

ONE VISION, MANY VOICES: GOVERNMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

- Rural Canada must consider all available options to develop strong partnerships with governments and the private sector.
- There is a need for a shift in power from the federal and provincial levels of government to the municipal level ... restructuring and rebalancing government jurisdiction is key.
- Grants focused on inter-municipal partnerships would be an excellent way to promote regional coordination and partnerships based on the needs of all parties.
- Right now we are operating without clearly defined levels of responsibility ... for shared governance to work these roles need to be sorted out.
- To build capacity, community plans must take into account all stakeholders ... A truly shared vision and holistic community plan will engage youth, Aboriginals, seniors and all community members through open dialogue.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The seven government and sustainability priorities of rural Canada:

1. Restructure power and authority to municipal government
2. Clearly define levels of responsibility
3. Build capacity to address short- and long-term community needs
4. Institute long-term regional planning
5. Develop community plans that engage all stakeholders
6. Always consider a regional approach
7. Allow for municipal fiscal capacity