

Fostering Rural Revitalization and Regional Collaboration Through Philanthropy?

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Overview

- What is meant by philanthropy?
- Philanthropy has a unique opportunity when communities are faced with limited funding opportunities for community development.
- Through granting priorities, actors within regions can collaborate to to revitalize (or sustain) rural communities.

What is philanthropy?

“The art of giving money to non-profit organizations and individuals to provide both financial assistance to those in need and to further the well-being of a society.”



Meal programs
Housing/shelter
Emergency relief



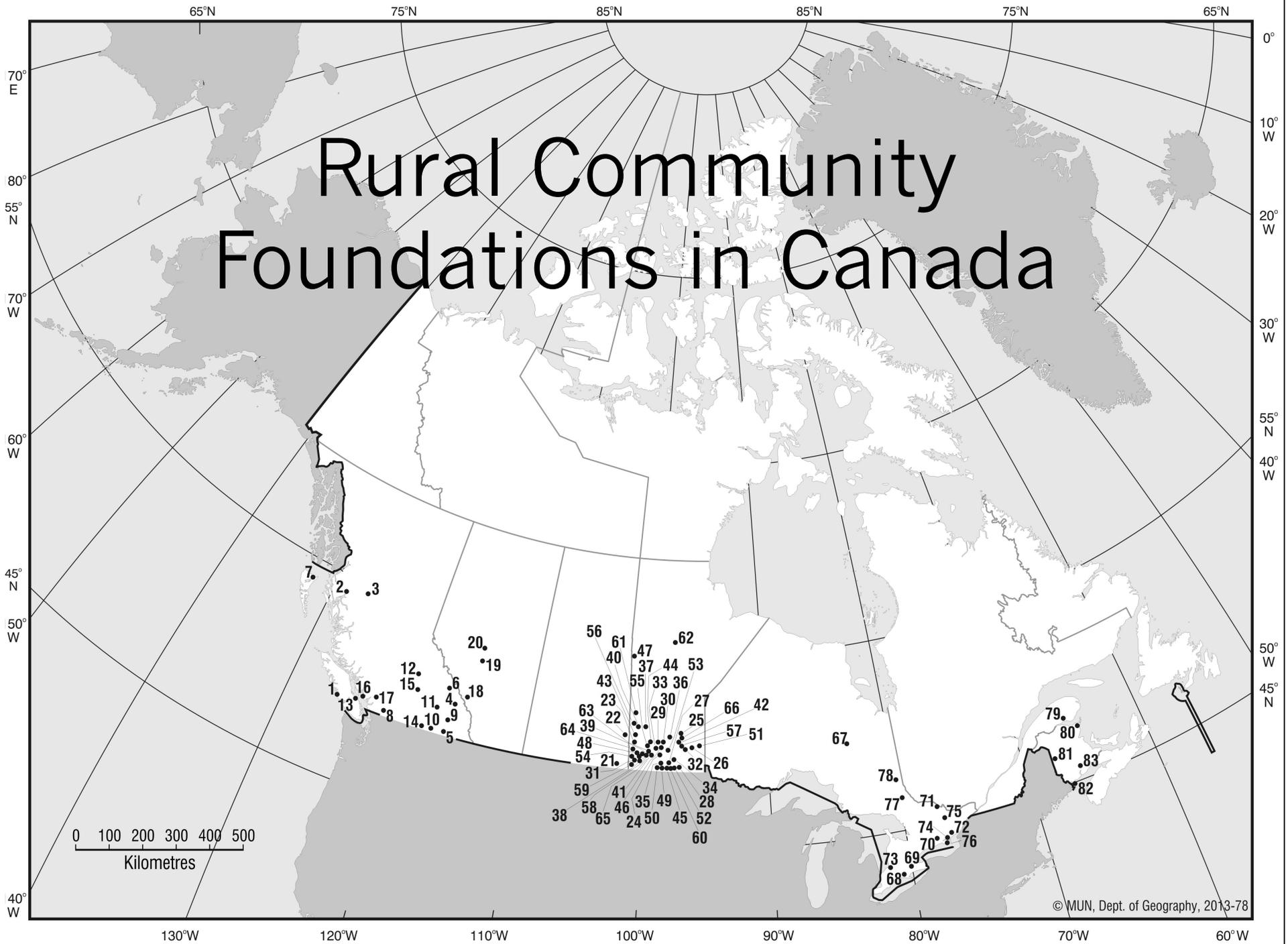
Sustainability of communities and regions?

Why is philanthropy relevant in regional development?

- Decreasing government funding to rural regions
- Increased personal wealth in many rural regions
- Transfer of wealth window quickly approaching

- 191 Community Foundations in Canada. Since 1921:
 - \$3.35 billion in assets
 - \$143 million in grants

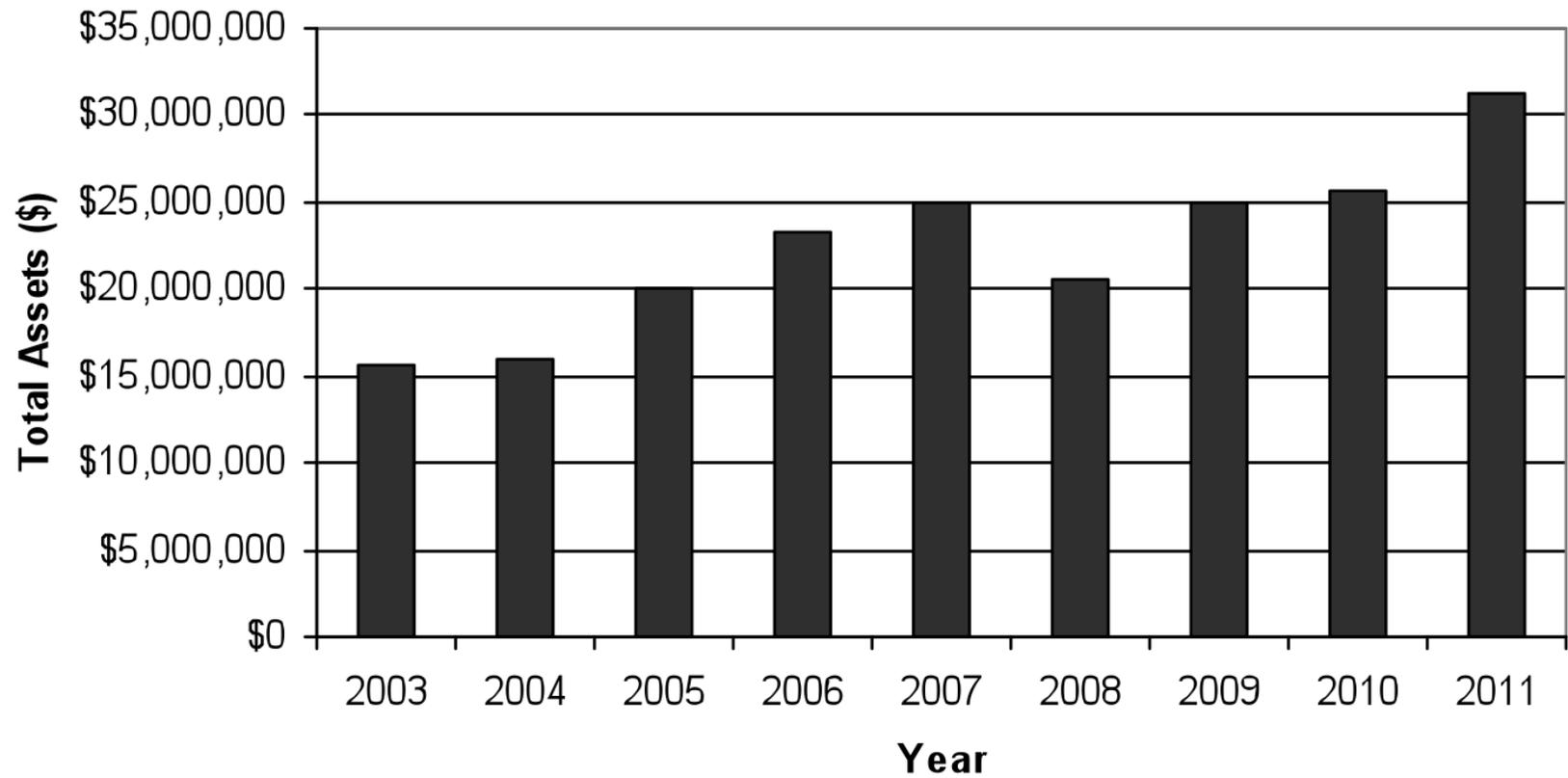
Rural Community Foundations in Canada



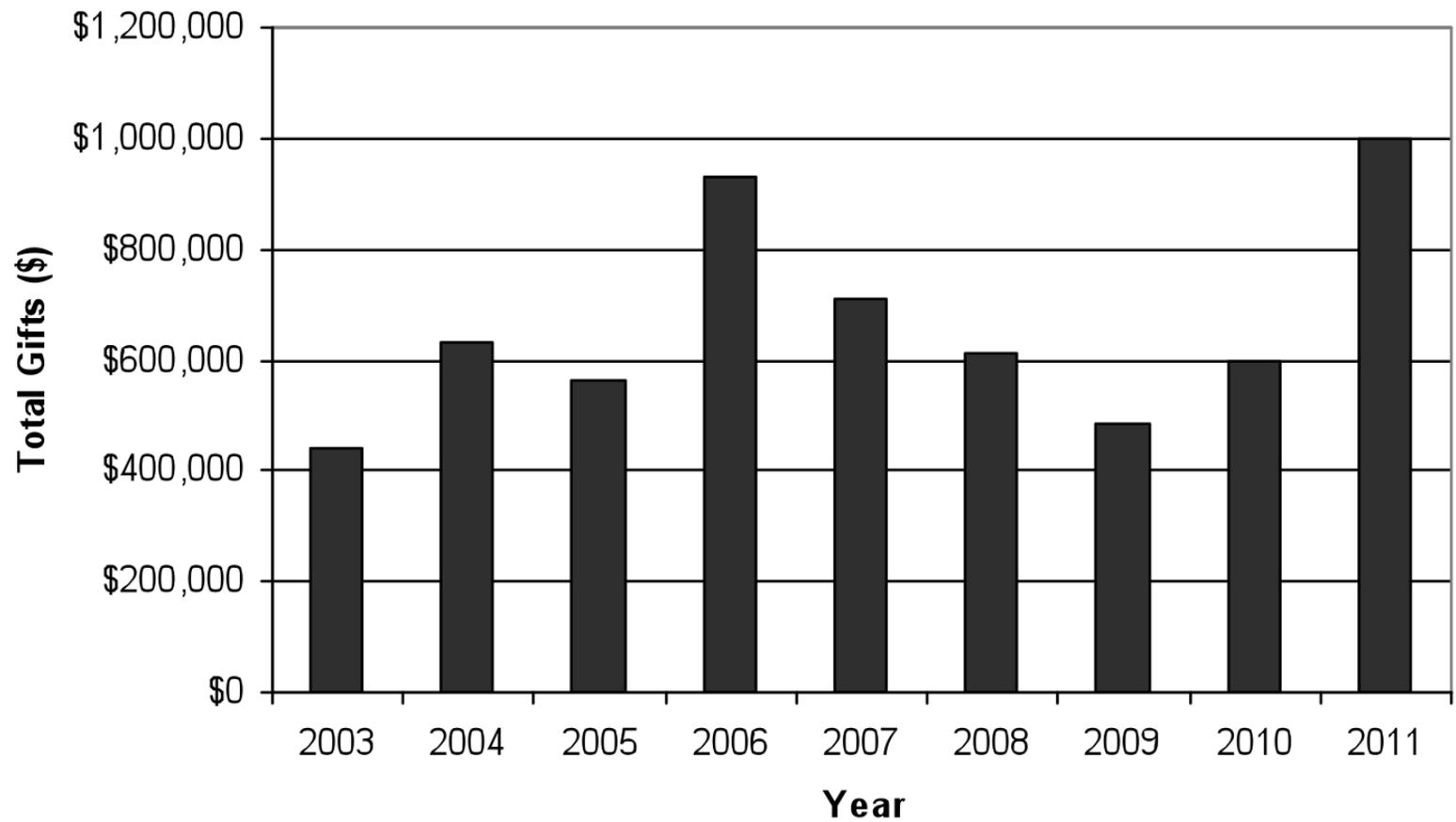
A common theme ... and dilemma

- Regional development initiatives and processes highly dependent on government funding
- Problematic
 - in periods of austerity
 - changing political priorities
 - competition among local actors

Total Assets of Community Foundations in Atlantic Canada Region, 2003-2011



Total Gifts to Qualified Donees for Community Foundations in Atlantic Canada Region, 2003-2011



Revitalization of Rural Communities?

- Community Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador (CFNL)
 - Serves a population of approximately 520,000 people.
 - Over \$1,200,000 in assets as of 2014.
 - Released inaugural Vital Signs October 2014.
 - Sport as a vehicle for community development.
 - Military family services, heritage revitalization ...



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR



THE HARRIS
CENTRE
Memorial University

TRUE
SPORT
FOUNDATION



(Community Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador, 2014)

Findings

- Community Foundations have substantial financial assets to address rural community priorities.
- Community Foundations are more responsive to local issues than government.
- Big things for small communities.
- Maximum impact is generated by partnering with other groups.
- Community Foundations do not necessarily view their efforts as revitalization.

Challenges

- “It costs money to make money, it costs money to give away money.”
- Low awareness of Community Foundations in Atlantic Canada.
- Limited human resources.
- Filling the gap of government funding.

Key Messages

- Community Foundations have a long historical record of community/regional development across Canada, yet under utilized in revitalization.
- The Community Foundation model allows ongoing community/regional funding year after year.
- Community Foundations can collaborate with other local actors to prioritize grant-making.
- Community Foundations as a model for supporting community/regional development is poorly understood.

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