Social Exclusion and Social Support in Rural Canada

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Social Exclusion and Inclusion

- About access to resources and services
- Focus on processes by which it occurs
- Mediated by social relations
- Conditioned by context
High Capacity = Agility among systems
Social Relations in the NRE

- **Market and Bureaucratic more important**
  - Individual: bank machines, medical services, jobs
  - Community: municipal services, economic development

- **Associative and communal stressed**
  - Smaller pool
  - Mobility undermines trust
  - Centralization increases demands
  - Specialization disadvantages small places

How do these affect access to social supports?
Research Approach

• Household survey (1995 interviews)
• 22 of the 32 sites in the NRE Rural Observatory
• Provides:
  - Social Support information
  - Contextual information
    - Field site level
    - Relationship to the regional and global economy
Family and friends are critical

% used by HH

Market  Bureaucratic  Associative  Communal

Bonding  Linking
Supports most often used in combination

% used by HH

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>% of HH</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bur.-Comm</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>Communal</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>Bureau.</td>
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<td>M-B-C</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>B-A-C</td>
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The type of change matters

% used by HH

Finances
Health
Living
Family

Market
Bureaucratic
Associative
Communal
Not all social support is helpful
% ‘Helpful’ or ‘Very Helpful’

- Market
- Bureaucratic
- Associative
- Communal

20 NRE Field Sites – 1995 cases
Helpfulness varies by type of change and support

% helpful or very helpful

Finances Health Living Family

Market Bureaucratic Associative Communal
Single mother status options

% used by HH

Market Bureaucratic Associative* Communal*

(* = p < .05)

Single Mothers (N=26) Others (N=1379)
HH median income options

(* = p < .05
N= 1216)
Employment options

(* = p < .05)

- **Market**
  - No Employed person: 10%
  - At least 1 employed: 50%

- **Bureaucratic**
  - No Employed person: 0%
  - At least 1 employed: 60%

- **Associative**
  - No Employed person: 40%
  - At least 1 employed: 50%

- **Communal**
  - No Employed person: 60%
  - At least 1 employed: 60%
Employment Interactions

% used by HH

Communal-Based Social Capital

Unemployed
Employed

Low
High

NRE² BUILDING RURAL CAPACITY IN THE NEW ECONOMY
**Income Interactions**

**High income**

**Low income**

% used by HH

- <$20K
- $20 to $29K
- $30 to $39K
- $40 to $59K
- $60 to $79K
- $80K+

Associative-based social capital

Low

High
Global Exposure Interactions

% used by HH

Low Exposure

Global Exposure

Communal-based Social Capital

Low Exposure

High Exposure

Low

High

Global Exposure

Low

High

NRE²

BUILDING RURAL CAPACITY IN THE NEW ECONOMY

16
Key Points and Implications

- The processes are complex
- Case studies in systematic, comparative context
- Policies must be flexible
- Coordinate strategies and approaches
Social Exclusion and Social Support in Rural Canada

The Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation

nre.concordia.ca

www.crrf.ca

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