

FOSTERING SUSTAINABLE FUTURES THROUGH PHILANTHROPY?

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ROAD MAP FOR DISCUSSION

Pinnacle question: Can philanthropy foster sustainable futures for rural regions?

- Why is philanthropy required for rural sustainability?
- What is philanthropy
- Current state of rural philanthropy
- Lessons learned from philanthropic foundations to facilitate understanding

A COMMON THEME ... A COMMON DILEMMA

Regional development initiatives and processes highly dependent on government funding

Problematic

- in periods of austerity
- during changing political priorities
- limited financial resources causing competition among local actors

WHAT IS PHILANTHROPY?

“the art of giving money to non-profit organizations and individuals to provide both financial assistance to those in need and to further the well-being of a society”



Meal programs
Housing/shelter
Emergency relief



Sustainability of
communities and regions?

ISN'T PHILANTHROPY
AN URBAN PHENOMENA?



PHILANTHROPY AND RURAL REGIONS

- Long history of contributions of rural residents to charitable causes
- Considerable wealth held in rural regions in the form of land, equipment, and rights
- Relationship between philanthropy and rural regions is not well understood
 - Atlantic Canada's Community Foundations hold \$32 million (as of 2012)
 - Manitoba's rural Community Foundation hold \$30.5 million (as of 2007)

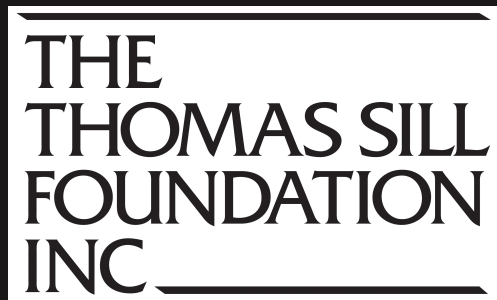
WHY HAS PHILANTHROPY BECOME IMPORTANT?

- Decreasing government funding to rural regions
- Increased personal wealth in many rural regions
- Transfer of wealth window quickly approaching
- 185 Community Foundations in Canada
 - \$3.35 billion in assets
 - \$143 million in grants

EVIDENCE OF RURAL PHILANTHROPY



LESSONS EMERGING FOR RURAL REGIONS



BASED IN WINNIPEG,
MANITOBA



BASED IN PETERBOROUGH,
ONTARIO

LESSONS EMERGING FOR RURAL REGIONS

- Approximate 50% of grants to rural areas
- Important of supporting rural and northern communities:

THE
THOMAS SILL
FOUNDATION
INC

BASED IN WINNIPEG,
MANITOBA

“It's absolutely critical, and it's probably the thing that sets us apart from most private foundations in Canada.”

“We take steps to serve the entire province, we don't see the fairness in restricting grantmaking to the city of Winnipeg. It assumes that nothing good is happening in rural Manitoba or in the north. It's all nonsense.”

LESSONS EMERGING FOR RURAL REGIONS



- Support for Integrated Community Sustainability Planning
 - Facilitating regional stakeholders
 - 2011-2013

BASED IN PETERBOROUGH,
ONTARIO

CAN PHILANTHROPY FOSTER SUSTAINABLE FUTURES FOR RURAL REGIONS?



OPPORTUNITIES

Philanthropy and regional development are natural companions

- Ability to utilize local assets for development
- Decrease reliance on external funding and the risks associated
- Build/enhance sense of collective identity
- Strong sense of community and attachment among rural residents, both current and former
- Increased wealth witnessed in many rural communities/regions

CHALLENGES

- Lack of familiarity of philanthropy
- Endowment building takes is not a short-term initiative
- There is limited connection at the moment between existing foundations and local community leaders and organizations
- Administration and operation of a foundations is not necessarily straight forward
- Some communities in 'survival mode'

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



MORE INFORMATION



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Project Website

<http://philanthropy.ruralresilience.ca>.