

DRAFT AGENDA

3 May 2024

11:00 EDT (Ottawa) | 17:00 CEST (Paris)
8:00 PDT (Vancouver) | virtual

OECD Enhancing Rural Innovation in Canada: Report Launch

■ About the event

This event launches the OECD 2024 study *Enhancing Rural Innovation in Canada*.

According to the OECD rural typology, around one in five Canadians live in Canada's rural regions, which accounts for 97.1% of total Canadian landmass. Rural regions in Canada, like in most OECD countries, contribute less to aggregate gross domestic product (GDP) than metropolitan regions but unlike many countries, those gaps are closing in Canada. Using national classifications, the rural-urban income gap in 2020 was half the size it was in 2000. Between 2010 and 2020, average annual labour productivity growth in rural areas (2.4%) outpaced urban areas (1.9%). Using regional harmonized classifications, inequalities in high-technology innovation between rural and metropolitan regions are also relatively low compared to OECD countries. From 2016 to 2020, the difference in average patenting intensity, measured as the number of patents per capita, between rural remote regions and metropolitan regions was 0.08 in Canada, compared to an OECD average of 0.15.

Strengthening rural innovation is especially important in Canada because rural regions are dually impacted by demographic change, with slower population growth and an ageing population, and climate change, with places in the Canadian Arctic warming at close to twice the global rate. There is scope to boost innovation to address these challenges, including adapting federal, provincial and territorial programmes to better support rural entrepreneurs and green innovation initiatives, calling on good practices from Indigenous knowledge and exemplary rural firms.

This report draws on lessons from other OECD countries to provide a diagnosis of rural innovation in Canada as well as policy recommendations to support it, with a particular emphasis on innovation to address climate change.

Contact

Questions? Email us at michelle.marshalian@oecd.org

For more information, visit our website:

<https://www.oecd.org/regional/rural-development/rural-innovation.htm>

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Agenda

Moderator: Jose Enrique Garcilazo, Deputy Head of Division and Head of Regional and Rural Policy Unit, OECD

3 May 2024: Welcoming remarks

17:00-17:10 (CET) 11:00-11:10 (EST) 08:00-08:10 (PDT)	Opening remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Nadim Ahmad, Deputy Director of the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities▪ Steve Masson, Vice President of Policy Partnerships and Communications, Fed Dev, Ontario, Canada
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Summary of findings on Enhancing Rural Innovation in the United States

17:10-17:20 (CET) 11:10-11:20 (EST) 08:10-08:20 (PDT)	Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Michelle Marshalian, Economist and Project Manager, Enhancing Innovation in Rural Areas - CFE/OECD
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Panel discussion

17:20-18:05 (CET) 11:20-12:05 (EST) 08:20-09:05 (PDT)	Moderator	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Jose Enrique Garcilazo, Deputy Head of Division and Head of Regional and Rural Policy Unit, OECD
	Guiding Questions	<p><i>What lessons can we learn from the Canadian experience providing opportunities for rural innovators, entrepreneurs and communities, within a federal system of government?</i></p> <p><i>How can programmes be better targeted to supporting Indigenous entrepreneurship?</i></p> <p><i>What initiatives can the RDAs in Canada consider to address climate mitigation and adaption?</i></p>
	Speakers	<p><i>Panellists</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ TBC, Innovation, Science and Economic Development, Canada (ISED)▪ Zita Cobb, Founder and CEO, Shorefast Foundation, Fogo Island, Canada▪ Ray Bollman, Statistics Canada (Retired); Research Associate at the Rural Development Institute, Brandon University; the Harris Centre for Regional Policy and Development at the Memorial University of Newfoundland; and the Rural Futures Research Centre at Dalhousie University.▪ Daniel Baumgartner, Policy Advisor (agricultural and rural policy), Swiss Ministry of Economy, Education and Research; Chair of the Working Party for Rural Policy

Conclusion

18:05-18:15 (CET) 11:05-12:15 (EST) 08:05-09:15 (PDT)	Closing remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Dorothee Allain-Dupré, Head of Division, Regional Development and Multi-level Governance, OECD
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