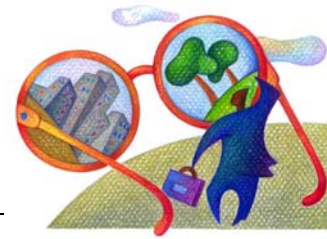
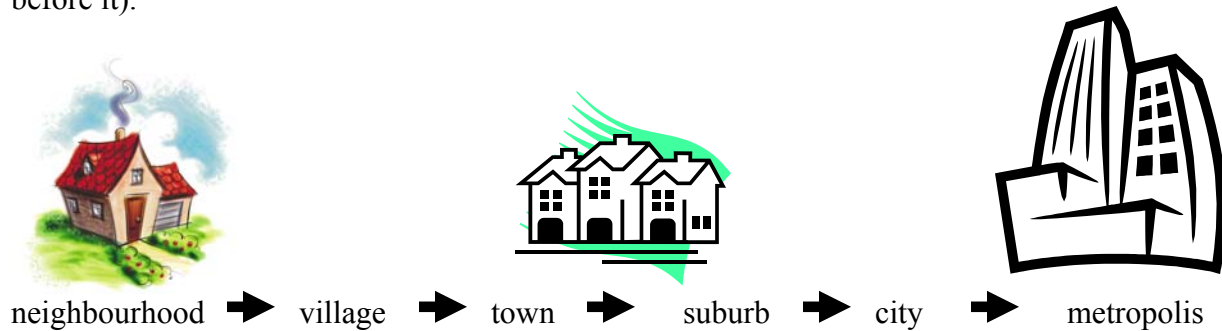


Urban and Rural Interactions



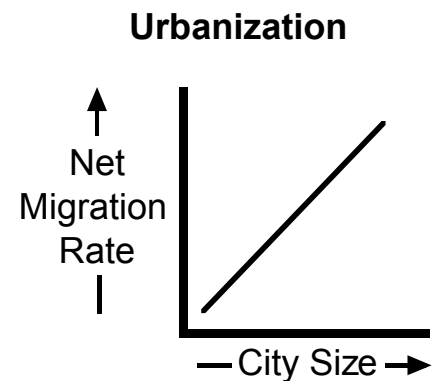
There has been significant movement of people in Canada between urban and rural areas over time. In most cases, people in rural areas live in a neighbourhood, village, or town. People in urban areas live in a suburb, city, or metropolis. These different types of places to live are known as the **urban hierarchy** (each one is a larger settlement going up the line than the one before it).



Urbanization

Urbanization is the movement of people **UP** the urban hierarchy. This has been the main migration pattern of Canadians since the creation of our country in 1867 until the 1990s. The chart below illustrates the overall percentage of Canada's population living in rural and urban areas.

Year	% Rural	% Urban
1871	77	23
1931	50	50
1976	34	66

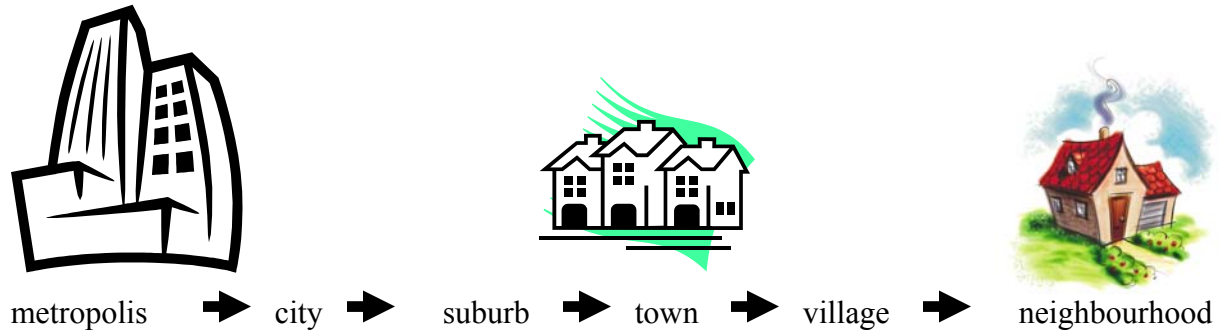


Why did people leave the countryside to live in the big cities?

- reduced need for farm labour due to farm modernization (e.g. tractors)
- improvements in mobility (better transportation systems reduces need for local stores)
- consolidation of goods & services (most things one needs has relocated to urban areas)

Counter-Urbanization

Counter-urbanization is the movement of people **DOWN** the urban hierarchy. This has been the trend for many parts of Canada since the late 1970s.



Why are people leaving the cities to live in smaller towns and villages?

- health issues, security, “community”
- “back to nature” movement (desire to live in the country)
- increase in telecommuting (less need to be at an office)
- cheaper land and house prices

In general, there are now three categories of people living in rural areas.

- **Newcomers** - retain ties to urban core, younger, well educated, well off, managers/professionals
- **Homecomers** - young families returning to provide rural upbringing to children
- **Ruralites** – have never lived in an urban core

Counter - Urbanization

