

4.3 Issues related to Rural Issues:

Rural Areas:

- Areas with low population density located in the countryside outside towns and cities.
- Canada is a vast country covering over 9.5 million km².
- Of that, **95%** of Canada's land mass is considered rural or remote.

- Rural areas are not just low populated farm land.
- A rural area is any area with low population and low population density regardless of terrain.
- This could be communities surrounded by forests of even located in the middle of the desert.





- Each rural community is unique in **size**, **population** and **distance to a major urban centre** and each face different social, health and economic challenges.
- There are many challenges and issues that revolve around the study of rural communities.
- As time goes on and Canada enters the 21st century, rural areas face more challenges.

Issues in Rural Area:

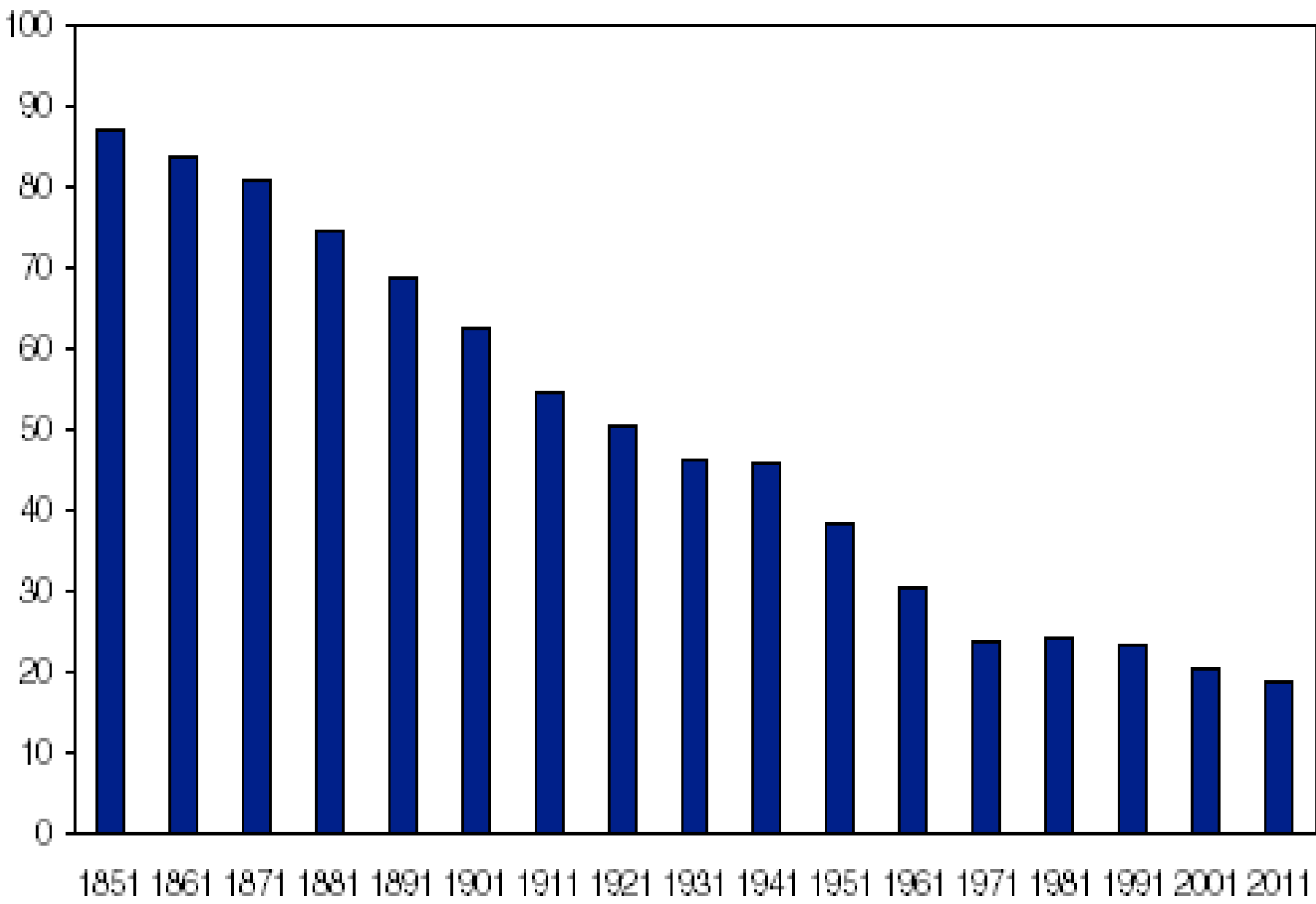
1. Population:

- Canada's population trend and distribution has changed over time.
- In particular the trend towards urbanization.
- With low populations in rural areas a lower tax base is present.

- In particular when people begin to move away from rural areas the tax base begins to shrink from what it once was.
- With less people living in the communities means less money being cycled through the community.
- Thus businesses and the economy begins to suffer.



proportion (%)





2. Service Availability:

- With less taxes being gathered due to a declining population different services that is provided by the government begin to disappear or become less effective.
- Closures of hospitals, school, and Government buildings begin to take place due to costs to upkeep and the overall demand compared to the population.

- Most rural communities depend on cars/automobiles for their primary form of transportation.
- Where there is no public transportation in majority of rural areas.
- The maintenance of roadways is another cost that rural areas face.

- Sometimes there are long stretches of roads between one community to another.
- An overwhelming challenge of living in a rural and remote community is the lack of transportation and the need to travel great distances for goods and services.

- Families who live in rural and remote Canada also have limited choice and higher travel costs associated with accessing services.
- Access to services is one of the main issues people living in rural and remote areas of Canada face.
- **What are some services that urban areas have that rural areas might be restricted from?**



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