

Working to Understand Rural Community Resilience

It's been a difficult few years for rural BC communities, with COVID-19, wildfires, heat domes and floods. Despite these tough times, communities have shown incredible strength. We were interested in understanding what leads to community resilience and learning best practices from communities that have bounced back from tough times.

The steps we took to investigate rural community resilience included:



Looking at existing research

We conducted two literature reviews on rural community resilience in response to epidemics, pandemics and natural disasters. This helped us gain an initial understanding of important factors.



Consulting communities

We held six consultations with different rural BC communities to learn more about what community members thought was important for resilience, and what we needed to investigate more closely.



Recruiting the Citizen Advisory Committee

Posters advertising this opportunity were sent to coffee shops, food banks, town halls, libraries, rec centers, local media outlets and chambers of commerce in 92 rural communities.



Developing a survey

Guided by the Citizen Advisory Committee, we worked to develop a survey instrument that asked questions on perceptions of resilience and 8 related topics.



Distributing the survey

Survey invites were sent to addresses across rural BC, and survey links were distributed online. Invites were also sent to addresses in urban communities to provide comparisons.



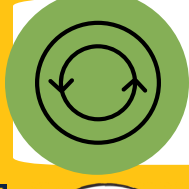
Conducting interviews

We conducted a series of interviews with community leaders as well as a number of follow-up interviews with survey participants.



Analyzing data

In partnership with our Citizen Advisory Committee, we analyzed and interpreted the quantitative and qualitative data from surveys and interviews.



Sharing findings

We worked on sharing results from our research back with communities, policy-makers and other academics.



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Rural Community Resilience Project

