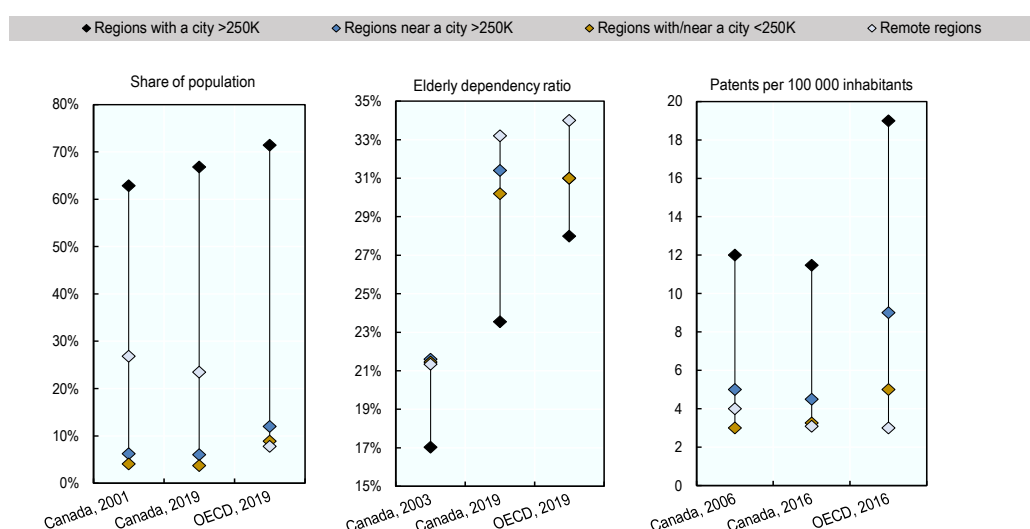


Canada

Statistical profile

Figure 1. Statistical profile



	Population growth 2008-2019 (%)	GVA per worker (1 000 USD ppp)	GVA manufacturing (%)	Employment rate growth (%)	Hospital beds per 1 000 inhabitants
Regions with a city >250K	1.7 (0.7)	NA	NA	NA	NA
Regions near a city >250K	1.1 (0.4)	NA	NA	NA	NA
Regions with/near a city <250K	1.1 (0.4)	NA	NA	NA	NA
Remote regions	0.5 (0.6)	NA	NA	NA	NA

Note: OECD average is presented in parenthesis. Population growth OECD average has been done with 33 countries with available data.
Source: (OECD, 2020_[1]) OECD Regional Statistics (database), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/region-data-e>.

Policy framework and Institutional setting of rural development

Rural Definition

- ❖ Canada has a definition of rural areas for statistical purposes. Rural areas include all territories lying outside population centres (POPCTRs). Rural population includes all population living in rural areas of census metropolitan areas (CMAs) and census

agglomerations (CAs), as well as population living in rural areas outside CMAs and CAs. The definition of rural acknowledges mixed rural/urban areas, rural areas close to cities and remote rural areas.

National rural policy

- ❖ Canada does not have an explicit national rural policy or general federal framework for rural policy. Instead, the Community Futures Programme, managed through the network of Canada's federal Regional Development Agencies (exception of CanNor), is the core federal programme in support of economic development in rural areas. The national program supports the operations of Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDCs) to deliver programs and services supporting community economic development and small business growth in rural areas through: business lending, business counselling, strategic planning and community economic development.

Lead ministry(ies) and other co-ordination bodies in charge

Table 1. Main institutions in charge of rural development policies at national level

Ministries/Departments	Role
Regional Development Agencies (RDAs)	At the federal level, Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) are responsible for economic development in their respective regions, including in the rural areas and remote communities. All RDAs make investments in community economic diversification projects through their core programming. In addition, RDAs deliver the Community Futures Program (CFP), a program dedicated towards rural development, which supports local economic development and strengthens the ability of communities to achieve their full potential in a sustainable way. The CFP is delivered on the ground by a network of Community Futures Development Corporations, independent organisations located in rural communities across Canada.
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	Support rural development through a series of programs focused on the agricultural and food sector. For example the AgriInnovate Program provides financial support for projects that commercialize innovative new products, technologies, processes or services in the agri-sector
Interdepartmental Meetings	Interdepartmental meetings on specific issues/sectors that impact rural development are held regularly between senior officials at the federal level. For example, there is a meeting of Deputy Ministers with responsibilities towards Indigenous Economic Development. In addition, intergovernmental meetings – Federal-Provincial-Territorial – are held on specific issues/sectors to coordinate activities across levels of government, for example of Ministers responsible for economic develop

Table 2. Main institutions in charge of rural development policies at the sub-national level

Institutions	Role
Sub-national governments	Responsibility for rural development

Key objectives in rural policy and delivery mechanisms

- ❖ Canada's rural policy allocates a high degree of importance to economic areas (Table 3). Table 4 shows the main objectives of Canada's rural policy.
- ❖ The main delivery mechanisms to conduct implement rural policies are dedicated grants programmes. They include the Community Futures Program, which is dedicated towards rural development. The program provides capital to independently operated community development corporations to support economic development activities in rural areas

Table 3. Relevance of sectors in rural development policy

Policy areas	Weight on rural policy	Average OECD
Economic	40%	40%
Social	30%	30%
Environment	30%	30%

Note: Self-reported responses from country delegate to the question: “Please grade from 1 to 10 the importance rural development policies in your country assigns to economic, social and environmental areas.

Source: OECD (2018), “Responses to the institutional survey on rural policy in OECD countries”.

Table 4. Relevant objectives in rural development policy

Top objectives	Programmes	Main financial mechanisms to support the strategy
Agriculture	Various programmes provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	Grants
Service delivery	Most public services in Canada are provided by the Provincial/Territorial governments. At the Federal Government level, the equalization program supports the ability of the provinces to deliver reasonably comparable public services in all regions of Canada through	Grants, funding
Environmental sustainability	Various programmes provided by Environment and Climate Change Canada	Grants
Accessibility- via transport/ broadband	Program that supports the provision of broadband internet services in rural and remote communities are provided by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada	Investment, grants
Ageing and outmigration	RDA's are working with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada to address this issue, with a new pilot program currently under development in Atlantic Canada where ageing and outmigration are a major issue	Grants
Innovation support to “rural” sectors	Several of the programs provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada mentioned above are designed to support innovation in rural areas	Na
Support to private sector, jobs and investment	The Community Futures program funded by the RDA's is the main federal support in this area	Na

Note: Objectives presented are the objectives with higher scores in the survey responses.

Source: OECD (2018), “Responses to the institutional survey on rural policy in OECD countries”.