

NRE<sup>2</sup> BUILDING RURAL CAPACITY IN THE NEW ECONOMY

## Rural Research Centres in Canada

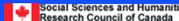
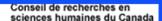
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1

### •Session Design

- 60 minute session, October 16 from 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM
- It was suggested the presentation should provide 20 minutes for discussion
- Session design
  - Introduction of presentation and panelists (Bob)
  - Overview of rural research centers in Canada and value of interlocking centers (Bill)
  - Purpose and value of knowledge mobilization and translation (Yolande)
  - Constraints and capacity building; including community as consumers of research, research centers vs consultants (Laura)
  - Challenges of research centers, including university environment (ethics, timelines), challenges in responding to community needs (George)
  - Strategies for communities and community-based organizations to use rural research centers and open discussion (Rob)
- Suggested that examples of community and research projects should be illustrated throughout the presentation
- Powerpoint projector, computer, projection screen, and microphones have been requested for the session

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## Knowledge Mobilization Involves:

- Knowledge development (Research-based and Experiential)
- Communication/Collaboration
- Opportunity

2

Knowledge Mobilization involves:

- Knowledge development (Research-based and Experiential)
  - Vision and recognition
    - We need to recognize knowledge when we see it
      - Whale hunters to whale watchers
    - We need to validate it when we recognize it
      - Preparing thanksgiving dinner to organizing a workshop (Sustainability Concordia)
  - Skill development – problem formulation, data gathering, assessment, problem solving
  - Institutional continuity – equipment, venues, finances, libraries
- Communication/Collaboration
  - Meetings and events – reasons to get together
  - Intelligence gathering – What are you doing? Who is doing what?
  - Trust-building – Who knows? Who can I trust?
  - Accessibility – Who will respond? Who will respect my concerns?
- Opportunity
  - Who has the time at this moment?
  - What's hot, what's not?
  - Who's hot? Who's not?

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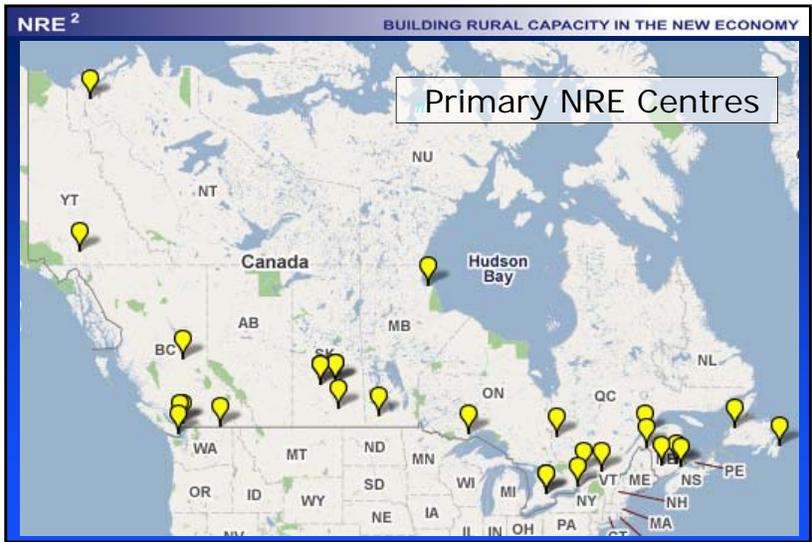
## Institutional Elements of KMb

- Research centres
- Partners in research
- Networks
- Governments
- Communities and groups

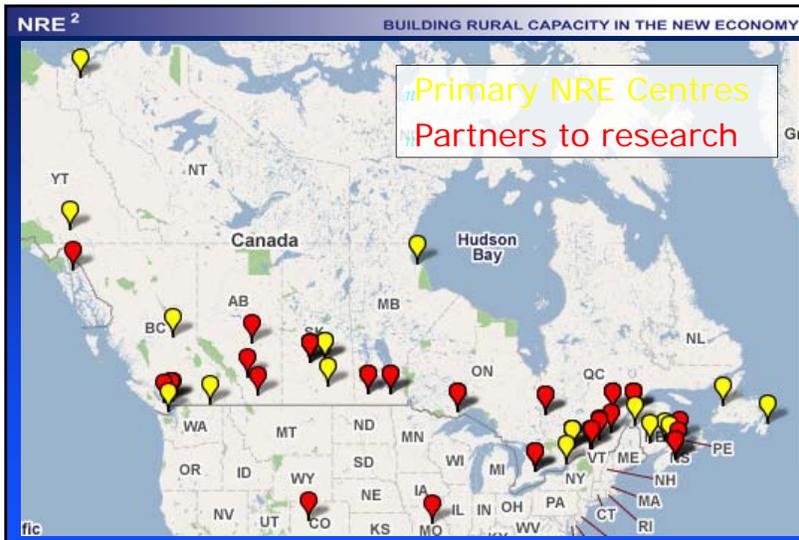
3

### Ingredients of Knowledge Mobilization (rural focus)

- How can we organize ourselves to maximize these (when it comes to KM about rural issues?)
- It turns out that we are in a reasonably good position
  - Not without a lot of hard work to this end – over the last 10 years
- We have:
  - Research centres
    - Conducting and supporting research
  - Partners in research
    - Including experiential-based research
  - Networks of people with an interest in rural issues
  - Governments and parts of government with such an interest
  - Communities and groups concerned about rural issues
- I asked our NRE network members to provide me with information about the groups and people with whom they worked
  - Pulled out the most obvious ones
  - Present an impressive network – and example of the way in which these networks develop
  - Note the strength of weak ties (Granovetter)



•Primary NRE centres - yellow



- Primary NRE Centres – yellow
- Partners to research – including individuals with rural research interests - red





•Other activities or institutions - grey



•Field sites and NRE communities - green



## National Network

- Conferences and Workshops
- Internet Gateway
- Research Clearinghouse
- Data Repository and Archives
- Internships
- Liaison and Opportunity Identification
- Communication and Media Facilitation
- Partnership Development

10

- We are now well poised to build on this network along the lines outlined above
  - Knowledge Development
  - Communication/collaboration
  - Opportunity
- Distributed Network – cluster
- Building on strengths already established
- Putting into practice what our research has shown us about social capital and networks
- A national network for Mobilizing Knowledge
  - Conferences and Workshops
    - Venues for discovery and collaboration
  - Internet Gateway
    - Using new technologies for intelligence gathering and re-visioning
  - Research Clearinghouse, Data Repository and Archives
    - Increasing accessibility to knowledge
  - Internships
    - Skill development, trust-building
  - Liaison and Opportunity Identification
    - Flexible intelligence
  - Communication and Media Facilitation
    - Projecting the 'Rural Voice'
    - Translating and communicating knowledge
  - Partnership Development and extension
    - Creating opportunities and extending knowledge

## A Distributed Network

- Build on strengths where they occur
- Avoid duplication
- Build capacities where needed
- Respond to energy, inspiration, and enthusiasm

11

### A Distributed Network

- Work from strengths
- Avoid duplication of work already being done
- Build capacities where needed
- Take advantage of changing energy, inspiration, and enthusiasm
- Image of migration

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12