

places where resources are still abundant and accessible, automation and industrial restructuring have significantly reduced the job base.

Making matters worse, natural resource jobs are generally characterized as Difficult, Dangerous, and Dirty. To escape these "three Ds" and try to find better opportunities, many young people leave rural communities for the city. This is a well-known phenomenon of industrialization, of course, but advances in transportation and communication have made urban relocation more feasible and attractive in the last two decades.

In short, for many rural communities the exploitation of the environment that provided their raison d'etre is no longer relevant; in other cases it no longer provides a secure foundation. As the natural resource economy disappears, households and the businesses that rely on them cannot support themselves.

A particularly Canadian type of natural resource based small town is the single industry community. The single industry communities of interest here are those that focus on the industrial production and export of a specific staple commodity. They are the mining towns, smelting towns, textile towns, pulp and paper towns, sawmill towns, and the like that dot rural Canada. Single industry communities are usually geographically isolated and they are

products of an age of industry and technology. . . . (T)heir very existence depends upon an advanced technology, a complex division of labour, and a sophisticated division of exchange (Lucas 1971, p. 20).

In his classic 1971 study, Rex Lucas defined single industry towns as those with staples-based economies that have a population