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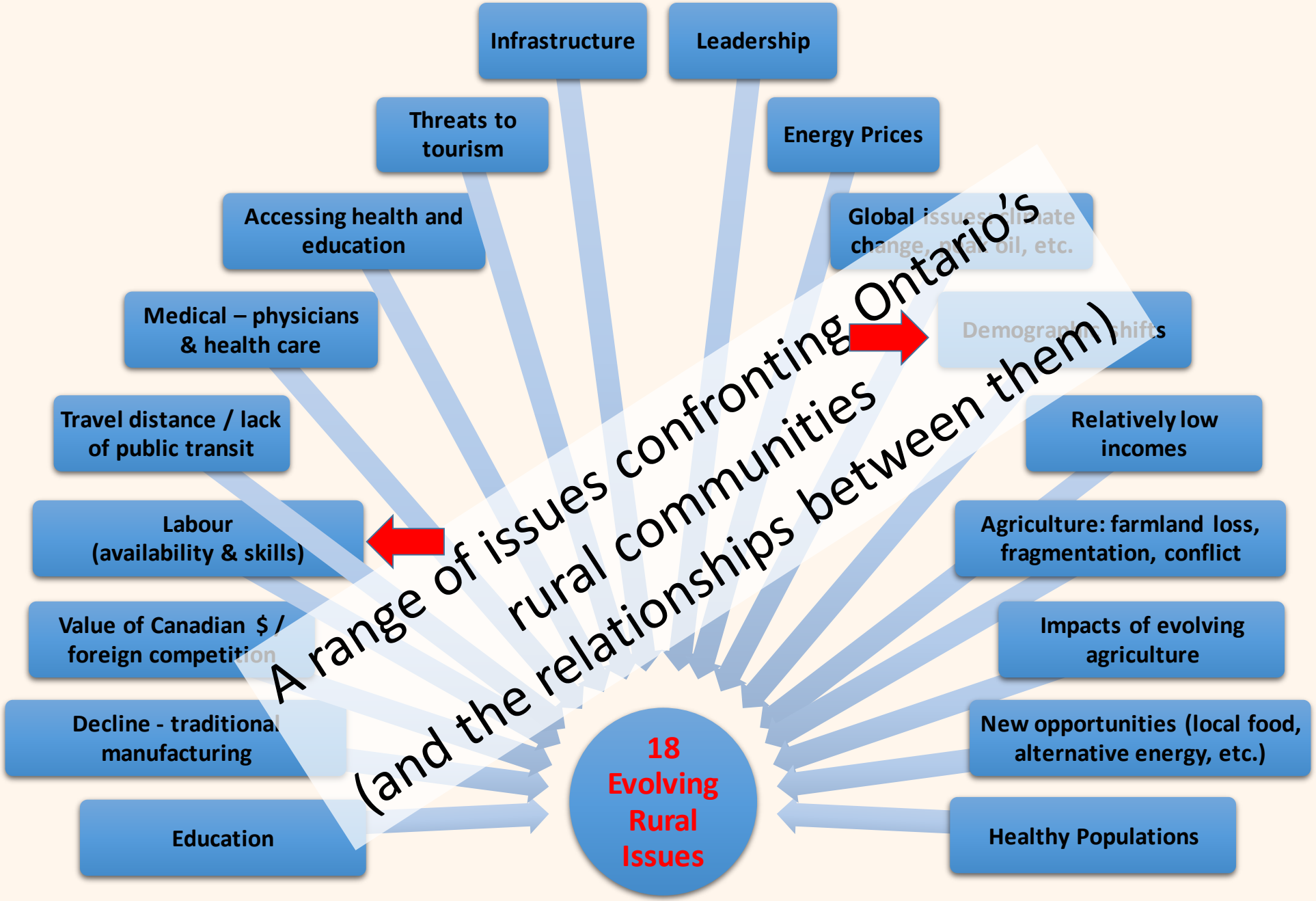
Agenda

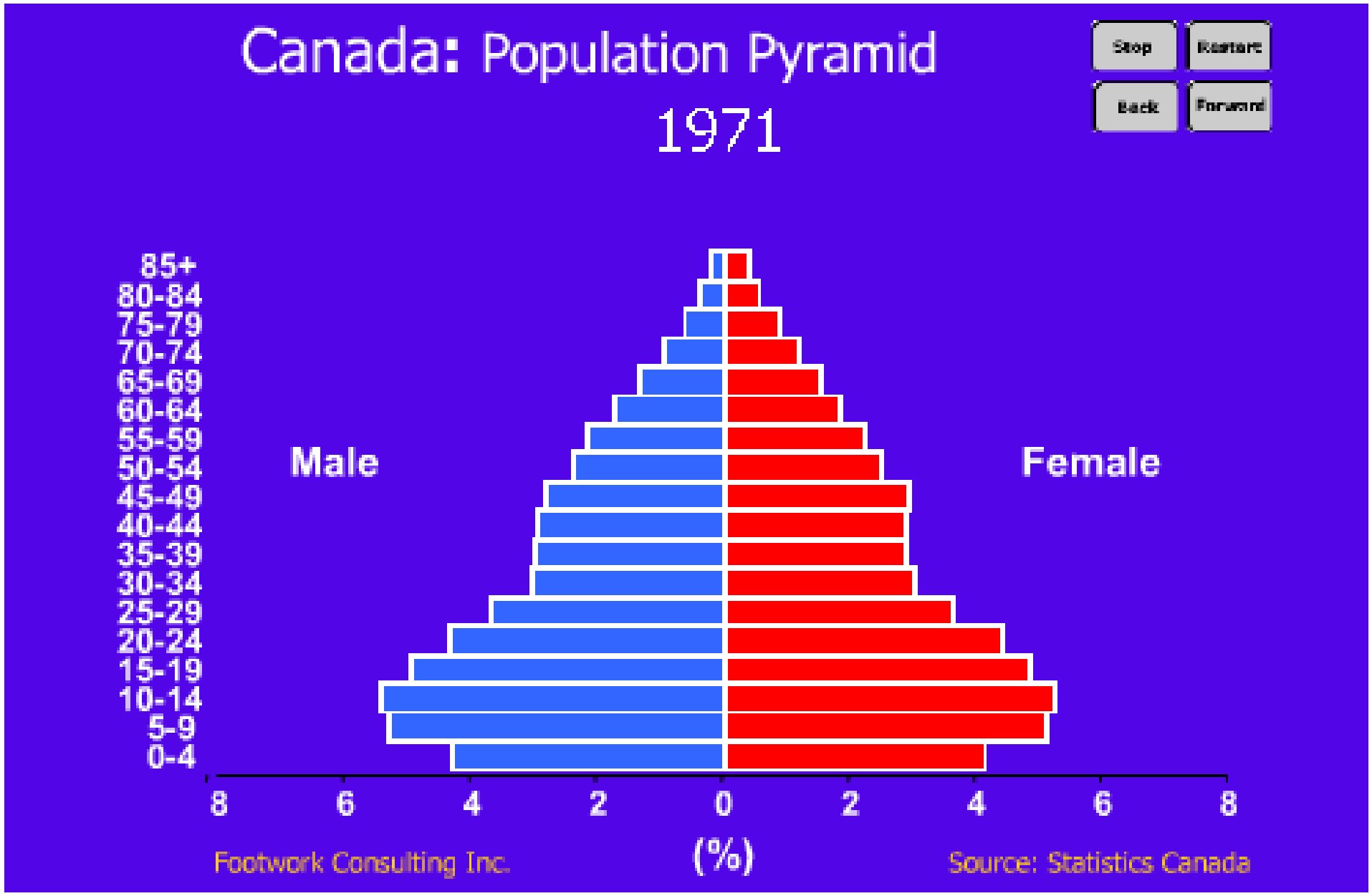
- Setting the Context Demographic trends and rural communities
- Immigration – Why it is important in Rural Ontario
- Promising Practices

An Initial Reflection ….
The Village of Blyth

What trends/issues do you think may fundamentally impact rural Ontario?


Infrastructure
Leadership
Threats to tourism
Energy Prices
Accessing health and education
Global issues, climate change, peak oil, etc.
Medical – physicians & health care
Demographic shifts
Travel distance / lack of public transit
Relatively low incomes
Labour (availability & skills)
Agriculture: farmland loss, fragmentation, conflict
Value of Canadian $ / foreign competition
Impacts of evolving agriculture
Decline - traditional manufacturing
New opportunities (local food, alternative energy, etc.)
Education
Healthy Populations
18 Evolving Rural Issues
A range of issues confronting Ontario's rural communities (and the relationships between them)

Demographic Shifts


Canada: Population Pyramid
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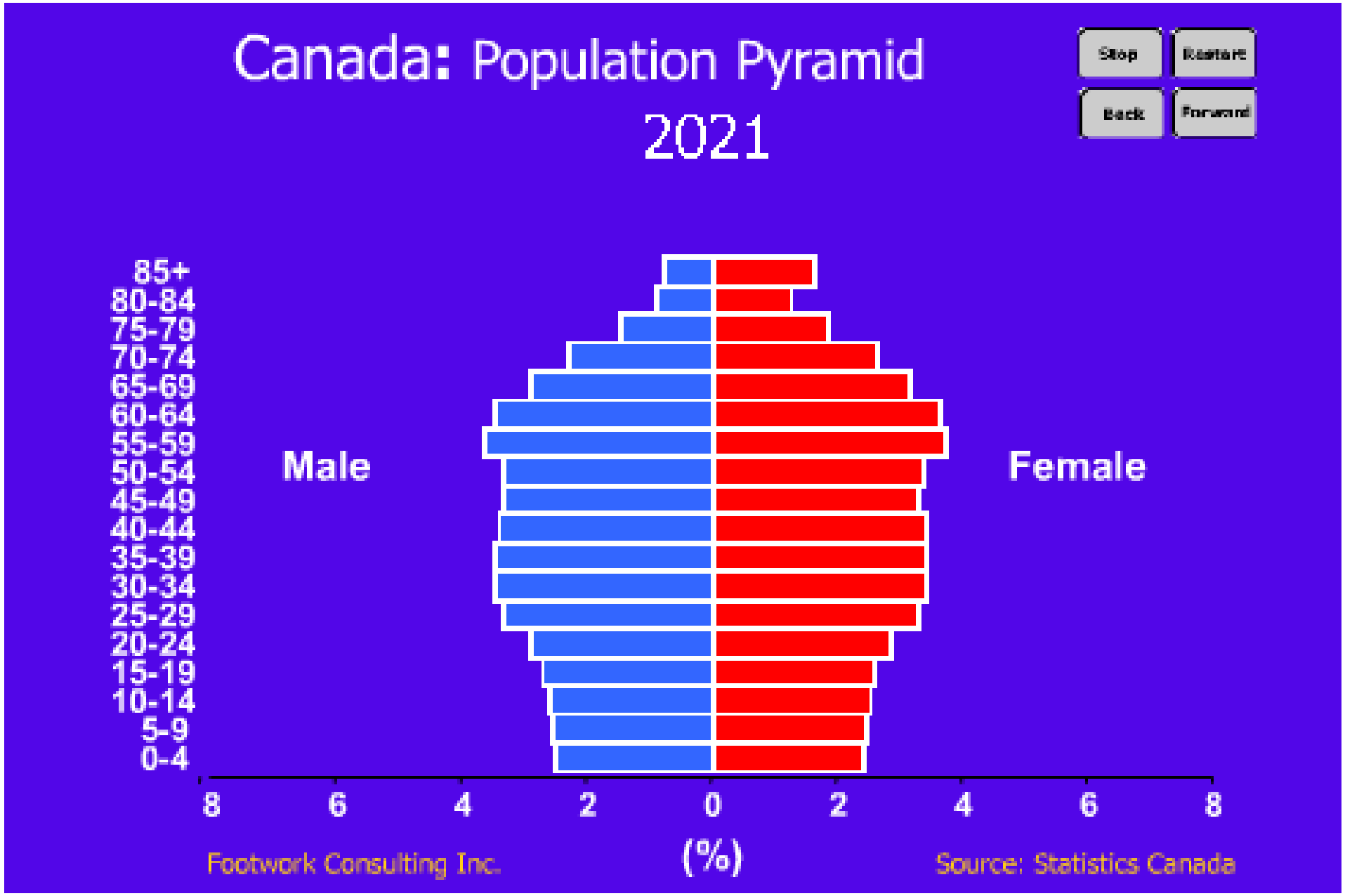
Footwork Consulting Inc.
Source: Statistics Canada


Canada: Population Pyramid
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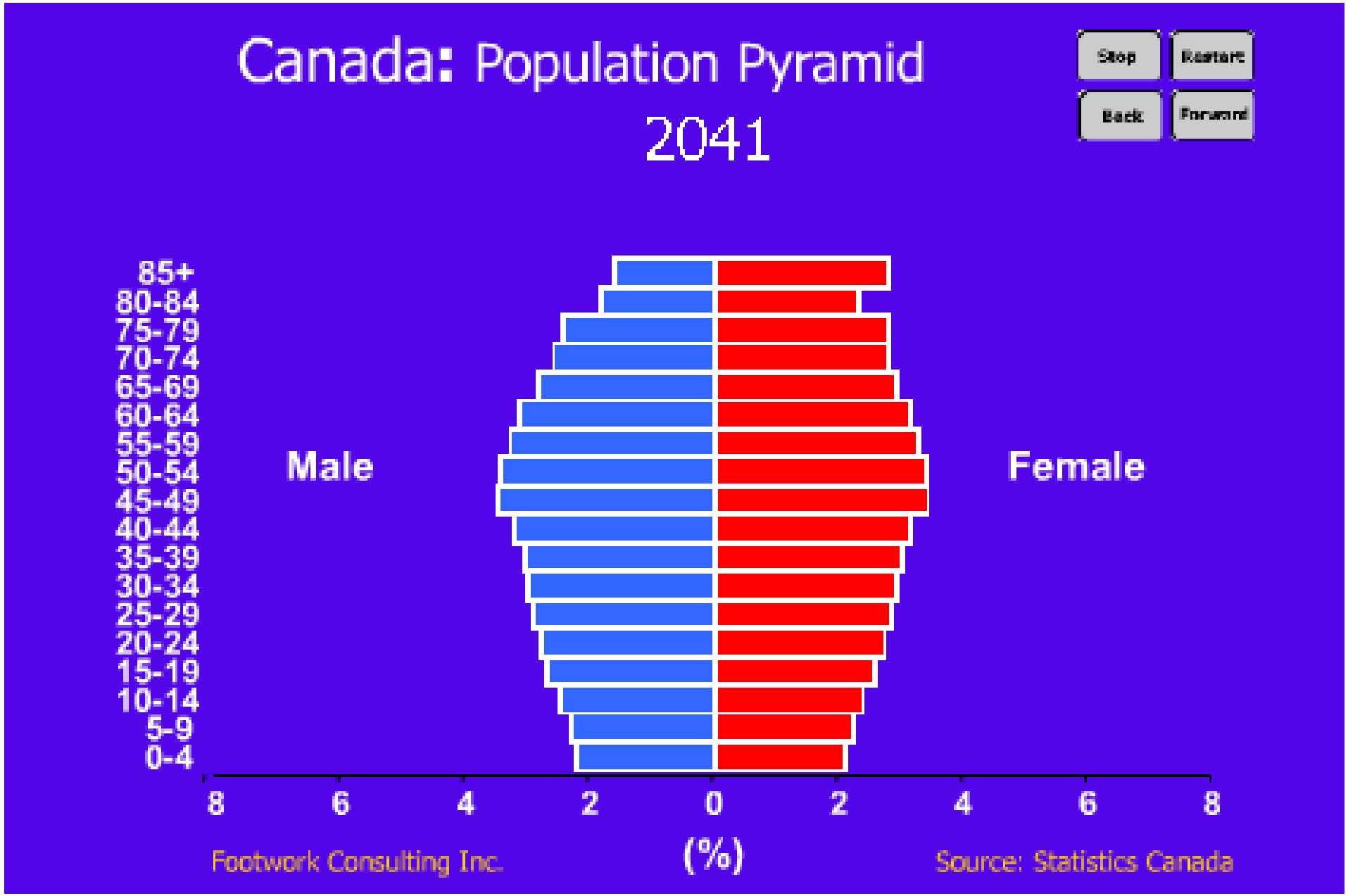
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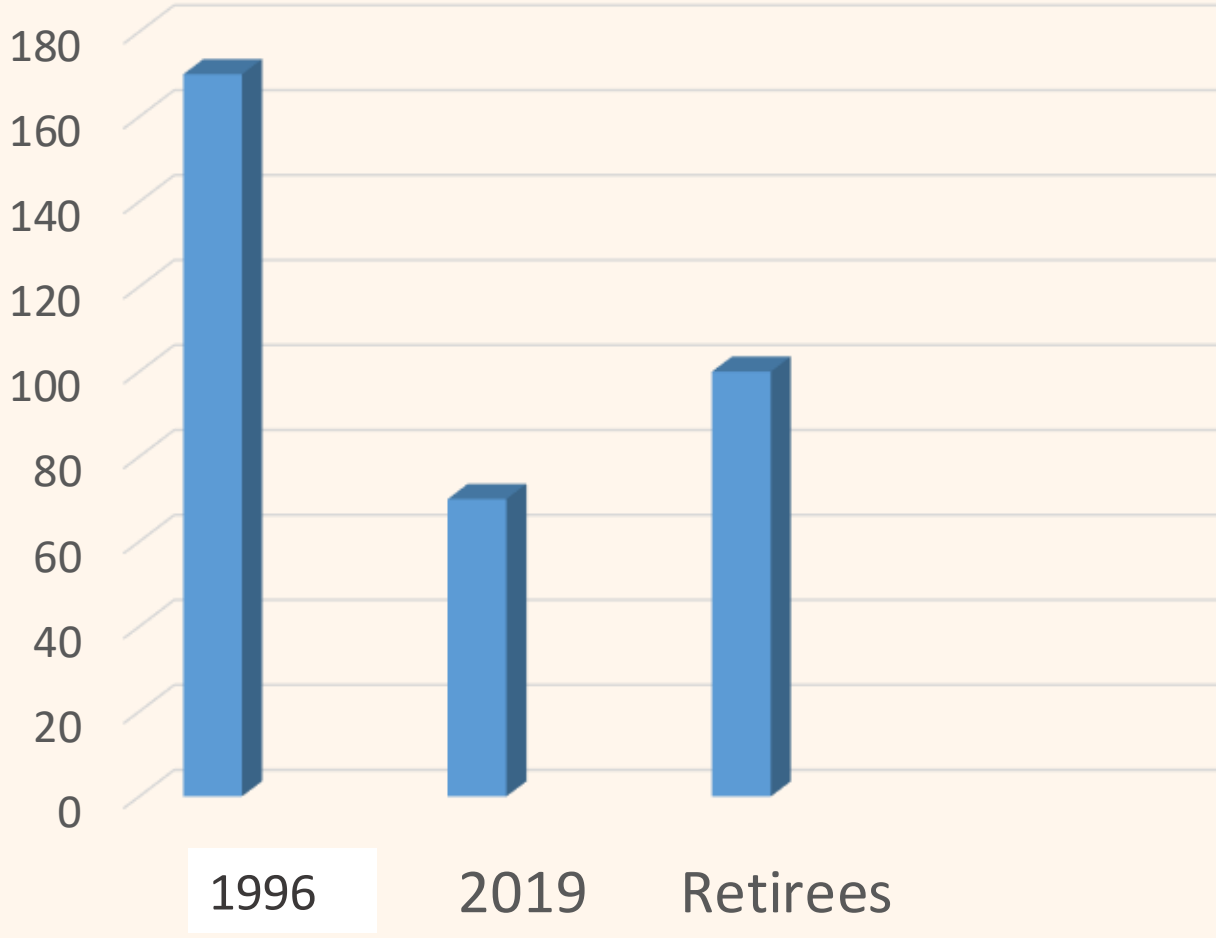
Source: Statistics Canada

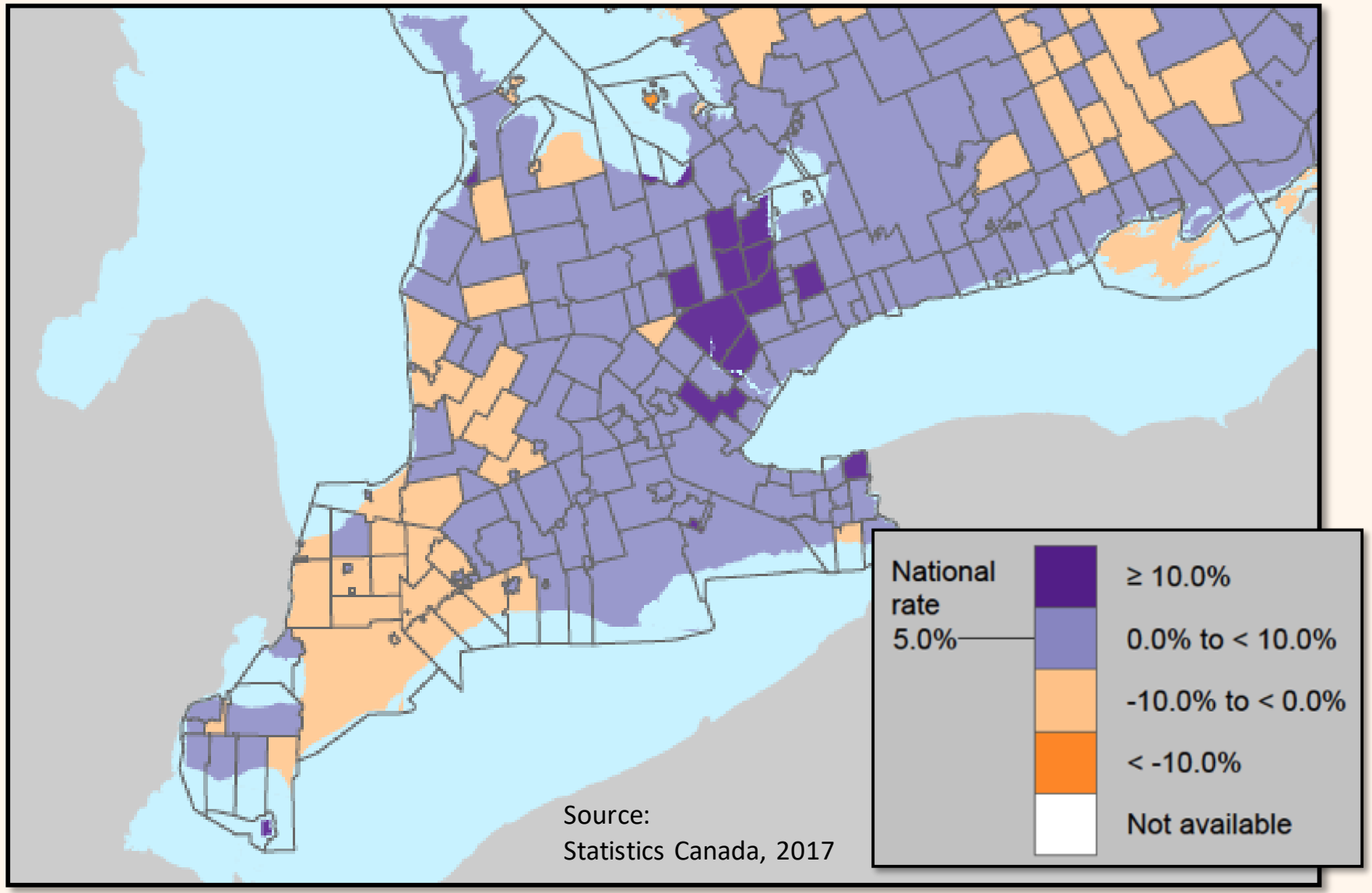
What does this mean in practical terms?

In 1996 in Huron County, for example, there were approximately 170 potential labour market entrants for every 100 retirees.

In 2019 there were 70



Population Change: 2011 – 2016
Variable Growth



Our challenge:
How do we respond to these issues?
The starting point is a sound understanding of your community…

Are you up for a quiz?

Four questions to challenge you!

Question 1:

To sustain our population “naturally” we require a birth rate of 2.1 children / woman in her child bearing years…

True or False?

Question 2:

Only 1 in 4 rural youth who leave their communities will return to the same community within 10 years.

True or False?

Question 3

While more than 100,000 immigrants moved to Ontario in 2013 only 1342 settled in one of Ontario's 27 non-metro census subdivisons

True or False?

Some things we can be fairly certain of…

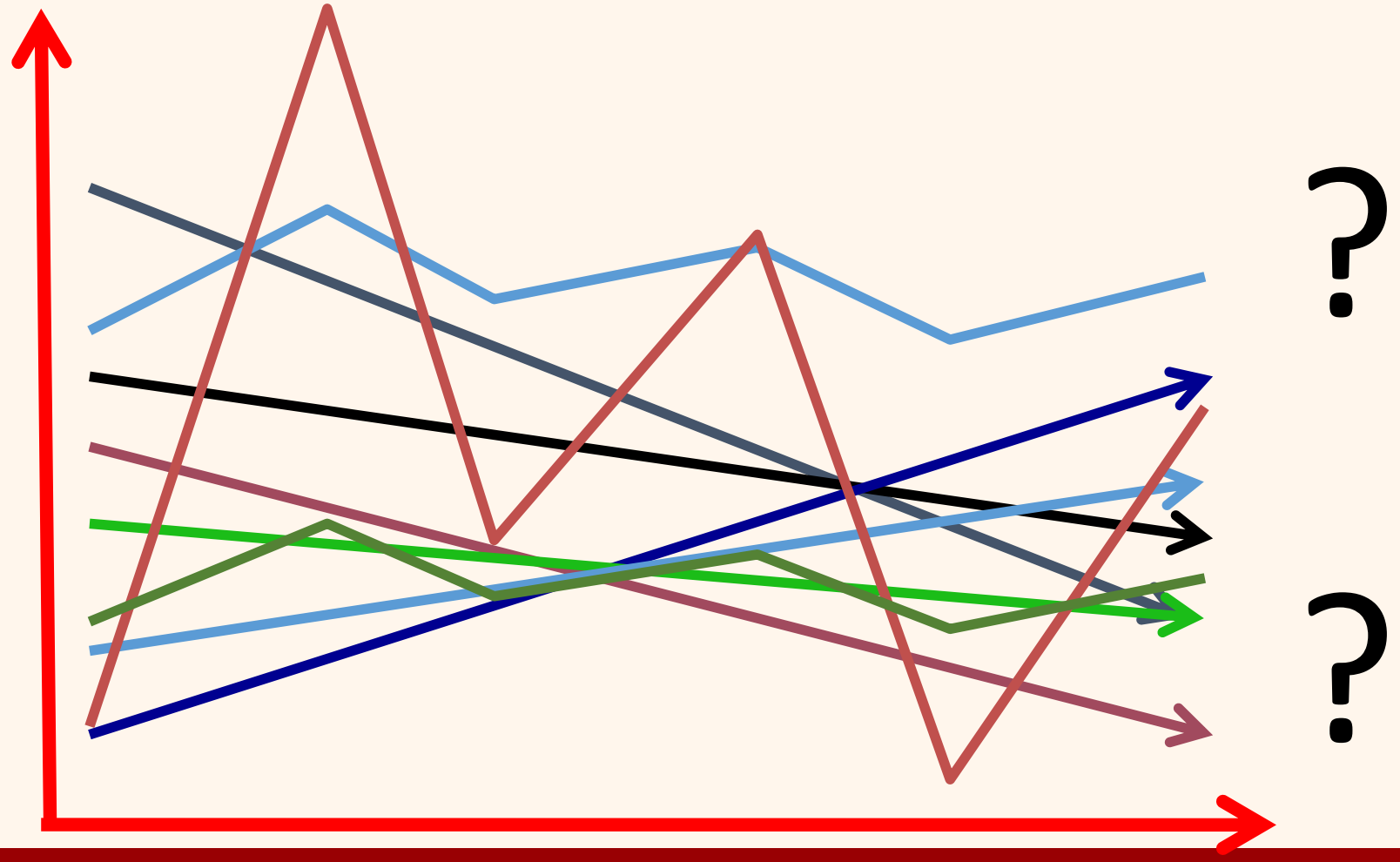
- Immigration will become the sole source of population growth

- Rural, Northern and Remote communities will struggle to attract immigrants – and for many population decline will be difficult to avoid

Question 4: In 2016 what percentage of Ontario's population was foreign born?

- 4.9%
- 13.3%
- 29.1%
- 33.2%

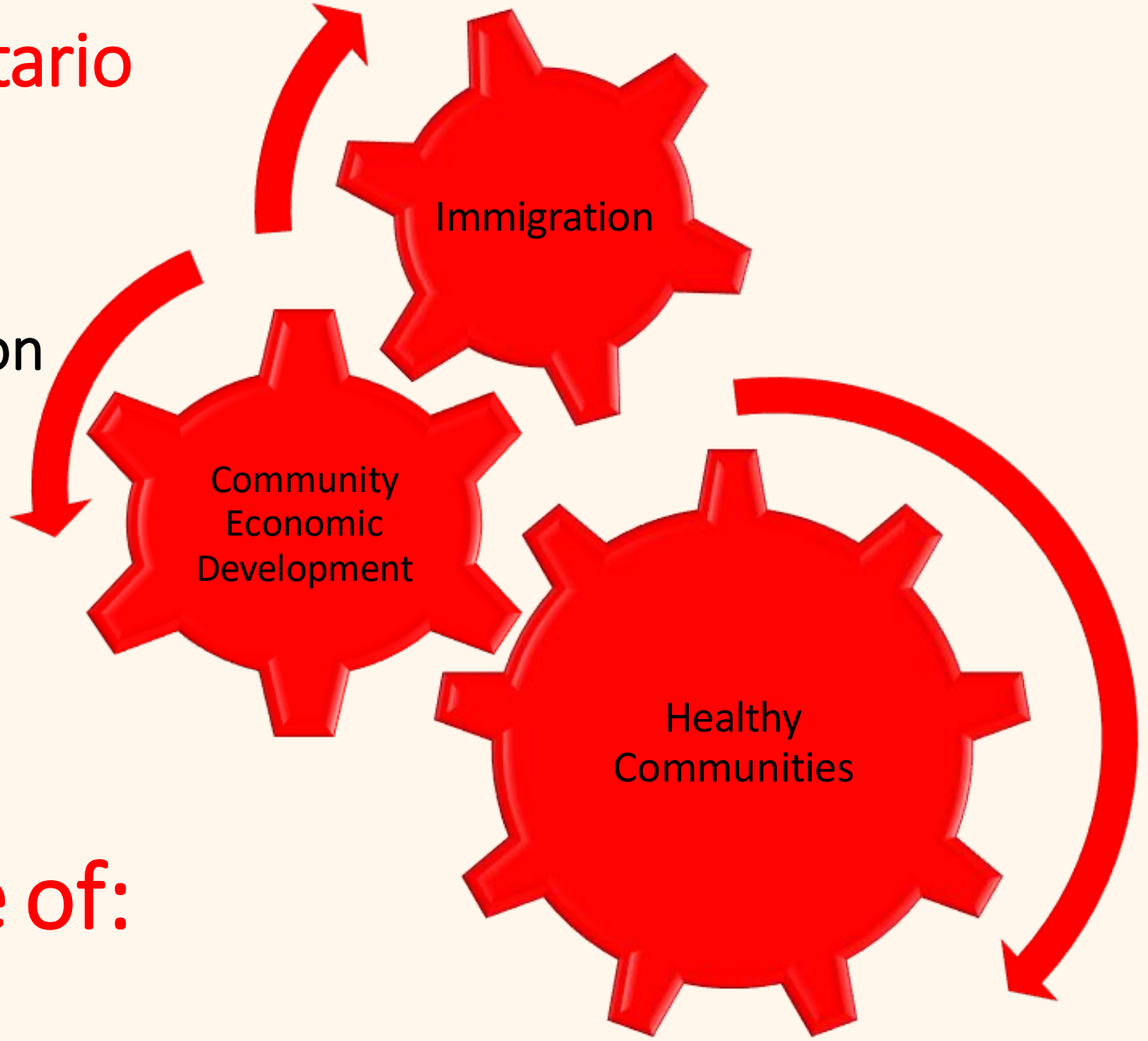
The future – blending these trends



Realities for Rural Ontario

- low birth rates
- an aging population
- youth retention
- urban focused immigration

What does this
mean for rural Ontario?



Importance of:

Municipalities can play a key role in attracting and retaining immigrants in an area by creating opportunities and services for them to succeed. Working at the municipal level also provides a **collaborative opportunity for various departments such as economic development, planning, social services, and tourism to work together towards creating a welcoming community**.

Determining the Need for Immigration

The first step is to discuss these issues with your community:

Attracting Immigrants - Some key things to consider:

- Work with what you have
- Build and Maintain Relationships
- Gain Political Will
- Involve Newcomers as Key Players
- Ensure Research Based Decision Making
- Emphasize Process and Build Capacity
- Plan with a Long-Term Horizon

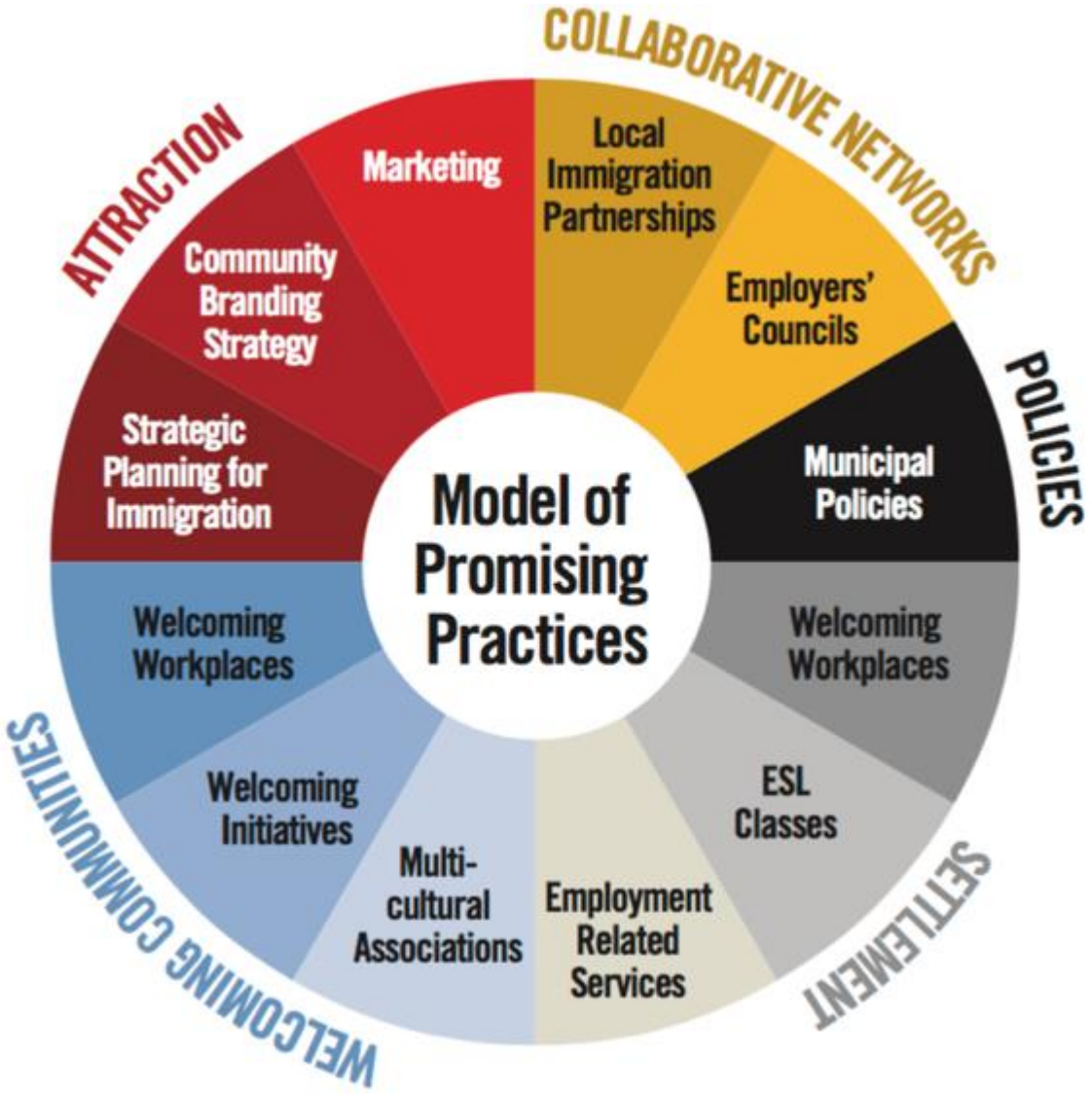
Retaining Immigrants is key to long-term success

- Create a welcoming community
- Adopt a no wrong-door policy
- See things from an immigrant lens

Become a Welcoming Community

This means focusing on creating connections between newcomers and established community members. This can help in eliminating barriers to social and economic integration, and address racism and discrimination

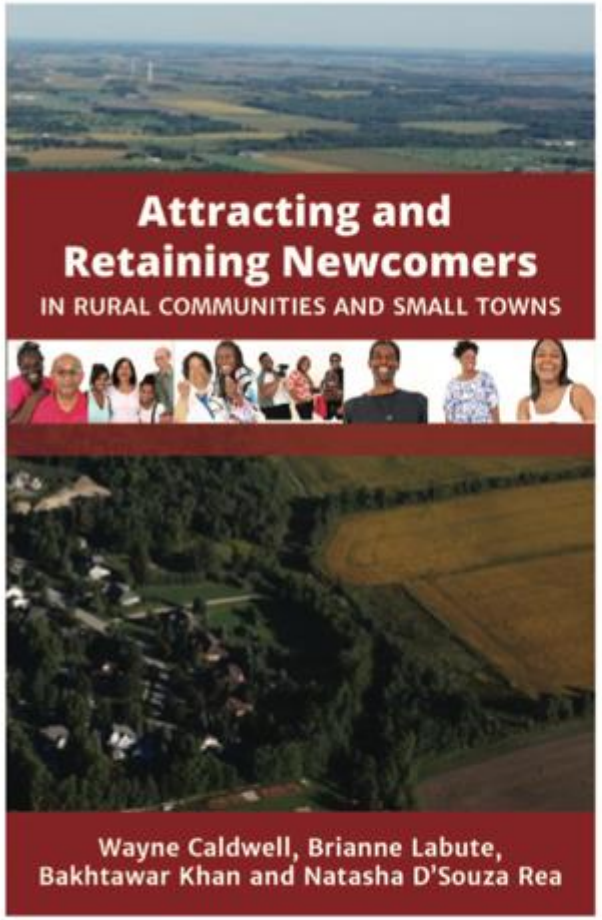
You can do this by:



Model of Promising Practices

A Final Reflection ….
The Village of Blyth

Want to know more?



1. Multiple project reports, literature reviews, and resources related to immigration, rural economic development, and healthy rural communities are available on this website: http://waynecaldwell.ca

2. Read more about immigration in rural communities in the book titled, "Attracting and Retaining Newcomers in Rural and Small Town Canada" written by Wayne Caldwell, Brianne Labute, Bakhtawar Khan and Natasha D'Souza Rea. The material in this handout was adapted from this book, which has been published by Municipal World.

3. You can also refer to the 'State of Rural Canada' report that came out in 2015 on the website: http://sorc.crrf.ca It provides great insights on challenges and opportunities faced by rural areas in each Canadian province.

4. Another report funded by Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) highlights the role of immigration, the concept of welcoming communities, and practical case studies that communities can follow. It can be found by searching for the title: 'Community Immigrant Retention in Rural Ontario (CIRRO)'

Questions?
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