

3. Does your department/agency or level government (i.e. provincial or federal) have an overarching strategy for rural or regional development? If “yes,” rationale and principal components; if “no” why not?

4. In your experience, has the importance of regional programs and policy changed over the past two decades (e.g. since the mid 1980s)? If so, why?

Multi-level governance – complete matrix/table and draw from these probes:

5. *Actors involved/collaboration* – Who do you work with in developing and/or implementing your policies and/or programs?

Partners/collaborators:

- *Participation of non-state actors? Extent of engagement? How encouraged?*
- *With other levels of government?*
- *With other ministries or departments?*

Integrated

If not already covered above:

General

6. To what extent, in their design and delivery, are your regional development policies and programs explicitly and concretely tied into those of other governments (i.e. Federal, Municipal, Aboriginal)? Please explain and provide examples.

Level	Ways that RD policies and programs are explicitly and concretely tied into those of these other governments	Other notes
Municipal		
Federal (for provincial reps)/ Provincial (for federal reps)		
Aboriginal		

7. To what extent have your policies and programme initiatives, in their design and delivery, explicitly addressed considerations other than economic development, e.g. cultural integrity, physical and mental health, community cohesion, local political development, environmental stewardship and other factors? Please explain.

Examples - “how so”?

8. In the design of your programme, were expected outcomes explicitly linked to required outputs, which were in turn backed up with explicit input requirements (e.g. budgets, completed projects, personnel resources)?”

If “yes”, can you provide one or two concrete examples of this type of integrated planning?

Region-specific

9. Are there differences between the case study region and other regions in the level of integration across various levels of government? Between the various kinds of considerations discussed above? i.e., would your answers above differ for your policies and programs specific to the XYZ region?

Innovation and Learning

General

10. Does your department/agency have policies and programs that support and/or foster new ideas/approaches (i.e. innovation)? If yes, please explain.

Note: Research should be conducted on this advance and interviewers prepared to probe re. specific relevant programs.

11. What are the most important things you have learned about (rural and/or regional) development policy and practice over the past few years? How did you learn about it? May be absence of regional policy.

In general, how do you learn from what you are doing (i.e. evaluation, assessment)? Where do you get new sources of information/ideas?

Regional

12. In your experience, to what extent is the case study region innovative or not? Please explain.
13. What do you consider to be the most innovative policy, program, or action that has taken place in the region over the last 10 years? Which factors supported this innovation?

Rural-Urban Interrelationships

General

14. Which policies or programs, if any, in your department or agency address the relationships between rural and urban places? Explicitly? Implicitly? In practice?
15. What are the issues they address? PROBE: *Food? Water? Environment (e.g. waste disposal)? Recreation? Culture? Land management? Trade (what types)? Institutional jurisdiction, rights, and responsibilities? Identity and culture (e.g. branding, aboriginal affairs, immigration)?*

Rural/Urban Interaction Issue	Notes

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Regional

16. Types and nature of rural-urban relationships in the case study region? Different than other regions in the province?

Place-based Development

If not already covered above:

General:

17. Co-construction: How are policies developed in your department? (see governance for overlap re: regional actors noted in the policy process);
- a. Please discuss policy development from the perspective of government and community/regional roles.
 - b. Does your department have any mechanisms to facilitate participation from communities and regions? Organizations, residents, regional reps? How? Example?
 - c. Are policies centrally developed and tailored to regions; or do regional priorities drive policy formation?
18. How does regional participation matter to the process? What benefits result from regional participation in development processes?
- Probe: Do place particular characteristics of the region (assets, liabilities, other characteristics) have a direct effect on the content of policy, the policy formulation process, and its intent?
19. What challenges are associated with involving regional participation in policy and program development?

Region Specific:

20. How does your department collect information from the XYZ region?

- Who participates (i.e., in this process of information gathering)? (see also governance for overlap)

21. How would you describe the identity of the region?