in the Mauricie region
- 6 July 22, 2021: High speed operation - A sum of \$ 7.85 million to provide high speed Internet access to more than 1,550 households in the Lanaudière and Laurentides regions by September 2022
- 7 June 30, 2021 Regions and rurality fund - Minister Andrée Laforest fulfills her promise and announces the Robert Hakim mobile scene

SASKATCHEWAN

Lead Rural Economic Development Ministry	Trade and Export Development
Primary Rural Development Document/Strategy	N/A
Primary Overarching Economic Development Strategy	Saskatchewan's Growth Plan 2020-2030
Current Governing Party	Progressive Conservative – Nov 2007

Institutional Organisation: Saskatchewan's Growth Plan provides the roadmap for all families and communities in Saskatchewan, with a focus on export development and tax incentives to attract investment. This document notes that the Ministry of Government Relations, Municipal Infrastructure and Finance supports \$2.5 billion in revenue sharing and \$30 billion in infrastructure over the next decade for urban and rural communities in Saskatchewan.

	Strategies	Plans	Programmes	Total	High Content	Med Content	Low Content	Count "Rural"/ Page count	Count "Community"/ Page count
#	5	4	16	25	5	6	14	0.17	0.53
%	20%	16%	64%	100%	20%	24%	56%	17%	53%

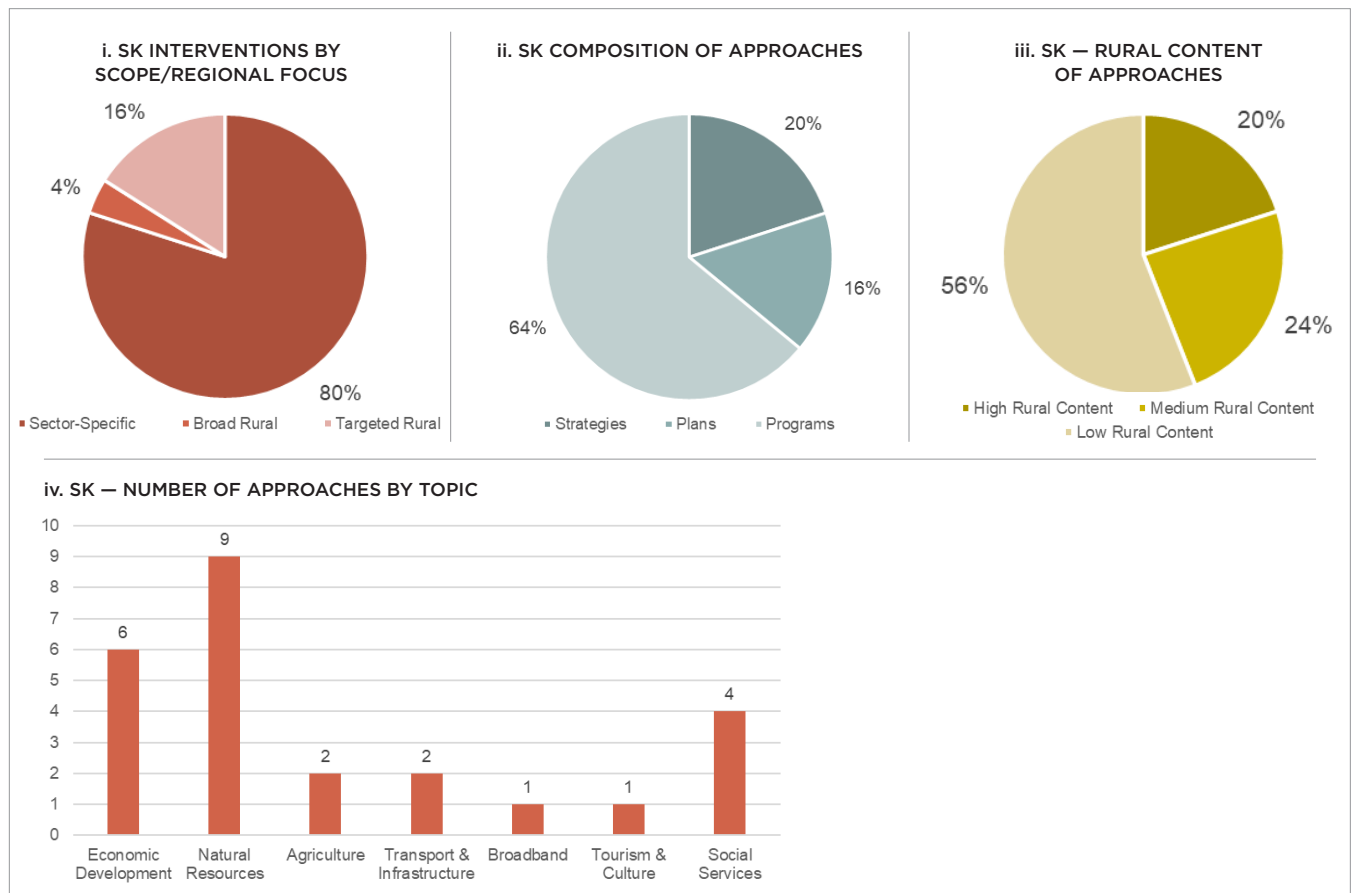


TABLE: SUMMARY OF THE PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES REVIEWED FOR SASKATCHEWAN

Subject	Broad Rural	Targeted Rural	Targeted Sector	Involved Ministries	#
Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Nations and Métis Community Partnership Projects 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saskatchewan's Growth Plan • Together We Stand - Buy Local Programme • Indigenous Business Funding Programmes • Ministry of Trade and Export Development - Plan for 2021-22 • Strong Recovery Adaptation Rebate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Premier's Office • Trade and Export Development • Government Relations 	6
Climate, Energy and Natural Resources		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted Mineral Exploration Incentive • Provincial Disaster Assistance Programme (PDAP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prairie Resilience: A Made-in-Saskatchewan Climate Change Strategy • Methane Action Plan • Solid Waste Management Strategy • Oil Infrastructure Investment Programme (OIIP) • Oil and Gas Processing Investment Incentive (OGPII) • Saskatchewan Petroleum Innovation Incentive (SPII) • Accelerated Site Closure Programme (ASCP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy and Resources • Agriculture • Environment • Energy and Resources • Corrections, Policing and Public Safety 	9
Agriculture		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southern Conservation Land Management Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture Development Fund 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture 	2
Transportation and Infrastructure		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Capital Grants Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Highways Plan 2021-22 		2
Broadband / Connectivity			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saskatchewan Technology Start-up Incentive (STSI) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trade and Export Development 	1
Tourism and Culture			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saskatchewan Tourism Sector Support Programme (STSSP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trade and Export Development 	1
Justice and Social Services			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability Strategy • Gang Violence Reduction Strategy • International Education Strategy • First Nations and Métis Sponsorships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trade and Export Development • Social Services • Corrections, Policing and Public Strategy • Advanced Education • Government Relations 	4
TOTAL	1	4	20	-	25

Provincial Context:

- Saskatchewan’s “Growth Plan” dominates the narrative in ministry planning documents. Many training and retraining programmes are outlined, but none are specific to transitioning specific sectors or communities experiencing decline.

RECENT GOVERNMENT NEWS RELEASES OUTLINING SUPPORTS TO RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- 1 May 25, 2021: Innovation Saskatchewan Invests \$2.2 Million in Technology Projects for Core Sectors: The Government of Saskatchewan is committing to a multi-year, \$2.2 million investment in eleven Saskatchewan innovators through the Saskatchewan

- 2 May 21, 2021: Increased Funding to Support Saskatchewan’s Female Founders - Innovation Saskatchewan is committing \$60,000 per year for the next two years to help propel the growth of women-led technology companies

YUKON

Lead Rural Economic Development Ministry	Economic Development
Primary Rural Development Document/Strategy	N/A
Primary Overarching Economic Development Strategy	Economic Resilience Plan
Current Governing Party	Yukon Party – April 2021

Institutional Organisation: In the Yukon, the department of Economic Development appears to retain responsibility for “community development”, although there is a significant amount of activity underway in the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources that impacts rural economic development.

	Strategies	Plans	Programmes	Total	High Content	Med Content	Low Content	Count “Rural”/ Page count	Count “Community”/ Page count
#	10	3	12	25	3	9	13	0.09	0.58
%	40%	12%	48%	100%	12%	36%	52%	9%	58%

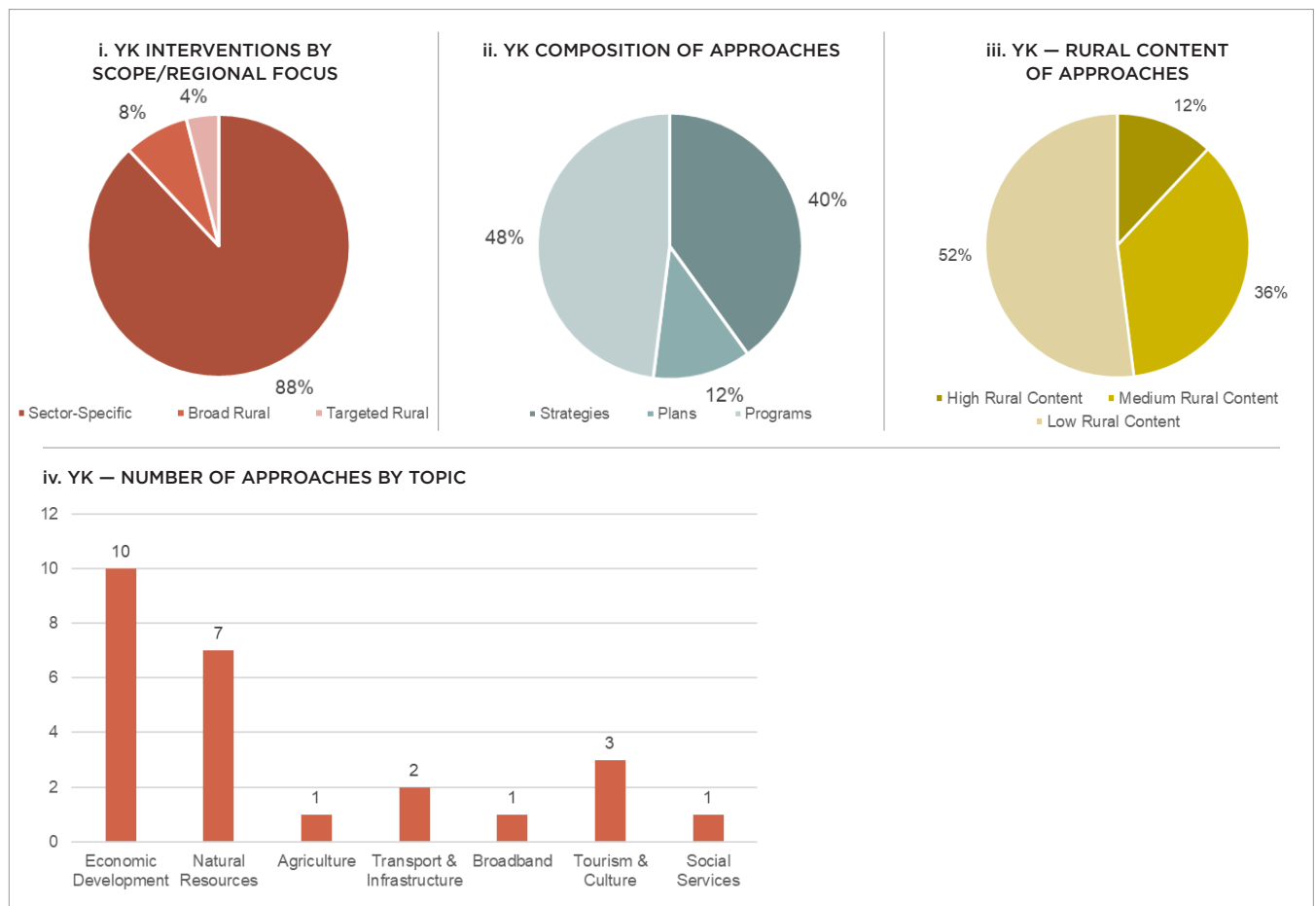


TABLE: SUMMARY OF THE PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES REVIEWED FOR THE YUKON

Subject	Broad Rural	Targeted Rural	Targeted Sector	Involved Ministries	#
Economic Development	• Yukon Community Programme	• Heavy Equipment Operator Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Resilience Plan • Economic Development Fund • Staffing UP • Working UP • Building UP • Immigration Strategy • First Nations Procurement Policy • Skills and Trades Training Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Development • Highways and Public Works • Education 	10
Climate, Energy and Natural Resources			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource Gateway Programme • Community Renewable Energy Projects • Biomass Energy Strategy • Independent Power Production Policy • Our Clean Future • Micro-generation Policy • Mineral Development Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy, Mines and Resources • Environment 	7
Agriculture			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yukon Grown Marketing Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy, Mines and Resources 	1
Transportation and Infrastructure			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yukon's Flight Path: 2020-2030 Aviation System Investment Strategy • 2021-22 Five Year Capital Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highways and Public Works • Finance 	2
Broadband / Connectivity	• Dempster Fibre Project			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highways and Public Works 	1
Tourism and Culture			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism Development Strategy • Parks Strategy • Tourism Relief and Recovery Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment • Tourism and Culture 	3
Justice and Social Services			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Putting People First 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Social Services 	1
TOTAL	2	1	22	-	25

Provincial Context:

- The Yukon Territory is sparsely populated with the majority of people living in, or in close proximity, to Whitehorse, the capital. The remaining population lives in small and/or remote villages, towns and rural settings throughout the territory. All Yukon communities have access to an aerodrome or airport within 100 km, but not all communities have close access to scheduled air services. The highway network provides connectivity to all communities except for Old Crow.
- Despite their small size, the Yukon has strategies, programmes and plans for many social and economic priorities. Despite a high proportion of the interventions being identified as “sector-specific”, the nature of work in the Yukon requires these documents to effectively target rural areas of Canada.
- The Yukon has three producing mines, and the Government of Yukon declared mining “essential” during the pandemic. Mining and construction are identified as the key sectors that will support the economic recovery of the territory.

RECENT GOVERNMENT NEWS RELEASES OUTLINING SUPPORTS TO RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- 1 June 2, 2021: Thirty-six groups from across Yukon are receiving a total of \$1.1 million in FireSmart funding to remove forest fuels from areas near their communities.

- 2 May 17, 2021: Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Government of Yukon are developing a joint master plan for a residential subdivision in the Range Point neighbourhood.

- 3 March 2, 2021: Yukon societies and business corporations have new legislation to guide them.

- 4 February 15, 2021: The Government Canada and the Government of Yukon announced funding for a new consolidated fire hall and public works building for the Town of Faro.

- 5 March 10, 2021: Economic resilience plan will support local businesses

- 6 March 9, 2021: New economic development programme to support growth and diversification

- 7 March 5, 2021: Virtual conference to promote Yukon’s mineral sector globally

- 8 January 6, 2021: Preliminary creative and cultural industries strategy out for public review

C. OVERVIEW OF FEDERAL RURAL POLICIES

Current approaches to rural economic development are piecemeal and fragmented, discontent emerging

A reliance on resource extraction and export of primary resources as part of the colonization of Canada resulted in limited economic diversification in many rural regions, manifesting in a boom and bust cycle at various rates of growth and decline over time (Brannen et al., 2009; Kawachi et al., 1997; Marchand et al., 2020).

Current trends affecting rural communities and their economic development include urbanization, centralization, and the continued downloading of senior government responsibilities to local and regional governments (Vodden 2019), lasting impacts from the neoliberal policy efforts of the 1980s. Since 1981, Canadian income inequality has increased by 15 per cent, primarily attributed to spatially blind national policies delivered in the face of unique place-based economic development, labour, and socio-economic conditions (Marchand et al., 2020).

While rural Canada continues to be the source of agricultural, mineral, forestry, fisheries, and energy resources that generate wealth for urban centres, many areas of rural Canada are struggling with poverty and regional economic disparities that fuel discontent (Breau & Saillant, 2016; Federation of Canadian Municipalities, 2018b; Hutchings, 2020b; Rodríguez-Pose, 2018b; Thorbeck, 2017; Vodden, Douglas, Markey, et al., 2019b).

Uneven patterns of development and distribution of resources has reinforced regional geographic distinctions and differences, along north / south (Breau & Saillant, 2016; Marchand et al., 2020), east / west, and urban / rural divides (Breau et al., 2020; Marchand et al., 2020). The spatial clustering of inequality in Canada has been linked to structural differences in the industrial composition of those regions; for example, higher levels of manufacturing is associated with reduced regional inequality, and high levels of primary resource development or knowledge intensive business services are tied to increased levels of regional inequality (Breau et al., 2020; Marchand et al., 2020).

A new Minister of Rural Economic Development is coordinating national policy efforts

On January 14, 2019, the Honourable Bernadette Jordan was appointed as Canada's Minister of Rural Economic Development, with responsibility for a Centre for Rural Economic Development and the national strategy, housed within the Office of Infrastructure of Canada. The roles of this office are to:

- *“Work closely with Regional Development Agencies through strengthened interactions and information sharing, to improve access by rural communities to federal programs and services*
- *Foster collaboration across the federal government and engaging with provinces, territories, communities, municipalities, and Indigenous organizations on rural matters, including using existing and emerging coordination mechanisms*
- *Provide a dedicated point of contact on rural issues within the federal government; and*
- *Strengthen rural perspectives in federal policies and programs.”*

A major focus for this office is the delivery of high-speed broadband to rural areas, identified as a critical priority through cross-Canadian public consultation to identify structural barriers to economic development across Canada (*High-Speed Access for All: Canada's Connectivity Strategy – Get Connected*, n.d.).

As of February 2021, federal responsibility for rural development was embedded in a variety of sector-specific departments, increasingly coordinated by a new Minister for Rural Economic Development. Natural Resources Canada is responsible for resource policies related to mining, forestry, and energy-based communities; the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada directs the fisheries policies that affects hundreds of rural communities; Indian and Northern Affairs Canada is responsible for Indigenous constitutional, political and legal obligations, land claims, self-governance, and Strategic Investments in Northern Economic Development; and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada is responsible for agricultural policies and funding programs.

In addition to these federally centralized sector-specific policy departments, regional economic policy implementation agencies created with federal funding in late 1980s continue to this day. These organizations include the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, the Canadian Economic Development for Quebec Regions, FedNor (covering northern Ontario and the rest of rural Ontario), and Western Economic Diversification Canada (western provinces). As a first point of contact for economic development in many regions, the agencies are responsible for delivering the regional relief and recovery fund in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Canadian Seafood Stabilization Fund, and the Northern Business Relief Fund.

In addition to high level regional agencies, the federally funded Communities Futures Program supports 267 local community development offices offering business supports to local residents, often in rural areas (*Community Futures Canada* |, n.d.). Regional economic development is supported by these agencies through a program called “Regional Economic Growth Through Innovation”, designed to target funding to create an environment for business development, in addition to other federal programs and sector specific initiatives (e.g. the Indigenous Forestry Initiative, the Destination Employment Program, and the Canada Coal Transition Initiative).

While a national strategy related to rural economic development was articulated in 2019, the details of the document outline a series of regionally-delivered, sector-specific and place-blind activities, such as supports for the fish and seafood industry, women, and entrepreneurs with disabilities (*Rural Opportunity, National Prosperity An Economic Development Strategy for Rural Canada*, n.d.).

While the concept of “region” remains somewhat unclear in a federal policy context, in 2008, the Senate of Canada recommended that federal departments consider “place-based” policies that recognize the diversity of rural areas in Canada (Markey et al., 2019a; Senate of Canada, 2008).

Investments in infrastructure for rural communities are a focus of national policies and funding

In 2008, a Standing Senate Report on rural prosperity identified that Canadian rural communities are in decline, according to economic, demographic, educational, and social markers (Senate of Canada, 2008). The lack of critical mass for infrastructure

was named as a key driver for declining rates of business creation, jobs, and population (OECD, 2014b). The infrastructure needs of communities are changing in real time in response to factors such as climate change and globalization (Thorbeck, 2017). A continued dependence on external markets creates vulnerability for many rural areas, and infrastructure development by large scale foreign investment, often in the north, is often not maintained, creating a policy issue for some regions (Markey et al., 2008; Moazzami, n.d.).

Provincial and regional governments maintain responsibility for the majority of transportation infrastructure that impact local rural communities, although national initiatives are being delivered through a \$180 billion “Investing in Canada” plan. This plan includes five priority areas, the first of which is rural and northern communities’ infrastructure (*Infrastructure Canada – Investing in Canada Plan – Building a Better Canada*, n.d.).

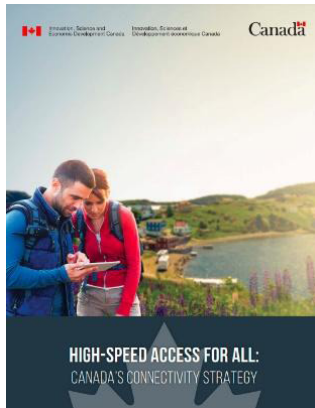
From a physical infrastructure perspective, building codes and standards are being updated to integrate resilience through the Climate Resilient Buildings and Core Public Infrastructure Initiative and the Northern Infrastructure Standardization Initiative. In addition, the Investing in Canada plan has made over \$26.9 billion available for green infrastructure investments, of which \$9.2 billion is directed to green initiatives such as cleaner energy generation, cleaner transportation, and other initiatives that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support climate change adaptation and resilience. Included in the Plan is the \$2-billion Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund, which is helping communities address risks related to recurring disasters by building new or modifying and upgrading existing infrastructure.

The federal government is expanding high-speed broadband coverage in rural and northern areas

Infrastructure for information and communications technologies have largely bypassed rural Canada, limiting access to individuals in these areas to opportunities and services more readily available in urban centres (*High-Speed Access for All: Canada’s Connectivity Strategy – Get Connected*, n.d.). According to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC), approximately 47% of Canadian communities — most of them small and rural — did not have broadband access in 2005 (Senate of Canada, 2008). Increased access to broadband in a Canadian rural context between 1997–2011 was found to correspond with increased rural employment and wage growth in service industries (Ivus & Boland, 2015).

In recognition of the increasing role of connectivity in achieving economic development and social objectives in rural areas, the Government of Canada made a public funding commitment of \$1.7 billion in Budget 2019 to connect all rural communities to affordable high speed internet (*High-Speed Access for All: Canada’s Connectivity Strategy – Get Connected*, n.d.). Key components of the policy approach include a \$750 million Universal Broadband Fund delivered by the CRTC, the \$500 million “Connect to Innovate” program extending high speed internet to rural and remote communities, and a series of measures to leverage over \$3 billion in funding with the private sector (*High-Speed Access for All: Canada’s Connectivity Strategy – Get Connected*, n.d.).

Many policy documents outline federal strategies for specific sectors, often with rural implications



High-Speed Access for All: Canada's Connectivity Strategy (2019) sets target of achieving universal, high-speed Internet access and improved cellular coverage for all Canadians, and provides tools and better coordination to eliminate the digital divide. Specifically identifies connectivity of rural areas as a driver of economic development, and commits \$500 million for rural and remote communities (*High-Speed Access for All: Canada's Connectivity Strategy - Get Connected*, n.d.).



Creating Middle Class Jobs: A Federal Tourism Growth Strategy (2019) identifies that 56% of tourism jobs are in rural Canada, and commits \$58.5 million to Canadian Experiences Fund, specifically to prioritize investments in rural and remote areas (*Creating Middle Class Jobs: A Federal Tourism Growth Strategy – The Canadian Tourism Sector*, n.d.).



Canada Food Policy (2019): This strategy outlines an approach to ensure Canadians have access to healthy food, to food security, to reduced food waste, and to ensure success of Canada's agriculture and agri-food sector in general. Rural communities and economic development are not specifically articulated in the strategy, although support for Indigenous food security and community-led and community-based initiatives are identified priorities, without specific funding attached (*The Food Policy for Canada – Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)*, n.d.).



Canadian Minerals and Metals Plan (2019) Sets out pan-Canadian strategic directions for industry competitiveness and long-term success in the minerals and metals sector. Recognizes that the minerals sector is a major employer, delivering 634,000 direct and indirect jobs throughout the country in rural, urban and remote regions (*What Is the Canadian Minerals and Metals Plan? | Mines Canada*, n.d.). While funding and program level commitments are not identified, increased engagement and participation of Indigenous communities is a pillar of this strategy, in addition to commitments to improve socio-economic benefits for communities where mining activities occur (*What Is the Canadian Minerals and Metals Plan? | Mines Canada*, n.d.).



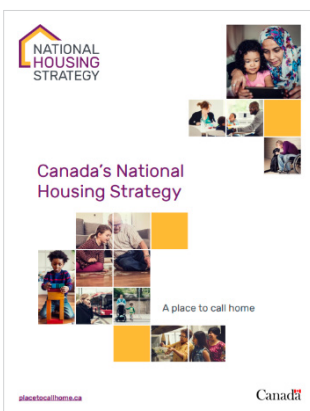
Social Innovation and Social Finance Strategy (2019)

Provides social purpose organizations with enhanced access to capital and supports for early stage innovation and growth to tackle persistent social, environmental, and economic challenges. Includes the \$755-million Social Finance Fund and \$50-million Investment Readiness Program. Incorporates recommendations from broad consultation recommending mechanisms to increase access for rural communities to funding programmes.

Trade Diversification Strategy (2019) Enhances Canadian prosperity by achieving 50 percent more Canadian exports to overseas markets and securing more opportunities for Canadian exporters to compete and succeed in thriving and fast-growing global markets and sectors.



Poverty Reduction Strategy (2018) Offers a vision for a Canada without poverty, and introduces Canada's first official poverty help line, as well as targets to reduce poverty by 20 percent by 2020, and 50 percent by 2030 (*Canada's First Poverty Reduction Strategy – Canada.Ca*, n.d.). While the diverse needs of rural and remote communities are identified as a priority for poverty development, no specific strategies have been designed to address this topic.



National Housing Strategy (2017) A 10-year, more than \$55-billion plan that will build stronger communities and help Canadians access safe and affordable housing. The Strategy includes targets to reduce housing needs and chronic homelessness, but does not specify rural areas as priority regions for funding (*National Housing Strategy | A Place to Call Home*, n.d.).

Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy (2018) A community-based program aimed at preventing and reducing homelessness across Canada, supports the National Housing Strategy. This program provides funding to urban, Indigenous, rural, and remote communities to help address local homelessness needs. Budget 2016 included a doubling of investments in the Rural and Remote Homelessness stream, representing an increase of \$5.6 million in both 2016-17 and 2017-18, to a total of \$11.2 million each year (*National Housing Strategy | A Place to Call Home*, n.d.).



Federal Sustainable Development Strategy (2019)

Sets out Canada’s environmental sustainability priorities, goals, and targets, and outlines what federal, provincial, and territorial governments will do to promote clean growth, healthy ecosystems, and safe, secure and sustainable communities from 2019-22 (Canada, 2019). Includes funding for a Clean Energy for Rural and Remote Communities program which aims to produce 40 megawatts of renewable energy capacity by 2025 (Canada, 2019).



Investing in Canada plan (2016) Outlines over \$180-billion in infrastructure investments over 12 years to support long-term economic growth of Canada, including supports for a low-carbon, green economy, and inclusive communities. \$2 billion of the plan is identified for rural infrastructure priorities (*Infrastructure Canada – Investing in Canada Plan – Building a Better Canada*, n.d.).

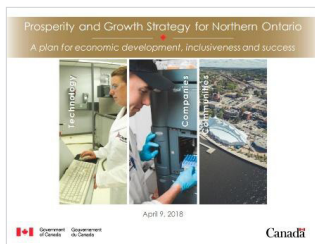
Regional strategies are in place to connect federal strategies to broad areas of the country



Atlantic Growth Strategy (2016): The Government of Canada and the four Atlantic Provinces (Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland) are working together to stimulate the region’s economy, support both innovative and traditional industries, increase job opportunities for

Atlantic Canadians, and focus on persistent and emerging regional challenges (*Atlantic Growth Strategy – Canada.Ca*, n.d.). Primarily a trade and investment strategy, this document also includes a variety of funding programs for rural community development, including clean technology loan programs and an Innovative Communities fund for rural economic growth (*Atlantic Growth Strategy – Canada.Ca*, n.d.).

Federal Strategy on Innovation and Growth for the **Quebec** Regions (2018): A collaborative economic development approach within the Government of Canada to support innovation and entrepreneurial drive in the Quebec regions. This strategy outlines four priorities including innovation and clean tech, growth and exports, entrepreneurial talent, and growth for everyone in all regions (*Federal Strategy on Innovation and Growth for the Quebec Regions – Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions*, n.d.).



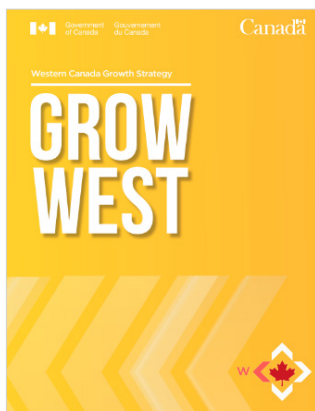
Prosperity and Growth Strategy for **Northern Ontario** (2018): Specifically targeting rural and remote communities in Northern Ontario, this strategy outlines priorities in the categories of innovation, growing companies, and building stronger communities (*Prosperity and Growth Strategy for Northern Ontario*, 2018).



The Pan-**Territorial** Growth Strategy (2019) covers all territories of Canada and seeks to help stimulate economic growth, reflecting the unique circumstances and advantages of each territory. Four key priorities outlined in this strategy include skilled workforce, infrastructure investments and development, resource development, and diversification and innovation (Northern Economic Development Agency, n.d.).



Toward a Stronger **Southern Ontario** (2019) Targets investments in Southern Ontario to best support the strengths, opportunities, and needs of communities now, and maximize the region’s economic growth potential. In February 2019, the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario established a rural allocation of \$100 million (over 3 years) to spur innovation and economic growth in the region (Here, n.d.).



Western Canada Growth Strategy (2019): The “Grow West” strategy covers the western Provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, and outlines partnerships and actions to grow the western economy, through strengthening diversification, trade, skills, and communities. The communities pillar recognizes that rural communities are vulnerable to economic challenges, and includes commitments to support communities in transition, protect arable land, engage in partnerships with Indigenous communities, pursue transportation solutions to strengthen rural communities, and leverage partnerships with municipalities to build resilience to natural disasters (*Grow West — The Western Canada Growth Strategy*, n.d.).

Rural Development from a Regional Perspective

While several regional agencies are in place that provide decision making support and coordination between federal programs and local needs, evidence of policy-co-construction with rural areas is limited (Vodden, Douglas, Markey, et al., 2019b), and it is increasingly recognized that regional economic development needs to consider rural-urban relationships.

Most municipalities in Canada experienced outmigration through the 1990s, resulting in a decrease in tax revenues, municipal staff and budgets to deliver local objectives (Thorbeck, 2017). For example, while climate change is an identified national priority with six federally funded regional adaptation collaboratives, municipal government adaptation strategies “are at an early stage”, according to the (Federation of Canadian Municipalities, 2018b).

An example of coordination between urban and rural areas is found in the “Smart Cities Challenge”, which focusses on the use of data and connected technology to encourage new partnerships and creativity, by placing residents at the centre of a community-based approach to problem-solving.

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

This pan-Canadian review of rural policy interventions identified that a wide variety of approaches are currently underway. The key findings for this review are identified below.

1 The Yukon, Northwest and Nunavut territories exceed expectations in all categories

The territories have a disproportionately high number of interventions that impact rural areas relative to their population. The combined population of the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut is just over 127,000 people, or 0.3% of Canada's total population of over 38 million. These three regions collectively contributed 74 — or 22% of the 331 plans, programmes and strategies reviewed through this project.

The plans, programmes and strategies in the territories direct attention and resources to high quality rural priorities integrated in virtually all subject areas. Most interventions are developed through consultation with Indigenous communities in rural and remote areas, typically evidenced through a description of principles that reflect value for rural and remote places, cultures, economies, languages and traditions. The sector strategies in Nunavut have each been given Indigenous names, to reflect that they were created in partnership with Indigenous peoples, and reflect integrated priorities.

In the Northwest Territories [Sustainable Livelihoods Action Plan 2019-2023](#), interventions for economic development are designed to support activities that connect NWT residents and communities to the land in remote, regional areas. This plan strengthens communities through increased traditional knowledge and economic activities and *“approaches the land in a holistic way, considering the plants, animals, water, air, people, relationships, processes and connections that exist. Sustainable livelihoods include the capabilities, resources and activities that support a means of living in a way that is adaptable and resilient, while supporting continuation of those resources and activities now and for future generations.”* This type of language is rare outside of the territories, and even rarer in sector strategies.

In the territories, the integration of interventions is cross-sectoral. For example the Northwest Territories [Working Together II](#) action plan to reduce or eliminate poverty is based on the development of regional community wellness plans. This document and these regional plans are cross-referenced in the Sustainable Livelihoods Action Plan (2019-2023), which effectively connects poverty reduction and economic development. As described in the document, *“The AntiPoverty Action Plan sets a vision for a territory free from poverty. Critical to this are on-the-land opportunities, traditional economy and country foods.”*

The plans, programmes and strategies in the territories direct attention and resources to high quality rural priorities integrated in virtually all subject areas.

In Nunavut, this integrated approach extends to the natural resource sector. [Nunavut's Parnautit: A foundation for the future — Mineral Exploration and Mining Strategy](#) integrates rural and remote priorities into strategic economic activities. This document focuses on building partnerships in local communities, and prioritizes long-term socio-economic monitoring for communities impacted by mining activity. An entire pillar is dedicated to community benefits, and another to jurisdictional certainty. The social and economic activities associated with the impacts of natural resource development are considered proactively and collectively at the community level.

Consistent with other territories, Nunavut exceeds the national averages in terms of strategies and programmes per capita that support economic development of remote areas. It is important to note that while the Yukon appears to have a relatively high percentage of interventions that are sector-specific, the nature of work in the Yukon means that these documents target rural communities.

While often overlooked in the mainstream Canadian discourse regarding economic development, the Yukon, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories provide an excellent example of how interventions for rural economic development can be cross-sectoral, integrated into local community planning, and reflect the needs of both urban and rural residents.

2 Sector-specific approaches dominate the narrative

This review finds that targeted approaches for rural economic development are rare. Of the 331 plans, programmes and strategies, only 21 (6%) were targeted to specific rural communities or regions, while 241 approaches (73%) targeted overarching sector priorities. Rural priorities and opportunities are often absent within the broad sector-oriented approaches that consider provincial or territorial needs.

Rural economic development is not on the strategic agenda in most places, and where it is present, it often appears dated. A few broad rural economic development strategies were found through this process, but it was often unclear whether the strategy was active, or published as an historic artifact:

- British Columbia: [BC Rural Economic Development Strategy](#) (2017)
- Northwest Territories: [Small Communities Employment Strategy](#) (2018)
- Nunavut: [Nunavut's Vision: Arctic and Northern Policy Framework](#) (2013)
- Quebec: [The Government Strategy for Ensuring the Occupation and Vitality of the Territories](#) (2018-2022)

British Columbia had the largest number of rurally targeted interventions (5 of 21 total), primarily to address impacts on communities from a downturn in the forestry sector. New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador had zero plans, programmes or strategies that specifically targeted rural areas. These provinces opted for more flexible approaches that allows each community to make their case for change and compete for centralized resources.

This finding was consistent in all subject areas in all regions, except for the territories. Only 80 of the 331 plans, programmes and strategies (24%) were found to have a high rural content. Thirteen of these 80 high content rural interventions were from Nunavut.

Rural economic development is not on the strategic agenda in most places.

Impact	Economic Development	Natural Resources	Agriculture	Transport & Infrastructure	Broadband	Tourism & Culture	Social Services	Total
High Rural Content	28	16	7	11	10	5	3	80
Medium Rural Content	25	24	12	15	2	14	13	105
Low Rural Content	45	34	14	10	2	19	22	146
Total	98	74	33	36	14	38	38	331

It is possible that regional and community specific plans programmes and strategies exist at the municipal level, or have been created by arms length publicly funded agencies that tend to have public-facing services at the community level (hydro, health etc). If they were present, these interventions were not found to be integrated into provincial level plans.

Sector specific approaches reduce opportunities for integration in related subjects that may be associated with that sector (e.g. increased needs for social services in areas with declining sectors). In this review, it was found that transportation strategies are almost always decoupled from resource development strategies, labour programmes or social services strategies.

The best examples of integrated sectoral planning with documented rural considerations were found in Nunavut. For example, the [Community Transportation Initiatives Programme](#) links communities to adjacent resources and areas of community importance for economic development opportunities and traditional livelihood activities. This programme is connected to an overarching strategy, the [Ingirrasiliqta / Let's Get Moving: Nunavut Transportation Strategy](#), which *"envisions a shift away from a piecemeal transportation system designed to administer a colony that does not connect communities to natural resources and build an economy."* It goes on to say that *"As the system currently exists, our communities are viewed as destinations, or isolated points, and the object of the system is to deliver basic services and necessities to those points but not beyond."* These approaches are nested inside an overarching territorial economic development strategy titled [Nunavut's Vision: Arctic and Northern Policy Framework](#), which incorporates social and environmental aspects of wellbeing alongside clear economic development priorities in mining, fishing, harvesting and small business.

③ Natural resources, climate, energy and agricultural strategies and interventions largely ignore opportunities for rural community economic development

Despite occurring in rural areas, strategies, plans and programmes related to natural resources, energy, climate and agriculture almost universally ignore opportunities for rural community economic development. The documents are primarily written as sector level strategies to achieve provincial-level objectives.

Of 33 agricultural approaches assessed across all regions, only seven were identified as having high rural content. Six of these seven were programmes, and only one was a strategy ([Quebec's Sustainable Agriculture Programme](#)). Four of the high rural content approaches are programmes related to affordable food in

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northern regions (Manitoba has two, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories each have one). The vast majority of plans, programmes and strategies focus on sector-oriented research and investment, agri-tech, marketing, partnerships, diversification and value-add production.

Of the 74 plans, programmes and strategies related to climate, energy and natural resources, only 16 have a high rural content, and of those, all but three (13, or 81%) are programmes. Nunavut and the Northwest Territories account for 6 (38%) of the high rural content approaches in this topic. Thirty three of the 74 approaches for climate, energy and natural resources are sector oriented, and make virtually no mention of the impact of these activities in rural areas, or the opportunities for economic development within the communities in which these activities occur. Examples of this finding exist in all regions, with a small sampling of examples shown below:

AB: [Getting Alberta back to work: natural gas vision and strategy](#)
[Knowledge for a changing environment: 2019-2024 science strategy](#)

BC: [B.C. Bioenergy Strategy](#)
[Forest Health Strategy](#)
[BC Mining Compliance and Enforcement Strategic Plan](#)

MB: [Made in Manitoba Climate and Green Plan](#)
[The Manitoba Protein Advantage](#)

NB: [Road Map to Develop the Industrial Hemp Sector](#)
[Water Strategy](#)

Newfoundland and Labrador: [Waste Management Strategy](#)
[Climate Change Strategy](#)
[Forestry Strategy](#)
[Oil and Gas Strategy](#)
[Oil and Gas Innovation and Business Development Fund](#)

Ontario: [Ontario's Forest Sector Strategy](#)
[Made in Ontario Environment Plan](#)
[Ontario's Mineral Development Strategy](#)

Resource based activities such as forestry, mineral extraction and oil and gas development primarily occur in rural areas, extracting benefits primarily for urban communities, while the rural areas bear impacts in their communities and ecosystems. This review identified that the current discourse in provincial and territorial approaches to resource development continue to disconnect repercussions of resource development to the community/rural level.

In all regions of the country, strategies, plans and programmes continue to focus on the ability of these resource industries to support provincial level priorities, while the opportunities for local/regional economic development, and mitigating the impacts of these activities on regional/rural areas is limited.

For example, the only mention of “rural” in [Ontario's Forest Sector Strategy](#) is that forests are a source of jobs and heating fuel for rural and northern communities. The current volume of timber harvested in Ontario is less than 60% of what it was in 2000, yet there is no mention of the impacts of this downturn on communities in transition. The priorities of this strategy are to promote stewardship and sustainability, put more wood to work, improve cost competitiveness and to foster innovation, markets and talent.

The current discourse in provincial and territorial approaches to resource development continue to disconnect repercussions of resource development to the community/rural level.

This is also true for Saskatchewan's [Methane Action Plan](#), Yukon's [Biomass Energy Strategy](#), Québec's [Energy Transition, Innovation and Efficiency Master Plan](#); Ontario's [Mineral Development Strategy](#); Nova Scotia's [Forestry Innovation Transition Trust](#); Alberta's [Natural gas vision and strategy](#); and BC's [Bioenergy Strategy](#), among others.

Waste management is often a negative output of economic development and growth that is redirected physically to rural areas. In Newfoundland and Labrador, a [Waste Management Strategy](#) is in place to address >400,000 tonnes of waste materials a year, sent to approximately 240 disposal sites which serve an estimated 654 communities. While this strategy directly impacts many rural communities and a regional approach is anticipated, the needs of those regions are not articulated.

④ Opportunities for rural tourism are missing from policy interventions in almost all regions

All tourism strategies across all regions (except Nunavut) are silent on rural needs and opportunities, while a few programmes target rural communities. Despite tourism's reliance on rural and remote areas, and the opportunities for economic development articulated by many rural communities for their transitions from resource based economies, the focus of virtually all tourism strategies remained at the sector level, focusing on branding strategies, online portals, marketing and leadership.

Ontario has three strategic documents outlining tourism policies and plans, [Ontario Culture Strategy](#), [Discovering Ontario: A Report on the Future of Tourism](#), [A Francophone Tourism Plan for Northern Ontario](#), and two programmes, the [Community Building Fund](#) and the [Tourism Economic Development Recovery Fund](#). The word rural appears four times in the three strategic documents. The Francophone Tourism Plan for Northern Ontario only speaks to high level priorities such as the development of a working group a smartphone app, a service inventory and training, and is effectively silent on the comparative advantages and opportunities of different parts of northern Ontario in this subject.

Newfoundland and Labrador also embody this finding in their strategic tourism document titled [Vision 2020: Uncommon Potential – A Vision for Newfoundland and Labrador Tourism](#). This document recognizes in the background section that *“tourism is an important part of the sustainability of rural Newfoundland and Labrador.”* It goes on to say that *“The tourism industry needs rural communities. They are the heart and soul of our province, and the foundation of our travel experiences. Developing a tourism industry that provides rural opportunities for market entry, development and exit will help complete a business life cycle that is sustainable for those who wish to live and raise families in rural communities.”* Not a single action arising from the plan speaks specifically to rural needs, which are described in generalities such as *“improve ferry systems with tourists in mind”*.

Nova Scotia has two tourism strategies and a plan, none of which do more than indicating that tourism happens in rural areas. For example, [Nova Scotia's Culture Action Plan](#) prioritizes Mi'kmaw Culture as a key pillar of the plan, although the only specific mention of rural is in one action to *“Enhance effectiveness and transparency of funding programmes supporting cultural, sport and recreation organisations and facilities with a focus on rural Nova Scotia.”* In 128 pages of content represented by these three documents, the word rural only appears 7 times. The priorities within the tourism sector are to attract visitors, investments, create experiences and build confidence.

The focus of virtually all tourism strategies remained at the sector level, focusing on branding strategies, online portals, marketing and leadership.

The Strategic Framework for Tourism in British Columbia 2019 – 2021 does not describe nor differentiate the needs of rural communities in its approach. Alberta did not have a sector-specific tourism strategy. Saskatchewan does not have a tourism strategy, and their Tourism Sector Support Programme (STSSP) is focussed on accommodations and major event facilities affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, with no differentiation between the impacts on or priority recovery for rural or urban areas.

Neither the Yukon Tourism Development Strategy nor the 10 Year Yukon Parks Strategy articulate the needs of rural communities and their contribution to the sector. PEI's 2021 Tourism Season Tactical Action Plan offers a provincial level strategic framework, but has no rural lens. PEI does have a community development programme specifically designed for rural communities with populations under 10,000, which provides sport, recreation, physical activity, and healthy living services to three designated regional sport areas: Eastern, Central, and Western.

New Brunswick has one tourism strategy, one plan, and one programme. While none of these approaches specifically differentiates the needs of rural areas, the plan RSVP: A Plan for Renewal. A Plan for Recovery contains a principle to take “a regional view” to consider the unique needs of different areas, and includes a specific action to create 12 unique regional plans through a structured collaborative process.

Neither Manitoba's Provincial Tourism Strategy nor the Culture Policy and Action Plan prioritize the needs of rural communities in their approaches. Manitoba does have a Northern Manitoba Tourism Strategy which focusses entirely on the needs of rural communities in northern Manitoba.

Nunavut is an exception to this finding, whose tourism priorities are guided by one strategy (Tunngasaiji: A Tourism Strategy for Nunavummiut), one plan (Nunavut Marine Tourism Management Plan), and two programmes (Authentic Nunavut: Nunavut Arts & Craft Brand, and Community Tourism and Cultural Industries Programme). All of these approaches reflect the importance of integrating tourism into rural economies. The Minister's opening statement in the tourism strategy is that *“We understand the importance of tourism as a pillar of our territorial economy: the industry is a critical source of employment and training in our communities, and of opportunities for those in the hospitality, arts and crafts and travel industries.”* This sentiment appears in some action items throughout the document, although it is primarily a sector-specific strategy.

Nunavut's marine tourism plan specifically connects the economic development of rural communities to the goals of their plan through four interconnected goals: the enhanced ability of communities to access economic benefits from marine tourism, the establishment of enticing products and services, the informed implementation of marine tourism specific legislation, and finally, the fostering of improved communication between all stakeholders.

5 Regions that address rural priorities through internal entities have more coordinated approaches

In British Columbia, rural development is included in the name of the ministry responsible, the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD). This ministry has taken a lead in coordinating a policy response for rural areas experiencing negative impacts from a downturn in the

forestry sector, and is responsible one of the only publicly facing rural economic development strategies in the country ([BC Rural Economic Development Strategy, 2017](#)).

The territories are of interest in terms of their unique ability to integrate rural economic development into all sectors and at all levels of policy. This may be due to their unique governance structure, which in the NWT and Nunavut sees independent individuals elected to a governance body that operates by consensus, rather than along party lines.

From [Nunavut's Vision](#): “*Nunavut is the only jurisdiction created out of an Indigenous land claims agreement, the Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, or, more simply, the Nunavut Agreement. And it is the only Canadian jurisdiction to have a majority Indigenous population – 86 per cent of Nunavummiut are Inuit.*” pg 7. “roughly 38,000 living in 25 remote, isolated communities spread across approximately one fifth of Canada’s land mass.”

The lead organisation responsible for rural economic development in Nunavut is the department of Economic Development and Transportation. The primary rural economic development strategy is led by the Premier’s Office, and is in fact the overarching economic development strategy for the territory. Nunavut is the only jurisdiction where the rural economic development strategy and the overarching economic development strategy are the same.

The lead department for rural development in the Northwest Territories is the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment. The primary rural economic development strategy for the region, the [Sustainable Livelihoods Action Plan](#) is the responsibility of a different unit, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. The government has made efforts to articulate their respect for local knowledge. A [policy](#) was made to this effect in 2005, and the NWT has a higher relative proportion of approaches addressing the needs of rural communities than other regions in Canada.

The Yukon does have a political party system more reminiscent of the provinces, and at the time of review, the department of Economic Development retained responsibility for community development, although there was a significant amount of activity underway in the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources that impacts rural economic development.

In the provinces, rural economic development resides in a variety of locations within government.

- **Alberta:** Responsibility for rural development rests with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, but rural activities are delivered primarily through arms length entities (Results Driven Agriculture; Northern Alberta Development Council).
 - › The primary rural lens for Alberta is agricultural activity
- **Manitoba:** Rural development is the responsibility of the Ministry of Economic Development and Jobs, but delivery of rural activities is through an arms length agency, the Rural Manitoba Economic Development Corporation. There is no active rural development strategy for the province.
 - › Priorities for MB mostly relate to export, trade and investment.

The territories are of interest in terms of their unique ability to integrate rural economic development into all sectors and at all levels of policy.

- **New Brunswick:** No lead ministry, all rural priorities fulfilled by arms-length Regional Development Corporation and to a lesser degree by Opportunities New Brunswick.
 - › Many industries in transition, and economic activities are limited by access to housing in rural areas, emerging as a key to economic development for the province as a whole.
- **Newfoundland and Labrador:** Responsibility for rural development resides with the Ministry of Industry and Economic Development. This group is also responsible for the broadband portfolio for the province. A number of regional development officers support regions in their ability to access a portfolio of programmes regarding community and economic development, such as loan assessments and community development initiatives. Other departments contributing to economic development activities include Immigration, Population Growth and Skills Education; Advanced Education, Skills and Labour; and Municipal and Provincial Affairs.
- **Nova Scotia:** The lead organisation responsible for rural economic development is the Department of Business, with responsibility in this area primarily focused on broadband connectivity projects. Many publicly funded programmes and priorities are delivered by Crown Corporations and private entities that have arms length relationships with government.
 - › The focus of the Department of Business – Business Plan, which guides priorities related to rural economic development identifies “placemaking” by functional economic region as a priority led by crown corporation Develop Nova Scotia.
- **Ontario:** Ontario does not have a rural development strategy, and along with British Columbia, has a ministry with Rural in its name, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.
 - › Rural as a concept within Ontario appears to be associated with a more traditional lens of agriculture and food, similar to Alberta. Rural is not integrated into sector approaches, although there are a few broad rural programs delivered by a variety of ministries, including a broadband strategy.
- **PEI:** Rural development is a priority of the Ministry of Fisheries and Communities, who lead the Rural Growth Initiative, among other community development programs. PEI is one of the only provinces that has a public policy framework for rural economic development, launched originally through a Throne speech in 2017. There does not appear to be an overarching economic development plan for the Province, whose inhabitants are 54% rural.
- **Quebec:** Responsibility for rural development resides within the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Quebec and is one of the only jurisdictions in Canada that has an rural economic development strategy, but no overarching economic development plan: The Government Strategy for Ensuring the Occupation and Vitality of the Territories 2018-2022, and this document is the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.
 - › The only jurisdiction with an explicit regional approach to rural economic development, building on a “national policy on ruralite 2007-2014”. The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing manages five territorial development funds, delivered by regional county municipalities (MRCs).

- **Saskatchewan's** lead ministry for rural development is the Ministry of Trade and Export Development. There is no specific rural development document or strategy. Saskatchewan's [Growth Plan](#) is the primary economic development document outlining priorities for all families and communities in SK. This document identifies that the Ministry of Government Relations, Municipal Infrastructure and Finance supports \$2.5 billion in revenue sharing, and \$30 billion in infrastructure for SK communities over the next decade.

Provinces and territories with higher proportions of their populations in rural areas (Nunavut, NWT, Yukon and PEI) appear to more consistently coordinate high impact approaches related to rural development activities.

Prairie provinces appear to continue to view the development of rural areas from an agricultural lens, and focus on overarching export, trade and investment activities. Neither Alberta, Manitoba nor Saskatchewan have rural development strategies, and all Provinces are organized to deliver resources to rural communities through arms length organisations.

In the Atlantic provinces, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia deliver their rural priorities through external bodies, and limited resources are oriented to this subject inside core government. Among the Atlantic provinces, PEI has the most robust approach to rural development. Activities in PEI are guided by a public policy framework, a rural development strategy, and internal resources across multiple ministries. Newfoundland and Labrador do not have a public-facing rural development strategy, but they do have internal centralized and regional resources to support communities in transition.

6 Rural innovation is not on the agenda in most places

Innovation, a subject which tends to cross sectoral boundaries, rarely includes rural priorities or opportunities anywhere in the country. Innovation activities tend to be oriented to specific sector as incentive approaches to support economies in transition. Only Quebec offers a regional approach to innovation.

In British Columbia, Goal two of the [British Columbia Technology and Innovation Policy Framework](#) makes specific mention of the need to include people in rural areas into the innovation economy, and limits to participation associated with connectivity. Identifies \$50 million to improve internet in 200 rural communities.

In Manitoba, the [Innovation Growth Program](#) provides up to \$100,000 in 50-50 cost-shared, non-repayable financial assistance to Manitoba-based small and medium-size enterprises to assist in developing and commercializing new and innovative products and processes. This programme has no rural lens. Applicants can be private corporations in any location in the province, with annual revenue less than \$15 million.

Saskatchewan delivers a [Petroleum Innovation Incentive \(SPII\)](#) to provide eligible innovation commercialization investment projects across any segment of oil and gas sector a royalty/freehold tax credit worth 25 percent of eligible capital expenditures. This programme has no rural lens. SPII is open to any company (urban, rural, local, international) with a project that demonstrates an oil and gas innovation in an operational environment in Saskatchewan.

Alberta delivered a [water research and innovation strategy](#) over several years, resulting in the funding of 33 projects across the province. Two projects were related to water in rural areas.

Provinces and territories with higher proportions of their populations in rural areas (Nunavut, NWT, Yukon and PEI) appear to more consistently coordinate high impact approaches related to rural development activities.

Innovation activities tend to be oriented to specific sector as incentive approaches to support economies in transition.

In Newfoundland and Labrador, the Oil and Gas Innovation and Business Development Fund is a 10-year, \$60 million fund with an annual budget of \$6 million to facilitate collaboration, investment, and industry growth required to position Newfoundland and Labrador globally as a preferred location for oil and gas development. The needs of rural communities are neither articulated nor prioritized in this fund.

In Nova Scotia, the Forestry Innovation Transition Trust, a \$50 million trust to encourage innovation to forestry and biological resources sector has no rural lens in its selection criteria. In Ontario, the Forest Sector Investment and Innovation Program provides support for projects with at least \$3 million in eligible costs for businesses or collaborations. The objective of the program is to develop, diversify and transform Ontario's forest sector through innovation in technology, process and/or products. There is no rural lens in the eligibility criteria for the program.

The Quebec Research and Innovation Strategy [Stratégie québécoise de la recherche et de l'innovation] focusses on skills, research, and commercialisation, but makes no mention of rural opportunities or priorities. Quebec does integrate innovation to a degree into their regional planning through the use of "Signature innovation" projects of the MRCs. This is regional/territorial development framing and includes smaller, rural communities by default. Quebec also has a Québec Energy Transition, Innovation and Efficiency Master Plan, which makes no mention of rural priorities.

No innovation strategies were identified for New Brunswick, the Northwest Territories, Nunavut or Prince Edward Island.

CONCLUSION

This pan-Canadian scan has examined diverse strategies, plans and programmes that are directed to, or important for, rural development. Overall, this review finds gaps in terms of how rural places are addressed by provincial and territorial governments. In most jurisdictions, rural communities are not acknowledged in sectoral plans for economic activities that are in fact primarily rural (e.g., forestry, mining). This research has also found an overall lack of integration between sectoral policies — which is a common critique of rural policy today (Markey et al. 2019; Muñoz and Kimmitt 2019; Steiner and Teasdale 2019). In the majority of jurisdictions, public bureaucracies are poorly structured (siloed) to address these issues. At the same time, Canada’s northern territories are a source of inspiration, with quality and cross-sectorial interventions. Importantly, the appointment of Canada’s Minister of Rural Economic Development 2019 renews federal leadership on rural development.

This study offers a ‘bird’s’ eye view of the rural policy landscape — complementing more place-based and in-depth analysis. It is a snapshot of a point in time and it is hoped that this is a useful reference point for rural researchers, and one that we hope to recreate and update in the future as Canada’s rural policy evolves.

Canada’s northern territories are a source of inspiration, with quality and cross-sectorial interventions.

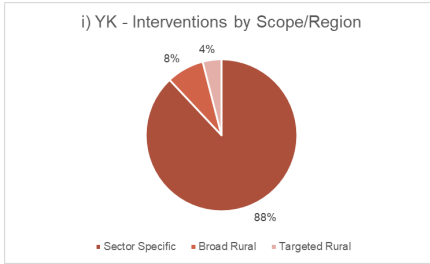
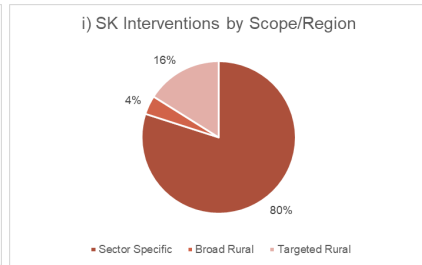
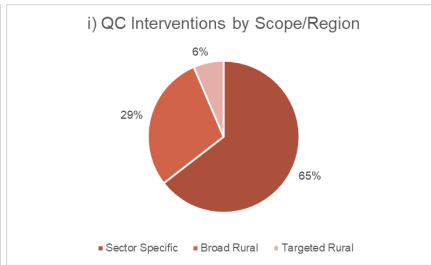
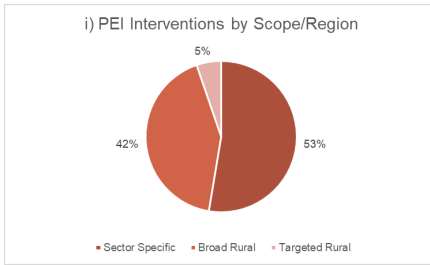
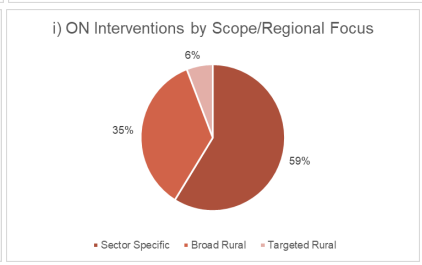
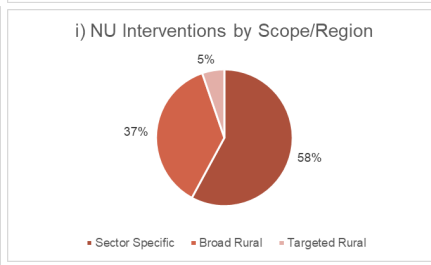
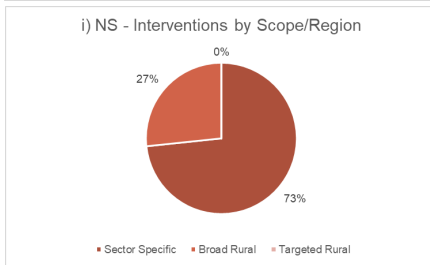
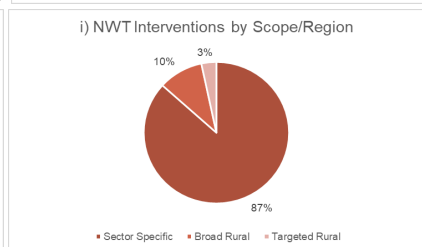
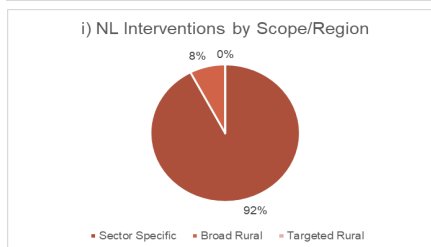
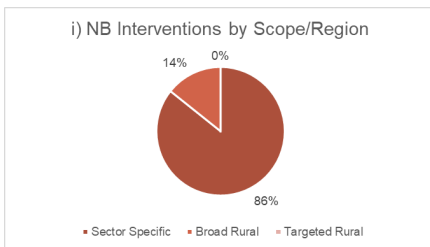
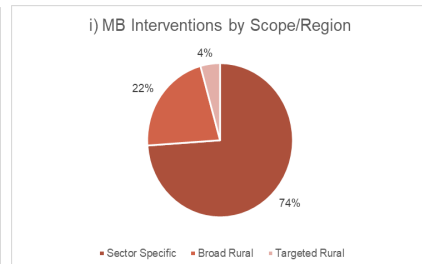
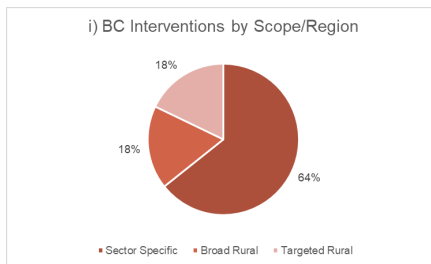
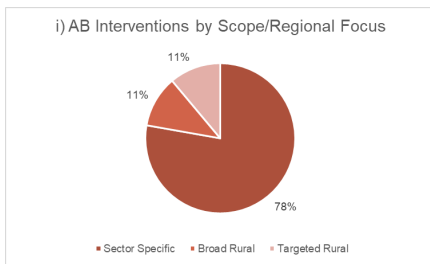
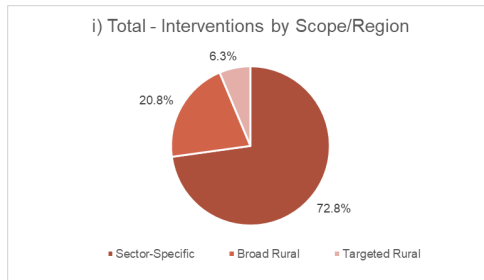
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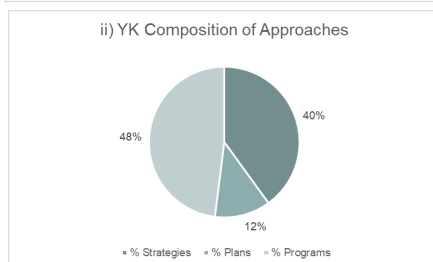
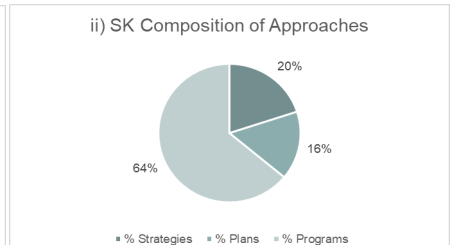
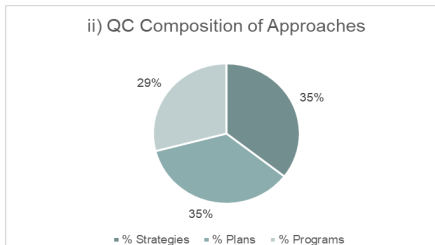
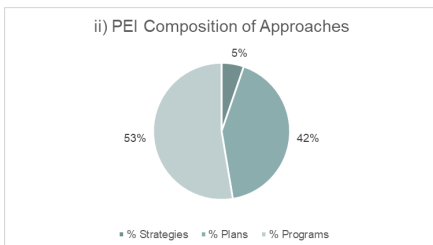
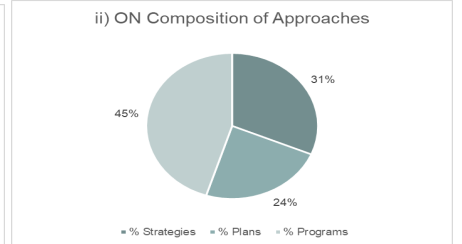
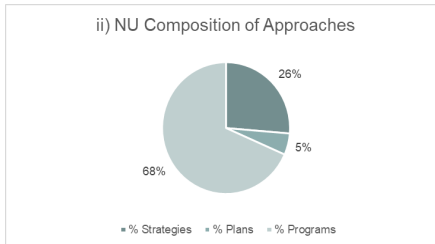
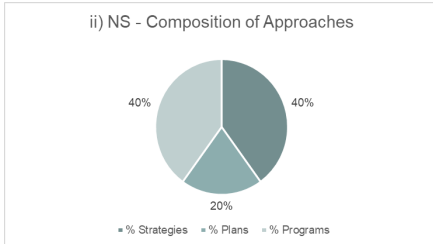
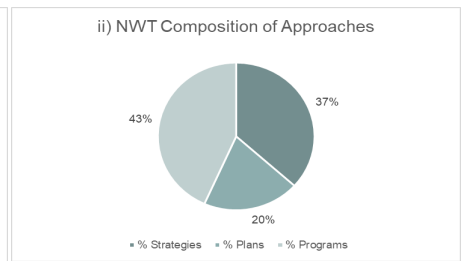
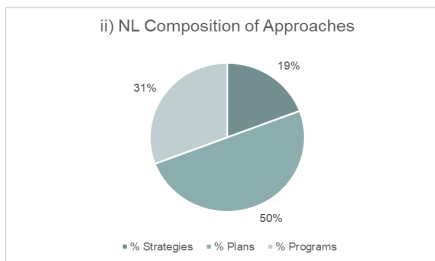
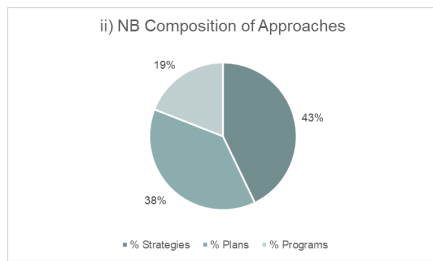
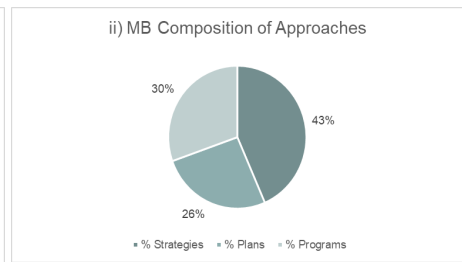
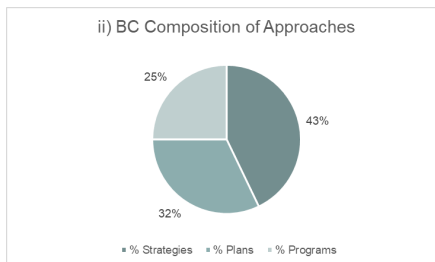
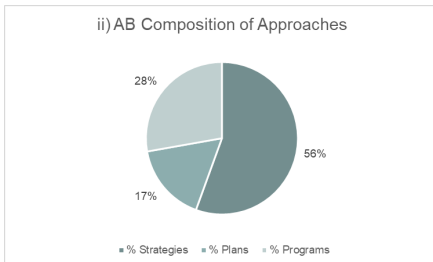
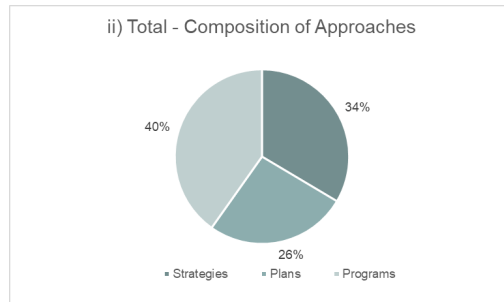
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INTERVENTIONS BY SCOPE/REGION - NATIONAL AND REGIONAL SUMMARIES



SUMMARY OF OVERALL AND REGIONAL COMPOSITION OF APPROACHES



SUMMARY OF OVERALL AND REGIONAL RURAL CONTENT OF APPROACHES

