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Rural and Remote Access to Justice Infographic

Canadian Forum on Civil Justice

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Almost 20% of Canadians live in rural and remote settings.

There are many unique challenges that make access to legal information and legal services very different for people in rural and remote settings.

**Dynamics of a Population**
- Proximity to urban living.
- Cost of travel.
- Infrastructure.
- Road conditions.
- Lower rates of access to professional legal representation.
- Lower incomes.
- Lower numbers of lawyers.
- Fewer legal professionals reside in and operate practices.
- Limited access to self-help services.
- Limited ability to leverage communication technologies to improve legal awareness.
- Limited ability to access procedural assistance and legal advice.

**Barriers to physically reaching services**
- Transportation and Infrastructure.
- Carpooling.
- Funds for travel.
- Childcare costs.
- Cost of travel.
- Proximity to urban living.

**Factors**
- Physical location and/or an inability to reach services.
- Costs of obtaining legal representation.
- Fear of shame and/or embarrassment.
- Fear of legal issues.
- Cost of accessing legal services.
- High cost and the perceived high costs of accessing legal services.
- Gaps in online activity.
- Gaps in professional presence of lawyers, paralegals, and trained legal personnel.

**Obstacles to online activity**
- Socio-economic factors.
- Lack of internet access.
- Physical location.
- Costs of obtaining information.
- Transportation issues.
- Lack of access to legal awareness information.

**Recommendations**
- Increase the professional presence of lawyers, paralegals, and trained legal personnel.
- Provide Better communication technologies to overcome barriers to online activity.
- Provide Internet access.
- Promote legal awareness to improve access to justice challenges in rural and remote issues.
- Promote collaborative and inter-professional service provider networks.
- Systematic and collaborative approaches to access to justice challenges in rural and remote settings.
- Implement legal awareness programs in remote communities.
- Develop self-help services for use in rural and remote communities.
- Establish the use of virtual technologies to overcome distance barriers.
- Extend the reach of communication technologies to overcome distance barriers.
- Increase the professional presence of lawyers, paralegals, and trained legal personnel.
- Implement legal awareness programs in remote communities.
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