

# THE FUTURE OF RURAL CANADA



Rural communities play a major role in Canada's economic success. They build the infrastructure and deliver the services needed to enable everything from farming to natural resources to even tourism. Through a partnership between all orders of government, we can unleash the full economic potential of rural Canada.

**How? With these targeted actions to help rural communities overcome today's barriers and thrive well into the future.**

## Digital connectivity

➤ **Issue:** The lack of reliable and affordable Internet and cell services is limiting the development of rural communities.



**Solution:** Achieve universal broadband connectivity by updating Canada's Connectivity Strategy and enhance the Universal Broadband Fund. Make roaming agreements obligatory for cellular service providers.



➤ **Issue:** Aging roads and bridges, as well as water and wastewater infrastructure are restraining economic growth.

## Infrastructure and transportation

**Solution:** Create a new, dedicated federal program for rural infrastructure to expand trade opportunities.

# Housing and homelessness



➤ **Issue:** Rural and remote communities face significant housing challenges, including the high cost of building housing and significant gaps in data on homelessness.

**Solution:** Kickstart the rural and remote prefabricated housing industry and fund a data strategy on rural and remote homelessness.

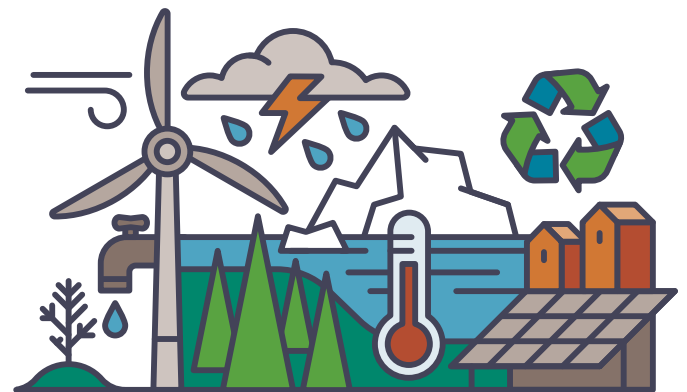


# Community safety

➤ **Issue:** Rising costs and limited resources in first response services is jeopardizing the safety of rural communities.

**Solution:** Strengthen RCMP policing, reform the bail system and expand community-based mental health supports.

# Climate change adaptation and mitigation



➤ **Issue:** Floods, fires and extreme weather is impacting the daily lives of rural residents.

**Solution:** Invest in climate-resilient infrastructure, disaster prevention and nature-based solutions.



**Share our vision for a stronger rural Canada.**

Read the report and see how FCM's recommendations will strengthen rural communities across Canada.

[fcm.ca/rural-report](https://fcm.ca/rural-report)

