

2026

RESILIENT RURALS

Resilient Rurals Model

Partnering for Regional Resilience


RESILIENT RURALS

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WHO THIS MODEL IS FOR

Small and rural communities are diverse, cultural hubs that have contributed significantly to Canada's history and progress, and offer opportunities for innovation and growth. Their people have proven centuries of persistence, deep knowledge, and grit.

However, these communities experience unique barriers that larger urban centers do not. Many communities are unable to adequately prepare for or respond to regional risks, and disproportionately face socioeconomic disruptions and extreme weather such flooding, hazardous winds, and devastating wildfires.

The Resilient Rurals Model is intended for small and rural communities that lack the internal capacity, resources, and funding to address critical issues impacting their long-term resilience.

The Model is designed to help communities build regional partnerships that will navigate their unique needs and circumstances, leverage local expertise and knowledge, and co-develop lasting solutions.

* While this guide provides some focus on the Prairie provinces, the approach to regional partnerships can be used in any community that sees value in strengthening its relationships.

The Need for a Tailored, Holistic Approach

A gap exists in supports for small and rural communities to address many pressing issues, such as aging infrastructure, water scarcity, and rising costs. Each of these are complex, interconnected problems that cannot be solved by addressing individual issues in isolation. A holistic approach is required to overcome systemic challenges:

- **Resource Constraints:** Small and rural communities often have limited financial resources, infrastructure, and human capital compared to larger urban centers. This can make it more difficult to implement costly initiatives.

- **Vulnerability to Extreme Weather Events:** These communities are typically more vulnerable to the impacts of extreme events such as floods, wildfires, and storms. They often lack the resources and capacity to respond effectively, resulting in more damage to infrastructure, loss of livelihoods, and essential services disruptions.

- **Reliance on Natural Resources:** Many communities in Canada rely heavily on natural resources, such as through agriculture, forestry, and fisheries for their livelihoods and well-being. Disasters, economic shifts, and ecosystem displacement pose serious threats to this dependency.

- **Limited Access to Services and Support:** Small and rural communities can often have limited access to essential services and support systems, such as healthcare, emergency response, and social services.

- **Social and Cultural Considerations:** Small and rural communities in Canada often have strong social and cultural ties to the land and natural environment. When these lifestyles are threatened, it can lead to a loss of identity and social cohesion within these communities.

The Resilient Rurals Model responds to these unique challenges directly and in partnership with the communities most affected.

A survey of small and rural communities across Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba found that many of these communities feel that:

- Urban centers are often considered first when it comes to funding and available resources, and there is little consideration for small and rural communities
- There is a lack of support from higher levels of government to address the unique needs of small and rural communities and their Indigenous neighbours
- There is a lack of relevant resources, knowledge, and skills within smaller municipalities' administrative teams, and financial constraints do not allow for the hiring of consultants

Communities showed interest in a regional partnership framework that would empower them to build resilience.

Regional partnerships unite diverse perspectives to tackle shared local challenges. By pooling resources, expertise, and knowledge, these collaborations create innovative solutions that individual communities may struggle to achieve on their own. Regional partnerships enable larger-scale support and foster improved quality of life, more resilient ecosystems, and stronger economies through inclusive planning and decision-making.



Growing Concerns Across the Prairies

Small and rural communities are facing a growing number of pressing concerns that may be better addressed on a regional scale.

Water Quality and Quantity

Water is the foundation of life, food production, animal habitat, industrial processes, and many recreational activities. In the Prairies, most rural communities depend on local run-off and groundwater for their water needs, whereas many urban communities and major industries access water from major rivers and lakes.

However, especially in the southern Prairies where population and commercial activity are concentrated, water supply is becoming more variable and limited. A reduced water supply contributes to higher rates of contaminants and increased water treatment costs, while placing many beloved locations and activities at risk.

Regional water resource management is a broadly recognized concern. Without access to a stable and clean water supply, our food systems, ecosystems, and community water needs are in jeopardy. Protecting regional water supplies, ensuring equitable distribution, and integrating water conservation measures are a top regional priority.

Increasing Costs

As extreme weather becomes more extensive and frequent, the costs of repairing the damage of these events are skyrocketing. In the summer of 2024, a record-number of insurance claims saw over $7 billion spent to cover insured losses from floods, fires, and hailstorms - this is a 406% increase compared with the previous 20-year average.

The costs extend beyond insurance, as small and rural communities are at greater risk of being severely impacted by floods, wildfires, hailstorms, and wind storms. In Alberta alone, 5 of the 10 costliest disasters in Canadian history occurred since 2016.

Agricultural Stressors

Over 80% of Canada’s agricultural land and the majority of irrigated agriculture are located in the Prairies, making the region critical to national food production.

As regional water issues and rising heat trends become more persistent, the impacts on agriculture and food production are growing. Additionally, as ecosystems shift as a result of changes in temperature and precipitation, the natural control of insect pests and disease is disappearing, leading to the expansion of damaging pests into many regions.

Growing Concerns Across the Prairies

"These events are escalating at a shocking rate and Canada is simply not prepared."

Celyeste Power, President and CEO, Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC)

Warming Trends

The Prairies have experienced the strongest warming trends in southern Canada, a trend that may be most notable in the winter months. Loss of snow pack in the winter and changing precipitation, such as when it rains instead of snows, have broad impacts on the Prairie water tables.

Summer extreme heat has immediate and long-term impacts on agriculture, outdoor labourers, and those with heat-sensitive health vulnerabilities. Small and rural communities are less equipped to reduce heat risk due to aging infrastructure and a lack of air conditioning.

Urbanization and Economic Migration

Significant historic trends of rural-to-urban population shifts mean rural communities are losing their population base. This leads to a shrinking workforce, an aging population with increased demand for healthcare, and reduced tax base, causing strain on local budgets for essential services.

The Need to Strengthen Relationships With Indigenous Communities

The Prairie provinces are entirely covered by numbered treaties. These legal agreements represent the foundation of Canada, as they are the legal agreements that provide a framework for living together and sharing the land Indigenous peoples traditionally occupied.

As regional issues persist and grow, it becomes even more important to seek the leadership and participation of Indigenous residents, communities, and organizations, to ensure all voices are at the planning tables, co-developing solutions that benefit everyone. Establishing or strengthening relationships with Indigenous communities can offer powerful, long-lasting impacts across social, economic, environmental, and governance dimensions.



Resilience-Building Tailored to Small and Rural Communities

The Resilient Rurals Model is the first of its kind - a highly unique model and toolkit to guide small and rural communities in establishing regional partnerships to collectively address their significant and unequal vulnerabilities.

There is strength in numbers, and that mindset applies here - diverse regional partnerships may include municipalities, Indigenous communities, non-profit organizations, education and research institutions, agricultural producers, businesses, chambers of commerce, and more.

Each partner brings a unique perspective and set of resources and strengths, contributing to a more holistic and effective approach to addressing regional challenges.

THE PILLARS OF RESILIENCE-BUILDING

SOCIAL COHESION
Strong social networks, trust, and cooperation among community members are essential for resilience. Communities with close-knit relationships are better able to support each other during times of crisis.

EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE & LEADERSHIP
Crucial for coordinating response efforts, allocating resources, and implementing policies that enhance resilience, transparency, accountability, and community engagement are key for effective governance.

INFRASTRUCTURE & ENVIRONMENTAL STABILITY
Well-maintained infrastructure (transportation networks, utilities, communication systems), and environmental sustainability are required to withstand challenges such as natural disasters and climate change.

ECONOMIC STABILITY
A diverse and robust local economy can help buffer against shocks and provide resources for recovery. Economic stability includes factors such as employment opportunities, access to basic services, and the presence of local businesses.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE
Communities that invest in emergency planning, training, and public education are better equipped to respond to and recover from disasters. This includes having robust emergency management systems and access to resources such as emergency shelters and medical facilities.

ACCESS TO RESOURCES & SERVICES
Equitable access to essential resources and services, such as healthcare, education, housing, and social support, is fundamental for community resilience. Ensuring vulnerable populations have access to these resources is particularly important.

CULTURAL & HISTORICAL PRESERVATION
Recognizing and preserving cultural heritage and traditions can strengthen community identity and cohesion, providing a sense of continuity and resilience in the face of adversity.

ADAPTIVE CAPACITY & LEARNING
Resilient communities are able to adapt to changing circumstances and learn from past experiences. This includes the ability to innovate, problem-solve, and continuously improve resilience strategies over time.



Model Outcomes

The Resilient Rurals Model will:

- **Empower** under-resourced and equity-deserving communities across the Prairies and Canada to create successful regional partnerships that stimulate the sharing of knowledge, resources, and supports
- **Address resource gaps** through the development of strategic partnerships in communities that are currently unable to adequately address issues
- **Support one of the most populated and vulnerable areas** in Canada in adapting to climate-related risks
- **Provide key considerations for bridging Indigenous an non-Indigenous communities** and incorporate best practices for developing and sustaining relationships
- **Share a library of toolkit components** that will act as a road map for regional approaches to addressing critical issues

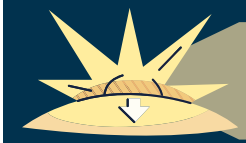
Partnerships can explore:

Vulnerable population assessments and supports	Integrated planning and policy development	Regional infrastructure resilience and risk reduction
Regional-based procurement	Community engagement and social equity	Shared capacity building and training
Data sharing and collaboration	Regional advocacy	Regional ecosystem-based solutions

Resilience-Building

Canada's Prairie provinces have always been resilient in the face of extreme conditions.

But small and rural communities are disproportionately vulnerable to severe weather, erratic shifts, and long-term ecosystem changes, including:



Higher risk of extreme heat, drought, and wildfires



Increased risk of severe flooding, including overland flooding



Milder, wetter winters with reduced snow pack



Increased range of invasive species and pests



Threats to biodiversity from extreme weather and pests



Health risks due to wildfire smoke, extreme heat, or injury



Amplified impacts from industry (energy, tourism, agriculture)



Increased wear and replacement costs of infrastructure

THE RESILIENT RURALS MODEL - SUMMARY

Resilient Rurals began as a partnership between the towns of Bruderheim, Gibbons and Lamont for a regional climate adaptation and resilience project in Alberta's Industrial Heartland. The Town of Bruderheim led this new approach—created by small towns, for small towns.

Model Development

The Resilient Rurals Model was developed based on the Resilient Rurals partnership's experience in local resilience building. Small and rural communities across the Prairie Provinces were also engaged to provide input and feedback on priorities and needs. Subject matter experts in municipal operations, community development, Indigenous engagement, public health and climate research, and regional economic development contributed as advisors to ensure the model was shaped with small, rural, and Indigenous community interests in mind.

Model Components

The model consists of two components: 1) a foundational framework to support the development of regional partnerships, and 2) various model streams that support partnerships to focus in on their shared priorities.

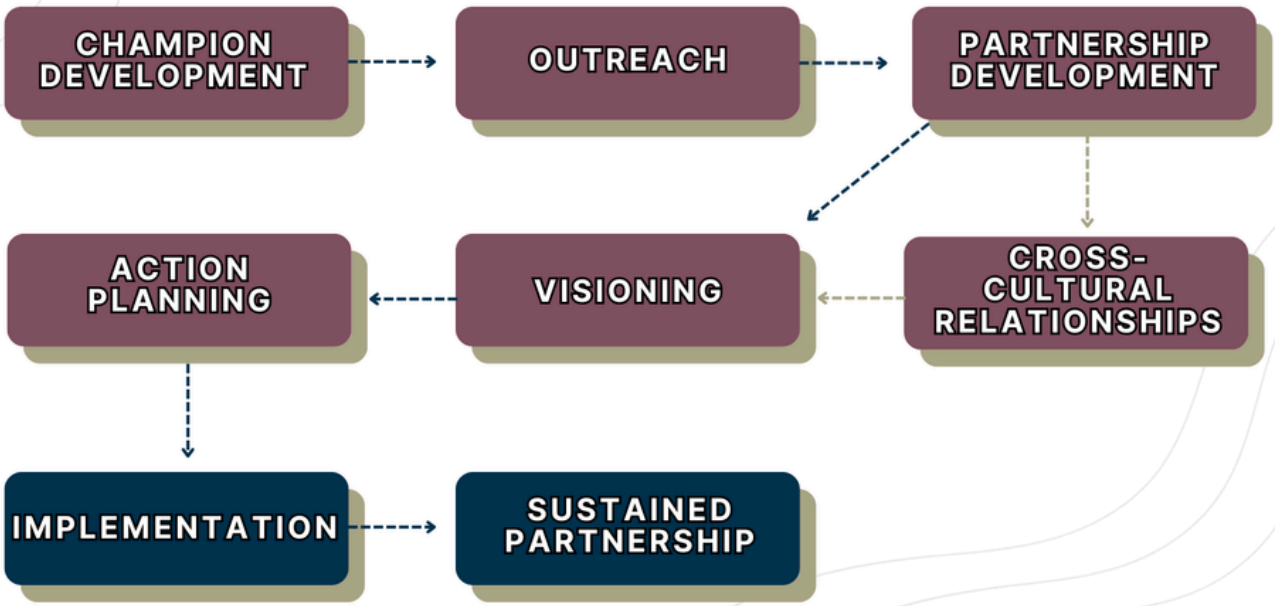
MODEL COMPONENTS



1

RESILIENT RURALS MODEL

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK



The first component of the Model - the *Regional Partnership Framework* - consists of seven phases: 1) Champion Development, 2) Outreach, 3) Partnership Development, 4) Visioning, 5) Action Planning, 6) Implementation, and 7) Sustained Partnership.

An optional eighth phase provides guidance to engage in establishing or strengthening cross-cultural relationships with Indigenous communities.

The following sections outline the phases of the Regional Partnership Framework.



REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK

PHASE 1: CHAMPION DEVELOPMENT

The First Step: Taking Initiative

The first step in building a regional partnership requires someone to take initiative - to start conversations, bring partners together, and champion the idea of working collectively for a more resilient future. This framework will provide the tools and processes to support these efforts, but it all starts with one leader taking charge.

The Role of Champions in Building Strong Regional Partnerships

Developing a successful regional partnership requires more than just a good idea—it needs strong leadership. A champion must be someone who believes in the vision, inspires others to participate, and moves the initiative forward, even in the face of challenges. The champion may be a municipal leader, an Indigenous community representative, a business owner, a non-profit director, or any other motivated individual who recognizes the power of collaboration to create lasting change.

Why Champions Are Essential

In small and rural communities, limited financial capacity and time, geographic distances, and competing priorities can make regional collaboration a challenge. Regional resilience may seem overwhelming and difficult to tackle without extra resources. Without a dedicated individual (or team of champions) driving the initiative, partnerships could stall before they even begin. A champion helps to:

- **Unite the partners around shared issues or goals:** Different communities and organizations may have unique challenges, but a champion finds common ground and emphasizes shared benefits.
- **Sustain the effort over time:** Many partnerships start with enthusiasm but lose momentum. A champion ensures that progress continues beyond the initial meetings.
- **Advocate for support:** Champions engage decision-makers, secure funding, and raise awareness about the partnership's value.

How to Identify and Support a Champion

Champions can often emerge naturally, but in some cases, they may need to be identified. When seeking a champion for your regional partnership:

- Look for individuals already working on regional issues and invite them to take a leadership role in the partnership.
- Provide training and networking opportunities to build their capacity as regional leaders.
- Ensure champions have the support of their organizations or communities to dedicate time to the initiative.



Resilient Rurals TIP:

Foster a team of champions rather than relying on a single person to sustain long-term success. This may be one solution to address the lower capacity in small and rural communities.

Leadership Skills are Key

A champion is not necessarily the most seasoned expert in regional issues or community development. An effective champion will possess (or be motivated to learn) leadership skills:

- **Builds relationships:** They establish trust among diverse partners, bringing people together across sectors and interests.
- **Communicates the purpose and vision:** They clearly articulate why a regional partnership is needed and the benefits of working together.
- **Keeps the momentum going:** They ensure that discussions lead to action, keeping the group engaged and on track.
- **Navigates challenges:** They anticipate and address concerns, conflicts, and setbacks with a strengths-based and solutions-focused approach.
- **Leverages resources:** They identify funding, expertise, and opportunities to support the partnership's work.

The Makings of a Champion

"Champions know that the best way to forecast the future is to create it."

~Michael J. Gelb

Putting Passion into Practice

Many champions share common traits - they have passion and dedication for their communities and concerns, they take a long-term visioning approach, and have a strong understanding of technical information. Putting these traits into practice will help to kick-start your regional partnership.



Go to TOOLS: Resilient Rurals Workbook

TOOL A: Articulating Your Vision

The Resilient Rurals Model Workbook

The *Resilient Rurals Model Workbook* is the companion for this Framework and outlines the various resources, tools, and templates to follow the resilience-building process in your community. The workbook will support you as a developing champion, helping you to identify regional partners and reach out to them, establish a formal partnership, undergo visioning and work planning, implement initiatives, and sustain the partnership over the long term.

Watch for the green arrows throughout the Model, letting you know to follow along in the workbook.



REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK

PHASE 2: OUTREACH

Building the Foundation for Collaboration

Once a champion has stepped forward to lead the development of a regional partnership, the next crucial step is outreach to potential partners. Partnerships advance when we can rely on a team to take action throughout the region - involving partners or contributors will spread out the workload while opening up new opportunities for resilience that may not have been visible before.

Effective outreach ensures that the partnership is inclusive, representative of regional needs, and built on strong relationships from the outset. This phase involves identifying key stakeholders or rights holders, crafting a compelling message, and using the right communication strategies to engage potential partners.

Reaching out to potential partners early allows for:

- **Broad representation** from municipalities, Indigenous communities, businesses, non-profits, emergency management agencies, and other relevant partners.
- **Co-creation of the partnership's vision and priorities**, ensuring all perspectives are included from the beginning.
- **Stronger buy-in and long-term commitment** from partners who feel heard and valued.



Resilient Rurals TIP: Leverage local knowledge instead of relying only on external information. Use trusted local voices to spread outreach messaging.

Understanding the Risks Your Region is Facing

A critical step in building a successful regional partnership is understanding the specific risks and vulnerabilities that the region faces. Every community has unique challenges influenced by geography, economy, infrastructure, demographics, and climate conditions. Identifying these risks can highlight partnership opportunities, align efforts with needs, and develop targeted strategies that maximize impact.

Understanding the specific risks a region faces is a powerful tool for identifying the right partners to engage in a regional resilience initiative. Different organizations and stakeholders will have a vested interest in addressing particular risks, and this knowledge helps target the right groups for collaboration.

How Risk Identification Helps Find the Right Partners

- **Connects Risks to Relevant Sectors** – Each type of risk (e.g., flooding, wildfires, infrastructure failures, economic stressors) affects different groups. By mapping risks, it's easier to determine which stakeholders are most affected and would benefit from participating in the partnership.
- **Highlights Inter-Dependencies** – Addressing complex issues often requires coordination between multiple sectors. For example, a regional water scarcity issue might require input from municipal planners, Indigenous communities, agricultural producers, and public health officials.
- **Strengthens the Case for Collaboration** – Clearly defined risks help explain why a regional approach is necessary. If flooding impacts multiple municipalities, for instance, joint mitigation efforts make more sense than each community working in isolation.
- **Reveals Gaps in Expertise or Capacity** – Some risks may require specialized knowledge (e.g., climate modelling, emergency management, or infrastructure resilience). Identifying these risks early on ensures outreach includes technical experts, researchers, and policymakers who can provide necessary guidance.



Go to TOOLS:
Resilient Rurals Workbook

TOOL B: Understanding Regional Risks
TEMPLATE 1: Community Surveys

POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTORS



Earlier we described Resilient Rurals' approach to resilience-building as holistic. This means it impacts regional systems - social, economic, governance, and environment.

Engaging contributors in each sphere can help ensure that your resilience-building strategies are as holistic as the risks your community faces.

Prior to Reaching Out: Research and Preparation

Before making contact with potential partners, research each partner to begin to understand what their priorities, challenges, and potential alignment with the partnership may be. Consider:

- What role they currently play in addressing regional concerns.
- What challenges they are facing that a regional partnership could help address.
- How they could contribute, whether through expertise, funding, data, or community connections.
- What value the partnership could bring to them.

Craft a Compelling Message

When reaching out, focus on how the partnership may bring value to the audience and align with their interests. A strong outreach message should:

- Introduce the potential partnership's purpose in clear and relatable terms.
- Highlight mutual benefits (e.g., cost savings, funding access, improved emergency preparedness).
- Emphasize collaboration and the opportunity to co-develop the partnership's goals.
- Provide a clear next step (e.g., attending an introductory meeting, setting up a call).



Go to TOOLS:
Resilient Rurals Workbook

TOOL C: Identifying Potential Partners
TOOL D: Contributor Map Template
TOOL E: Crafting an Outreach Proposal
TEMPLATE 2: Outreach Proposal

Using the Right Communication Methods

Different stakeholders respond to different methods of outreach. Consider a multi-channel approach:

- Email: Best for formal introductions and follow-ups.
- Phone Calls: Ideal for personal engagement and detailed conversations.
- In-Person: Useful for building on existing contacts or making deeper connections.
- Community Meetings: Effective for broad engagement and interactive discussions.
- Memos or Newsletters: Useful for ongoing updates and visibility.



REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK

PHASE 3: PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Bringing Partners Together

The first steps in bringing partners together are:

- Initial partnership meeting
- Formalizing the partnership structure
- Establishing communication and collaboration tools

Initial partnership meetings

Bringing together potential partners for an initial meeting is a milestone in the development of the regional partnership. This first gathering serves as the foundation upon which long-term collaboration, trust, and shared purpose are built.

Setting an agenda for open dialogue will ensure that all participants feel heard, valued, and engaged from the outset. The focus of the meeting should be the opportunity to align diverse perspectives, explore common interests, and establish a shared understanding of the region's challenges and opportunities.



Go to TOOLS:
Resilient Rurals Workbook

TEMPLATE 3: Partnership Agenda
TEMPLATE 4: Regional Resilience Presentation



Resilient Rurals TIP:

If partnering with Indigenous communities or organizations, special attention should be given to integrating Indigenous rights and perspectives into governance models to ensure meaningful and equitable participation. See *Phase 4* for more information.

The initial meeting(s) should clearly outline the purpose and potential benefits of the regional partnership. Explore how collaboration can collectively address regional challenges, enhance resilience, and provide mutual benefits to all partners.

The first session(s) can be used to capture what each participant hopes to gain from the partnership and what they see as priority areas for collaboration. By ensuring that partners feel their perspectives are valued, the meeting lays the groundwork for collective ownership and engagement in the partnership's future activities.

Formalizing the Partnership Structure

With initial discussions underway, the next step is to formalize the partnership's structure and members' commitments. This begins with establishing a governance framework that outlines how decisions will be made and how responsibilities will be shared. A Steering Committee may be formed to guide the partnership's activities, with optional working groups focused on key areas such as water management, emergency preparedness, or economic development.

Developing a Terms of Reference (TOR) document helps define the partnership's purpose, structure, roles, and responsibilities. The TOR should clearly outline membership criteria, decision-making processes, meeting frequency, and communication protocols. It is also important to include a conflict resolution framework to proactively address potential disagreements and ensure smooth collaboration.

If funding or formal commitments are involved, partners may need to sign Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) or other agreements that specify contributions and responsibilities.



Go to TOOLS:
Resilient Rurals Workbook

TEMPLATE 5: Letter of Commitment
TEMPLATE 6: Terms of Reference

Establishing Communication and Collaboration Tools

Effective communication is the backbone of a successful regional partnership. Without clear, consistent, and accessible ways for partners to connect, share information, and coordinate efforts, even the most well-intentioned collaboration can struggle to gain traction. Establishing strong communication and collaboration tools early in the partnership ensures that all members stay informed, engaged, and able to contribute meaningfully to shared initiatives. The right tools help streamline decision-making, build trust, and foster a sense of collective ownership over the partnership's progress.

Because regional partnerships often involve diverse members—ranging from municipalities and Indigenous communities to businesses, non-profits, and educational institutions—it is crucial to implement communication methods that are inclusive, easy to use, and suited to different levels of technological access. A well-planned communications structure also prevents misunderstandings, reduces duplication of efforts, and ensures that important updates or decisions reach all members efficiently.

By prioritizing open, transparent, and consistent communication, a regional partnership can maintain momentum, strengthen relationships, and ensure that all voices remain part of the conversation—even between in-person meetings.



Go to TOOLS:
Resilient Rurals Workbook

TEMPLATE 7: Communications Plan



Resilient Rurals TIP:

Small and rural communities may have limited broadband access or technological capacity, so strategies should be adaptable to meet different partners' needs.



REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK

PHASE 4: CROSS-CULTURAL RELATIONSHIPS

Key Considerations for Indigenous - Non-Indigenous Relationships

The *Resilient Rurals Model* was developed in partnership with **SevGen Consulting Inc.**, an Indigenous-led firm that specializes in partnership development. SevGen provided valuable advisory services for the thoughtful inclusion of considerations for inviting Indigenous participation throughout the model, and particularly for this section. As regional partnerships seek to incorporate Indigenous contributors, SevGen Consulting is recommended for Indigenous cultural awareness training, advisory services, planning, and third-party neutral facilitation support for outreach and engagement as part of the Resilient Rurals process. Reach out at connect@sevgen.ca.

Given that all municipalities in Canada exist on Indigenous Traditional Territory and may be located within Treaty territories as well, there is no need to be a direct 'neighbour' to invite Indigenous participation or seek Indigenous guidance and leadership for advancing regional issues. Indigenous Peoples are rights holders and have a vested interest in and connection to all lands and resources.

Establishing and strengthening relationships with Indigenous partners not only advances Truth and Reconciliation, it also brings clear and valuable mutual benefits:

- Cross-cultural learning for improved land management and stewardship.
- Enhanced coordination across all levels of government.
- Opportunities for social and economic projects and innovations.
- More collaborative and resilient regional responses to stressors and events.
- Access to funding sources that promote collaborative or joint initiatives.

Resilient Rurals TIP:

Small, rural, and Indigenous communities often share similar challenges. This can help to inspire close relationships to address common needs. Be sure to seek understanding of the depth and root causes of the needs that Indigenous communities have.

To ensure that collaboration is genuine, mutually beneficial, and sustainable, the following key considerations must be addressed:

Understanding Indigenous Rights and Governance

Indigenous communities operate under unique governance structures that differ from municipal, provincial, or federal governments. It is important to understand the decision-making processes within each Indigenous nation, government, community or organization, including the roles of Chief and Council, Elders, youth, and Knowledge Keepers. Some communities may require formal resolutions or extensive community consultations before entering a partnership, which means additional time must be factored into the planning process.

Additionally, partnerships must respect Indigenous rights as recognized in treaties, the Canadian Constitution (Section 35), and international frameworks, such as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). Collaborating partners should familiarize themselves with these legal documents to ensure respectful and knowledgeable relations.

Relationship-Building as an Ongoing Commitment

Building a strong relationship is not a one-time step in the partnership process—it is an ongoing commitment that requires time, trust, and reciprocity. Unlike conventional business or municipal partnerships that may focus on efficiency and task completion, Indigenous partnerships are often centered on relationship-first approaches. This means that taking the time to listen, share, and engage meaningfully before discussing project details is critical.

Partnerships should begin with informal, in-person meetings whenever possible, allowing for personal connection before formal discussions take place. Attending community events, cultural gatherings, or ceremonies demonstrates a willingness to engage beyond transactional exchanges. Over time, these efforts contribute to building trust and ensuring that the partnership is seen as a genuine collaboration.

Respect for Indigenous Knowledge and Ways of Knowing

Indigenous communities have deeply-rooted knowledge systems that are based on lived experience, inter-generational teachings, and a holistic understanding of the lands and environment. These knowledge systems are equally as valuable as western science and technical expertise and should be integrated into partnership discussions, as Indigenous partners have interest to do so.

It is important to respect and acknowledge Indigenous knowledge as intellectual property, seeking clarity and permission before sharing or using any information. Indigenous communities often have protocols around how knowledge is shared and who has the authority to speak on certain matters. Partnerships should seek guidance from Indigenous collaborators on how Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and cultural advisors should be included in discussions, recognized, and compensated.

Partnerships should also be mindful of how funding, resources, and leadership roles are distributed, ensuring that Indigenous communities and members are not placed in a tokenistic or secondary role within the collaboration.

Ensuring Cultural Protocols and Practices Are Honoured

Each Indigenous community has its own cultural protocols, languages, and traditions, which must be respected throughout the partnership. Before engaging in formal meetings, it is helpful to ask Indigenous contacts about appropriate activities, meeting structures, and cultural protocols to ensure that engagement is done in a respectful way.

For example, some communities begin meetings and projects with a prayer or ceremony, while others may have specific traditions around gift-giving or honouring guests. Being aware of these practices and participating with respect demonstrates cultural humility and a commitment to relationship-building. It is also important to allow Indigenous partners to lead cultural components rather than making assumptions related to their traditions.

Go to TOOLS:
Resilient Rurals Workbook

TOOL F: Cross-Cultural Relationships - Foundational Learning Guide

IMPORTANT
Resilient Rurals TIP:

If your regional partnership decides to invite Indigenous collaborators to join you, it is very important that each step of the process beyond this phase of the Model be co-developed with your Indigenous partners. Seek guidance from them on the most appropriate ways to engage and proceed, and consider third-party neutral Indigenous-led support to build relationships through the Resilient Rurals process. SevGen Consulting Inc. (sevgen.ca) is a valuable resource to consider for this support, as the Indigenous-led firm has contributed to the Resilient Rurals Model development.



REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK

PHASE 5: VISIONING

From ‘Your Why’ To ‘Our Why’

Not everyone you invite to the table will resonate with the ‘why’ that brought you to this process in the first place.

Luckily, by completing the first foundational steps to understand both how your community is going to be affected and the value of collaboration for those you have engaged, you have prepared a common ground message on which to build.

The Visioning Exercise

Once the regional partnership has been established, it is essential to create a shared vision that aligns with the goals, priorities, and values of all partners. A visioning exercise is a structured process that helps partners to articulate a common desired future, ensuring that the collaboration moves forward with a clear sense of purpose and direction. This exercise is particularly valuable in regional partnerships where diverse stakeholders and rights holders—including municipalities, Indigenous communities, businesses, industry, and non-profits—bring different perspectives and priorities to the table.

A well-facilitated visioning session fosters alignment, trust, and enthusiasm, allowing partners to see how their interests fit within the broader regional goals. This section describes a step-by-step guide to conducting an effective visioning exercise.



Go to TOOLS:
Resilient Rurals Workbook

TEMPLATE 8: Visioning Exercise Agenda

Considerations for Planning the Visioning Session

- **Choose an accessible and neutral location** – Ensure the space is welcoming and accommodating for all partners. If an in-person session is not feasible, consider using virtual tools that allow for active participation.
- **Utilize a skilled facilitator, whenever possible** – A neutral third-party facilitator can help guide the conversation and ensure balanced participation. If an external facilitator is not available, a respected partnership member can take on this role.
- **Prepare an agenda** – Clearly outline session objectives, activities, and expected outcomes. Send this to participants in advance so they come prepared. Use TOOL M, the Visioning Exercise Agenda, as a template.
- **Acknowledge Indigenous protocols** – If Indigenous partners are present, begin by respecting and following appropriate cultural protocols. Consider inviting an Elder or Knowledge Keeper to offer an opening reflection or prayer.
- **Create a safe and inclusive space** – Encourage open dialogue by establishing ground rules that promote respect, listening, and constructive discussion.

Understanding the Current Context

Before defining a vision for the future, the partnership must first establish a shared understanding of the current landscape. This involves reflecting on the region's collective strengths, opportunities, and challenges.

Key Activities

Regional Strengths and Challenges Discussion

- Ask participants to identify their key strengths, opportunities, and challenges for topics related to resilience, infrastructure, economic development, community well-being, and so on. Participants should focus on the initiatives or concerns that brought them to the table.
- Have partners share insights on existing resilience efforts and past collaborative experiences. What worked? What could be improved upon? Are there any plans or initiatives that could be expanded on?

Data and Trends Presentation

- Present relevant regional data, including climate projections, economic trends, and demographic shifts.
- Whenever possible, bring in subject matter experts related to topics of concern to provide insights that will inform the visioning process (e.g., agricultural experts, Indigenous advisor, climate scientist,or economist).

This step of discussing current realities ensures that all partners are working from a shared knowledge base, setting the stage for a realistic and informed vision.

Crafting a Shared Vision Statement

With a clear understanding of regional realities, the group can begin defining a bold and aspirational vision for the partnership's future.

Facilitated Visioning Exercise

Guiding Questions:

- What does a thriving, resilient region look like in 10, 20, or 30 years?
- What do we want to be known for as a regional partnership?
- How will this partnership create lasting benefits for our communities and organizations?

Brainstorming and Group Discussion

- Ask participants to write or draw their vision on sticky notes or flip charts.
- Group similar ideas together to identify key themes and priorities.
- Encourage participants to refine their ideas collectively, ensuring that all voices are included.

Drafting a Vision Statement

- Based on the themes identified, collaboratively draft a clear, concise vision statement that reflects shared aspirations.
- A strong vision statement should be:
  - Inspiring – It should motivate action and commitment.
  - Inclusive – It should reflect the priorities of all partners.
  - Future-Focused – It should describe the desired long-term outcomes of the partnership.

Identifying Strategic Priorities and Focus Areas

Once the vision is established, partners should define the key focus areas that will help bring the vision to life.

Strategic Planning Activity

- **Categorizing Ideas –** Review the visioning discussion and identify recurring themes (e.g., infrastructure resilience, sustainable economic development, emergency preparedness).
- **Prioritization Exercise –** Use a participatory method (e.g., dot voting or ranking exercises) to roughly determine the top 3-5 strategic priorities that the partnership will focus on. Further prioritization will occur in the next step, with a look at comparing costs and benefits.
- **Aligning with Existing Plans –** Ensure that the selected priorities align with municipal, regional, and related Indigenous plans to maximize impact.



Go to TOOLS:
Resilient Rurals Workbook

TEMPLATE 9: Visioning Presentation
TEMPLATE 10: Workshop Summary



Resilient Rurals TIP:

Ensure that no single community or organization bears the burden of hosting all gatherings—move meetings across the region to encourage broader participation.



REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK

PHASE 6:
ACTION PLANNING

Building on Priorities

Once the regional partnership has established a shared vision and priorities, the next step is to translate that vision into action through a structured action planning process. Action planning ensures that the partnership moves beyond broad aspirations and develops concrete, achievable steps that lead to meaningful outcomes.

Reviewing Key Priorities

To move forward effectively, the partnership must break down broad priorities into specific action areas that will drive real change. This helps partners focus on practical and achievable initiatives. Using the results of the prioritization in the last section, further refine priorities using the Prioritization Matrix and examining the costs and benefits of each.



Go to TOOLS:
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TOOL G: Prioritization Matrix

Hold a facilitated discussion to explore:

- What existing resources can be leveraged to serve the vision?
- How can each contributor support the vision? What are their strengths?
- Which actions are realistic given current resources and capacity?
- What needs to be done first? Which actions will have the most significant impact?
- Who will lead follow-up efforts? Identify champions or working groups to oversee priority areas.
- Identify short-, medium-, and long-term actions to ensure that the plan balances quick wins with long-term impact.
- How will partners stay engaged? Establish a regular meeting schedule and ongoing communication channels tied to the Communications Plan.
- What additional resources are needed? Identify potential funding opportunities or capacity-building requirements and plan accordingly.

Define Specific Actions and Responsibilities

Assigning clear responsibilities ensures that each action has a designated lead team member, organization, or working group, and clear timelines to follow.

Action Planning How-To

Use the Action Plan Template to clarify actions, roles, timelines and required resources.

- For each priority identified, define initiatives to achieve the goal.
- For each associated initiative, define:
  - Specific steps required to implement the initiative.
  - Who is responsible for leading and supporting each action.
  - A reasonable timeline to complete the actions.
    - Short-term (3 - 6 months): Quick wins to build momentum
    - Medium-term (1 year): More complex projects that require coordination
    - Long-term (3+ years): Ambitious, transformational initiatives
  - What resources or partnerships are needed.
- Establish check-in points to review progress (e.g., monthly, quarterly or semi-annual meetings).
- Build in flexibility to adapt to new challenges or opportunities that arise.

At the onset of planning, it's important to identify and keep track of the skills and services that people can provide within and around your region. See the *Talent Database Template* for an approach to do so.



Go to TOOLS:
Resilient Rurals Workbook

TEMPLATE 11: Regional Action Plan
TOOL H: Local Talent Database



Resilient Rurals TIP:

Ensure that no single community or organization bears the burden of hosting all gatherings—move meetings across the region to encourage broader participation.



PHASE 7: IMPLEMENTATION

Putting Plans into Action

Once the action plan is finalized, the next critical step is implementation—the process of putting the plan into motion and ensuring that the partnership's vision and goals translate into real, measurable outcomes. Implementation requires strong leadership, clear accountability, ongoing communication, and adaptability to address challenges as they arise.

Getting Organized

- Confirm the leads for each action item identified in the action plan.
- Clearly define what each partner is responsible for, including their expected contributions (e.g., funding, staff time, expertise, equipment).
- Establish working groups or subcommittees to oversee specific actions, ensuring that workload is distributed.
- Consider a co-leadership model for larger initiatives, where two or more partners share responsibility for major initiatives.
- If necessary, assign a partnership coordinator to oversee progress and act as a point of contact. Alternatively, the partnership Champion could fill this role.



Go to TOOLS:
Resilient Rurals Workbook

TOOL I: Working Group Guidance

Secure Funding and Resources

Even the best plans cannot be implemented without adequate funding, staffing, and materials. Small and rural communities often face budget constraints, making it essential to identify cost-sharing opportunities and external funding sources.

Considerations for a financial resource strategy

- Assess existing resources within partner organizations and identify how to best leverage them (e.g., staff expertise, equipment, funding).
- Identify funding sources such as government grants and programs, private sector sponsorships, and in-kind contributions from partner organizations. Consider applying for joint funding opportunities that require collaboration.
    - Plan for long-term sustainability by prioritizing funding strategies beyond one-time grants.
- As a group, continue to build on the regional talent database to ensure local voice are engaged and heard.



REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK

PHASE 8: SUSTAINED PARTNERSHIP

Maintaining Momentum

Develop a Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

Implementation is rarely a linear process—unexpected obstacles will arise. A strong monitoring system allows the partnership to track progress, identify issues early, and adjust the plan as needed. Regularly assessing progress ensures that the partnership remains on track and accountable.

Moving Forward

- Define measurable success indicators for each action (e.g., “By 2026, develop a regional flood response strategy with participation from all municipalities”).
- Decide on a reporting structure (e.g., annual progress reports, scorecards, or a shared online tracking system).
- Schedule regular evaluation meetings where partners can:
  - Celebrate successes
  - Identify roadblocks
  - Adjust actions if needed

Expand on Partnership Priorities

With the partnership well underway, it may be appropriate to begin focusing in on specific areas of collaboration. The following section of the manual will support partnerships to dive deeper into some topics.



Go to TOOLS:
Resilient Rurals Workbook

TOOL J: Sustaining Partnership Self-Assessment

2

RESILIENT RURALS MODEL

PARTNERSHIP FOCUS STREAMS

STREAM 1: SHARED CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING

STREAM 2: REGIONAL-BASED PROCUREMENT

STREAM 3: DATA SHARING AND COLLABORATION

STREAM 4: INTEGRATED PLANNING AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

STREAM 5: VULNERABLE POPULATION ASSESSMENTS AND SUPPORTS

STREAM 6: REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE RESILIENCE AND RISK REDUCTION

STREAM 7: REGIONAL WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

STREAM 8: REGIONAL ADVOCACY

STREAM 9: JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

The second component of the Model - the *Partnership Focus Streams* - consists of nine areas that partnerships can begin to workshop and narrow their focus on.

The following sections outline workshop agendas for these focus streams. These workshops are designed to help regional partners explore current issues, understand what might limit their progress, and identify concrete opportunities for collaboration. Note that if working with Indigenous partners, it will be important to connect with them to ensure the agendas are relevant, and to co-develop any required changes.

Stream 1 Workshop Agenda:
Shared Capacity Building and Training

9:00 - 9:30 am		**Ice Breakers / Introductions**
9:30 - 10:30 am		**Guest Speaker to Introduce the Focus Stream** E.g.: Educational Subject Matter Experts
10:30 - 10:45 am		Health Break
10:45 am - 12:00 pm		**Issues Exploration - Current State** • What specific knowledge, skills, or resource gaps exist across the region that limit the ability to respond to the concerns identified by the partnership? • Where have individual municipalities or organizations developed internal strengths that could benefit others in the region?
12:00 - 1:00 pm		Lunch
1:00 - 2:00 pm		**Limiters** • What limits partners from accessing relevant training or resources?
2:00 - 2:15 pm		Health Break
2:15 - 3:45 pm		**Opportunities and Resources for Resilience** • What shared training programs or cross-organizational mentorship models could be developed to strengthen resilience capacity across the region? • How can partners pool resources to reduce duplication and expand access to resources or training?
3:45 - 4:00 pm		**Closing Remarks** Action and Implementation Planning Follow-Up

Stream 2 Workshop Agenda:
Regional-Based Procurement

9:00 - 9:30 am	**Ice Breakers / Introductions**
9:30 - 10:30 am	**Guest Speaker to Introduce the Focus Stream** E.g.: Procurement Consultant
10:30 - 10:45 am	Health Break
10:45 am - 12:00 pm	**Issues Exploration - Current State** • What types of projects (infrastructure, maintenance, consulting, etc.) are commonly procured across communities and organizations, and where are there areas of overlap, inefficiencies, or cost overruns? • Are there current examples of regional collaboration on procurement? What worked or didn't?
12:00 - 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 - 2:00 pm	**Limiters** • What legal, administrative, or policy barriers prevent partners from engaging in joint procurement or shared tendering processes? • Are there knowledge gaps related to procurement policy, tender development, or vendor evaluation that could be addressed to support collaboration?
2:00 - 2:15 pm	Health Break
2:15 - 3:45 pm	**Opportunities and Resources for Resilience** • What could a regional framework for shared procurement look like? • How can partners collectively engage with vendors or contractors to build regional supply chains and support local economic development?
3:45 - 4:00 pm	**Closing Remarks** Action and Implementation Planning Follow-Up

Stream 3 Workshop Agenda:
Data Sharing and Collaboration

9:00 - 9:30 am	**Ice Breakers / Introductions**
9:30 - 10:30 am	**Guest Speaker to Introduce the Focus Stream** E.g.: Data Analysts or Advisors
10:30 - 10:45 am	Health Break
10:45 am - 12:00 pm	**Issues Exploration - Current State** • What types of data are currently collected by partners (e.g., flood mapping, asset condition, population vulnerability, energy use), and how is this data stored and accessed? • Where have partners experienced data silos, duplication of effort, or lack of access?
12:00 - 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 - 2:00 pm	**Limiters** • What privacy concerns, software incompatibility, or organizational policies limit partners' ability to share data? • Are there cultural or trust-related concerns around how data is used or interpreted?
2:00 - 2:15 pm	Health Break
2:15 - 3:45 pm	**Opportunities and Resources for Resilience** • What kinds of shared agreements or tools could improve collaboration for data sharing? • How can joint metrics or indicators measure regional resilience and how can those metrics be used to inform regional plans?
3:45 - 4:00 pm	**Closing Remarks** Action and Implementation Planning Follow-Up

Stream 4 Workshop Agenda:
Integrated Planning and Policy Development

9:00 - 9:30 am	**Ice Breakers / Introductions**
9:30 - 10:30 am	**Guest Speaker to Introduce the Focus Stream** E.g.: Procurement Consultant
10:30 - 10:45 am	Health Break
10:45 am - 12:00 pm	**Issues Exploration - Current State** • What plans, policies, or other documents currently guide each community and organization? Where are there areas of overlap for potential collaboration across the region? • How can the work of the partnership be integrated into new or existing plans, policies, or documents?
12:00 - 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 - 2:00 pm	**Limiters** • What limits the development and implementation of new joint plans, policies or guiding documents? • What limits integration of the partnership work into existing plans, policies, or documents?
2:00 - 2:15 pm	Health Break
2:15 - 3:45 pm	**Opportunities and Resources for Resilience** • Is there value in developing a regional resilience plan or master plan? • How can a regional plan provide a unifying framework while respecting local priorities?
3:45 - 4:00 pm	**Closing Remarks** Action and Implementation Planning Follow-Up

Stream 5 Workshop Agenda:
Vulnerable Populations Assessments and Supports

9:00 - 9:30 am	**Ice Breakers / Introductions**
9:30 - 10:30 am	**Guest Speaker to Introduce the Focus Stream** E.g.: Social Services / Health Care / FCSS
10:30 - 10:45 am	Health Break
10:45 am - 12:00 pm	**Issues Exploration - Current State** • Who may be the most vulnerable populations in the region? • How might emerging issues affect vulnerable groups differently?
12:00 - 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 - 2:00 pm	**Limiters** • What makes it difficult to support vulnerable populations in the region? • What are the biggest limiters to improving supports for vulnerable populations in the region?
2:00 - 2:15 pm	Health Break
2:15 - 3:45 pm	**Opportunities and Resources for Resilience** • Who needs to be involved in strengthening support systems for vulnerable populations? • How can partners ensure that a regional resilience plan or emergency response plans are inclusive of the vulnerable populations in the region? • What funding, policy, or advocacy efforts are needed to improve long-term resilience for vulnerable populations in the region?
3:45 - 4:00 pm	**Closing Remarks** Action and Implementation Planning Follow-Up

Stream 6 Workshop Agenda:
Regional Infrastructure Resilience and Risk Reduction

9:00 - 9:30 am	**Ice Breakers / Introductions**
9:30 - 10:30 am	**Guest Speaker to Introduce the Focus Stream** E.g.: Infrastructure Subject Matter Expert
10:30 - 10:45 am	Health Break
10:45 am - 12:00 pm	**Issues Exploration - Current State** • What infrastructure in the region is most vulnerable to aging and climate-related risks (e.g., flooding, extreme heat, wildfires)?
12:00 - 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 - 2:00 pm	**Limiters** • What are the biggest limiters to improving infrastructure resilience in the region?
2:00 - 2:15 pm	Health Break
2:15 - 3:45 pm	**Opportunities and Resources for Resilience** • How can partners collaborate to enhance infrastructure resilience while sharing costs and expertise? • What funding sources or policy changes could help improve infrastructure resilience?
3:45 - 4:00 pm	**Closing Remarks** Action and Implementation Planning Follow-Up

Stream 7 Workshop Agenda:
Regional Water Resource Management

9:00 - 9:30 am	**Ice Breakers / Introductions**
9:30 - 10:30 am	**Guest Speaker to Introduce the Focus Stream** E.g.: Water Treatment Expert / Alberta Environment / Watershed Council
10:30 - 10:45 am	Health Break
10:45 am - 12:00 pm	**Issues Exploration - Current State** • What water resource trends have been observed in recent years? • What are the most pressing water-related challenges in the region, and what are the risks involved?
12:00 - 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 - 2:00 pm	**Limiters** • What limits improvements to water resource management in the region?
2:00 - 2:15 pm	Health Break
2:15 - 3:45 pm	**Opportunities and Resources for Resilience** • What types of collaborations, such as shared policies, infrastructure projects, or watershed protection initiatives, could improve water conservation and management? • What funding, policy, or advocacy efforts are needed to improve long-term resilience for vulnerable populations in the region?
3:45 - 4:00 pm	**Closing Remarks** Action and Implementation Planning Follow-Up

Stream 8 Workshop Agenda:
Regional Advocacy

9:00 - 9:30 am	**Ice Breakers / Introductions**
9:30 - 10:30 am	**Guest Speaker to Introduce the Focus Stream** E.g.: Lobbyist / Strategic Consultant / Policy Specialist
10:30 - 10:45 am	Health Break
10:45 am - 12:00 pm	**Issues Exploration - Current State** • What are the most urgent resilience challenges in the region that require advocacy at the regional, provincial, or federal level?
12:00 - 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 - 2:00 pm	**Limiters** • What specific policy or regulatory limiters are preventing the region from implementing effective resilience strategies? • What currently limits regional advocacy?
2:00 - 2:15 pm	Health Break
2:15 - 3:45 pm	**Opportunities and Resources for Resilience** • Who needs to be part of the discussion to make progress in regional advocacy efforts? • How can partners coordinate advocacy efforts with other regional, provincial, or national organizations to increase impact? • What advocacy tools and strategies would be most effective for the region?
3:45 - 4:00 pm	**Closing Remarks** Action and Implementation Planning Follow-Up

Stream 9 Workshop Agenda:
Joint Economic Development

9:00 - 9:30 am	**Ice Breakers / Introductions**
9:30 - 10:30 am	**Guest Speaker to Introduce the Focus Stream** E.g.: Industry Representative / Economic Consultant
10:30 - 10:45 am	Health Break
10:45 am - 12:00 pm	**Issues Exploration - Current State** • What are the key economic strengths and vulnerabilities in the region? • What sectors of the economy would be most affected by emerging issues, such as extreme weather events?
12:00 - 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 - 2:00 pm	**Limiters** • What limits economic progress in the region?
2:00 - 2:15 pm	Health Break
2:15 - 3:45 pm	**Opportunities and Resources for Resilience** • How can partners diversify the regional economy to become more resilient to disruptions? • What funding, policy, or advocacy efforts would help support joint economic development? • How can partners attract funding and investment for joint initiatives in the region?
3:45 - 4:00 pm	**Closing Remarks** Action and Implementation Planning Follow-Up

Tools Index

Several tools in the *Resilient Rurals Model Workbook* have been designed to accompany the *Resilient Rurals Model*, with steps and resource to guide you through the partnership process. While the Model document identifies when within the process to use each of the tools, they are summarized here for convenience. Templates are available for customization in collaboration with the Resilient Rurals team.

- **PHASE 1 - Champion Development**
  - **TOOL A:** Articulating Your Vision
- **PHASE 2 - Outreach**
  - **TOOL B:** Understanding Regional Risks
  - **TEMPLATE 1:** Community Surveys
  - **TOOL C:** Identifying Potential Partners
  - **TOOL D:** Contributor Mapping Exercise
  - **TOOL E:** Crafting an Outreach Proposal
  - **TEMPLATE 2:** Outreach Proposal
- **PHASE 3 - Partnership Development**
  - **TEMPLATE 3:** Partnership Agenda
  - **TEMPLATE 4:** Regional Resilience Presentation
  - **TEMPLATE 5:** Letter of Commitment
  - **TEMPLATE 6:** Terms of Reference
  - **TEMPLATE 7:** Communications Plan
- **PHASE 4 - Cross Cultural Relationships**
  - **TOOL F:** Foundational Learning Guide
- **PHASE 5 - Visioning**
  - **TEMPLATE 8:** Visioning Exercise Agenda
  - **TEMPLATE 9:** Visioning Presentation
  - **TEMPLATE 10:** Workshop summary
- **PHASE 6 - Action Planning**
  - **TEMPLATE 11:** Regional Action Plan
  - **TOOL G:** Prioritization Matrix
  - **TOOL H:** Local Talent Database
- **PHASE 7 - Implementation**
  - **TOOL I:** Working Group Guidance
- **PHASE 8 - Sustained Partnership**
  - **TOOL J:** Sustaining Partnership Checklist

Take It Further With A Facilitated Resilient Rurals Workshop

The *Resilient Rurals Model* is intended to support small and rural communities that experience internal capacity challenges and barriers to meaningful resilience and revitalization. Resilience-building is holistic and complex, and will be uniquely based on the region and communities and organizations involved.

The Model offers free tools that communities can access to pursue resilience planning at any time - however, if facilitation is required to support your partnership, please reach out to connect@resilientrurals.com or visit www.resilientrurals.com to review additional resources.

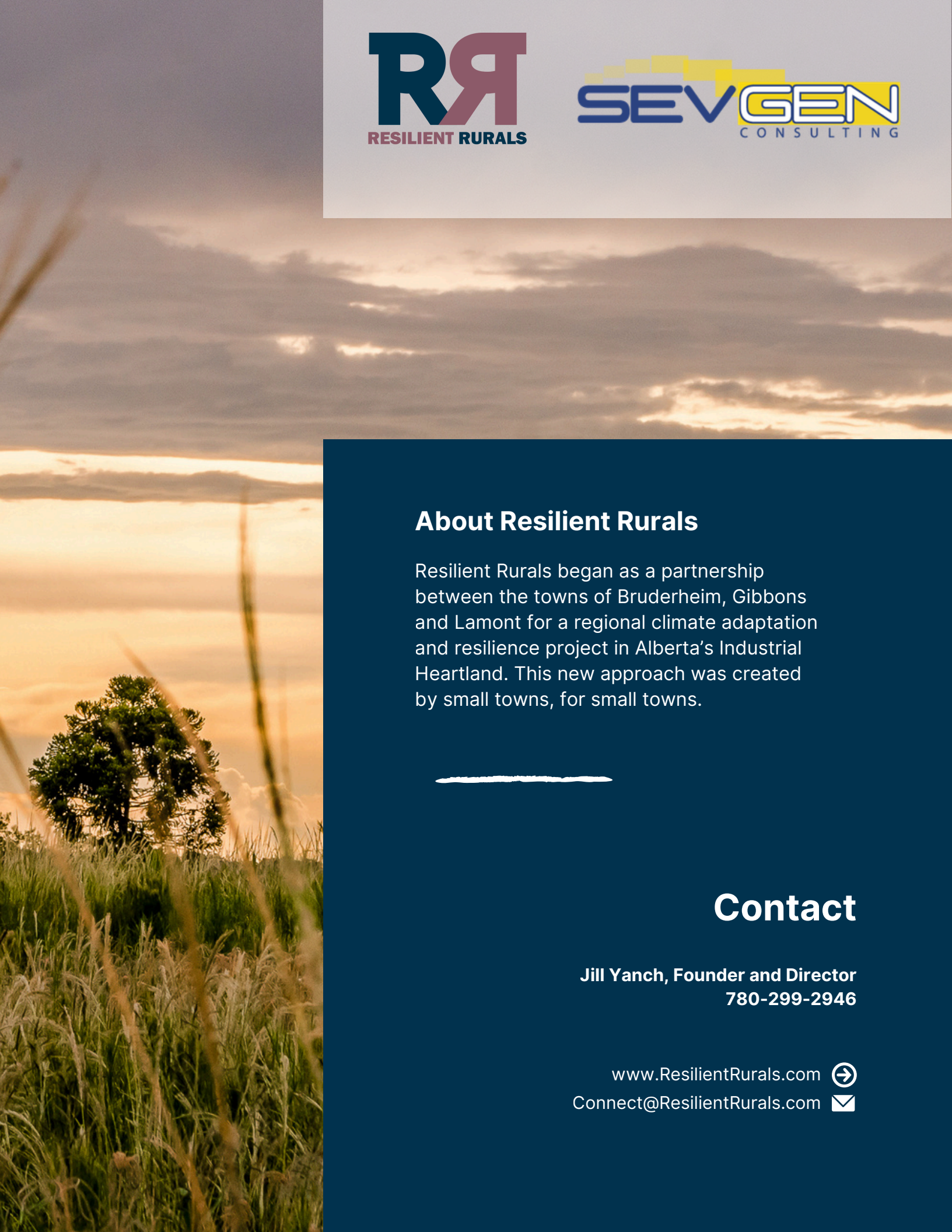
If the information outlined in this document is not appropriate to the needs of your community or regional partnership, we encourage you to connect with us to share your story.



RESILIENT RURALS

Gratitude to Our Partners

Special thanks to Derek Bruno and Victor Bruno with SevGen Consulting Inc. for collaboration on Indigenous partnership development. Gratitude to ClimateWest - funding for the Resilient Rurals Model was provided by ClimateWest's adaptation in action funding.



RESILIENT RURALS

SEVGEN CONSULTING

About Resilient Rurals

Resilient Rurals began as a partnership between the towns of Bruderheim, Gibbons and Lamont for a regional climate adaptation and resilience project in Alberta's Industrial Heartland. This new approach was created by small towns, for small towns.

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