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#### Rural and Remote Access to Justice Infographic

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# RURAL AND REMOTE ACCESS TO JUSTICE



**Almost** 

20%

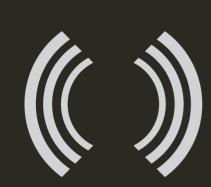
of Canadians live in rural and remote settings

Though there is no single, universal definition of rural or remote...

**RURAL** settings are largely defined by:

Proximity to urban centres

**Number of residents** per square kilometre



population eg. age, income, education and language

Characteristics of a



Dynamics of a population eg. value systems and beliefs



But... are farther away from services and have less people per square kilometre

**REMOTE** settings are usually described in the same way as rural settings

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



Nearly 50% of Canadians will experience a legal problem in any given 3-year period

This is an important issue because....

"People in rural [and remote] communities need the

same kinds of legal help that people in urban areas need: procedural assistance and legal advice."1

**GEOGRAPHY** 

These are some of the unique access to justice barriers that exist for people

in rural and remote communities

## Physical location and/ or an inability to reach services.

Transportation and Infrastructure

Challenges

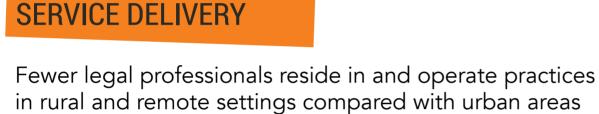
Road condition Cost of travel

Limited access to vehicles and licensing

Limited public transportation

### Smaller range of services

**Economies of Scale** 



**SHORTAGES IN** 

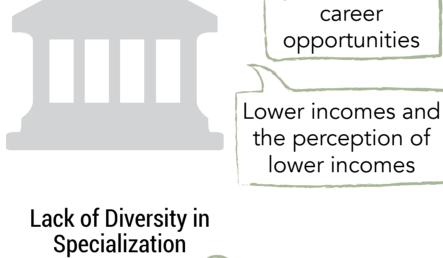
**Career and Economic** 

Challenges

Legal staff retention issues Increasing age of lawyers in some rural and remote communities

Difficulties getting

specific types of advice



Flow of Information

the perception of lower incomes Difficulties obtaining

legal counsel

Fewer available

positions and

career

opportunities

# High cost and the perceived high

Transportation

**COSTS** 

**Direct Costs** 

cost of accessing legal services

legal representation

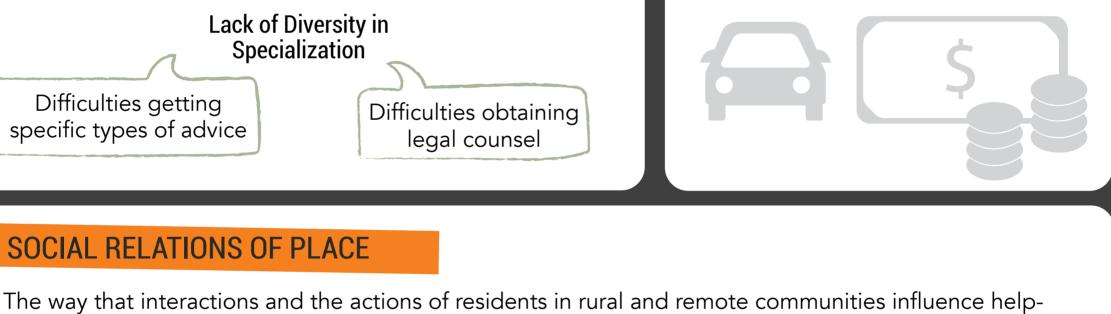
Costs of obtaining

**Indirect Costs** 

Opportunity

costs

costs Childcare costs



## seeking behavior **Community Interactions and the**

SOCIAL RELATIONS OF PLACE

Not enough legal professionals to Close relationships Lack of anonymity represent opposing clients can affect decisions and privacy with conflicting issues

to seek help Feelings of shame

**DIGITAL DIVIDE** 

The level of access that rural and remote communities have to communication technologies and the comfort level using those technologies to obtain info about legal issues

Gaps in online activity

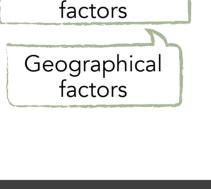
Fear of

stigmatization

**Conflicts of Interest** 

Barriers to physically

access services



Infrastructural

assistance online

Difficulty accessing

legal information and

Inability to leverage connectivity via social networks to improve legal awareness

Connectivity via

social networks

regular Internet service Lower rates of access to regular telephone service and other communication technologies

Lower rates of access to

Socio-Economic

**Factors** 

Incentives for law More satellite Strengthen the capacity of offices students and young service provider networks lawyers to practice in rural and remote

Recommendations for improving access to legal services and information in

rural and remote communities

Increase the professional presence of lawyers,

paralegals, and trained legal personnel.

locations

distance barriers Investments in virtual communication

technologies

technologies to overcome **Facilitate** tele-legal

Extend the reach of self-help services

Programs that harness communication

consultation

issue spotting) Coordinated national strategies that address

rural and remote issues

Systematic and collaborative approaches to access to justice challenges in rural and remote communities

Legal training for

community leaders and others (eg. legal

Collaborative and inter-professional service

provisions and relationship-building with

trusted intermediaries

to legal information

Promote legal awareness to improve access

through community hubs, libraries, etc.

<sup>1</sup>Public Interest Strategies & Communications, Final Report: The East and Central Region Legal Clinic Transformation Project (Toronto: Public Interest

Distribute relevant legal

information for example,

These are some of the main themes highlighted in Rural and Remote Access to Justice, A Literature Review. The comprehensive list of topics and the full literature review can be found at www.boldnessproject.ruralandremoteaccesstojustice.com This infographic was prepared by the Canadian Forum on Civil Justice for the Rural and Remote Access to Justice Boldness Project.

Strategies & Communications, Inc, July 2015) at 47 [Public Interest, East and Central Region Legal Transformation Project Report].



Canadian Forum on Civil Justice \* Forum canadien sur la justice civile

**RURAL & REMOTE ACCESS TO JUSTICE** A BOLDNESS PROJECT