

Community Economic Development:

Building on Your Strengths for
a Better Tomorrow (Part 1)

(a rural and small town perspective)

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Why this topic is important: Imagine



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Agenda

Part A: Trends Impacting Rural and Small Town

- Introduction
- Key trends

10:15 – Refreshment Break

Part B: Success Factors in Rural CED

- Examples from Ontario and examples from your community

Warm Up Exercise:

Getting to know each other...

- Write your response on the provided card.
- Walk around, say hello, switch cards from person to person (without looking at the written statement).
- When I yell stop- STOP!
- Then, meet with the person closest to you and review the 2 statements.
- When I yell Go - Repeat the process

Please provide an example of a community activity/ event or plan that contributed to a healthier rural or small town community
(one sentence or phrase)



**The importance of understanding
our communities:**

Are you up for a quiz?

12 questions...

Question 1:

Within the next 30 years Canada's net job and population growth will come from immigration

True or False?

Question 2:

To sustain our population “naturally” we require a birth rate of 2.1 children / woman in her child bearing years...

True or False?



Question 3:

From 2011 – 2016 British Columbia attracted more immigrants than Alberta

True or False?

Question 4:

The most popular immigration destinations in Alberta are: Calgary, Edmonton, and Red Deer

True or False?

Question 5:

The number of irrigation wells in West Texas alone exploded from 1,166 in 1937 to more than 11,000 by 1971

True or False?

Question 6:

Alberta has one of the highest populations of female farm operators

True or False?

Question 7:

According to the 2016 census, the leading field crop (by area) in Alberta is...

- a) Barley
 - b) Spring Wheat
 - c) Dry Peas
 - d) Canola
- In 2016, Alberta grew canola on 6,165,746 acres
- From 2011 – 2016 Alberta experienced a shift away from hay to field crops



Question 8:

From 2011 – 2016 Alberta's total cropland increased by 4.8%

True or False?

Question 9:

There are 2.5 million beef cattle in Alberta

True or False?

Question 10:

As a result of a 12.6% decrease in the number of farms reporting dairy cattle, Alberta's dairy production has experienced major declines

True or False?

Question 11:

Pincher Creek, AB once experienced a temperature increase of 41°C in one hour

True or False?

Question 12:

In 2080 is Canada likely to see an increase or decrease in agricultural productivity due to climate change?

Increase

Decrease

An increase, but...

Bonus Question:

Every year the planet loses an area the size of Scotland to erosion and urban sprawl...

True or False?

How did you score?

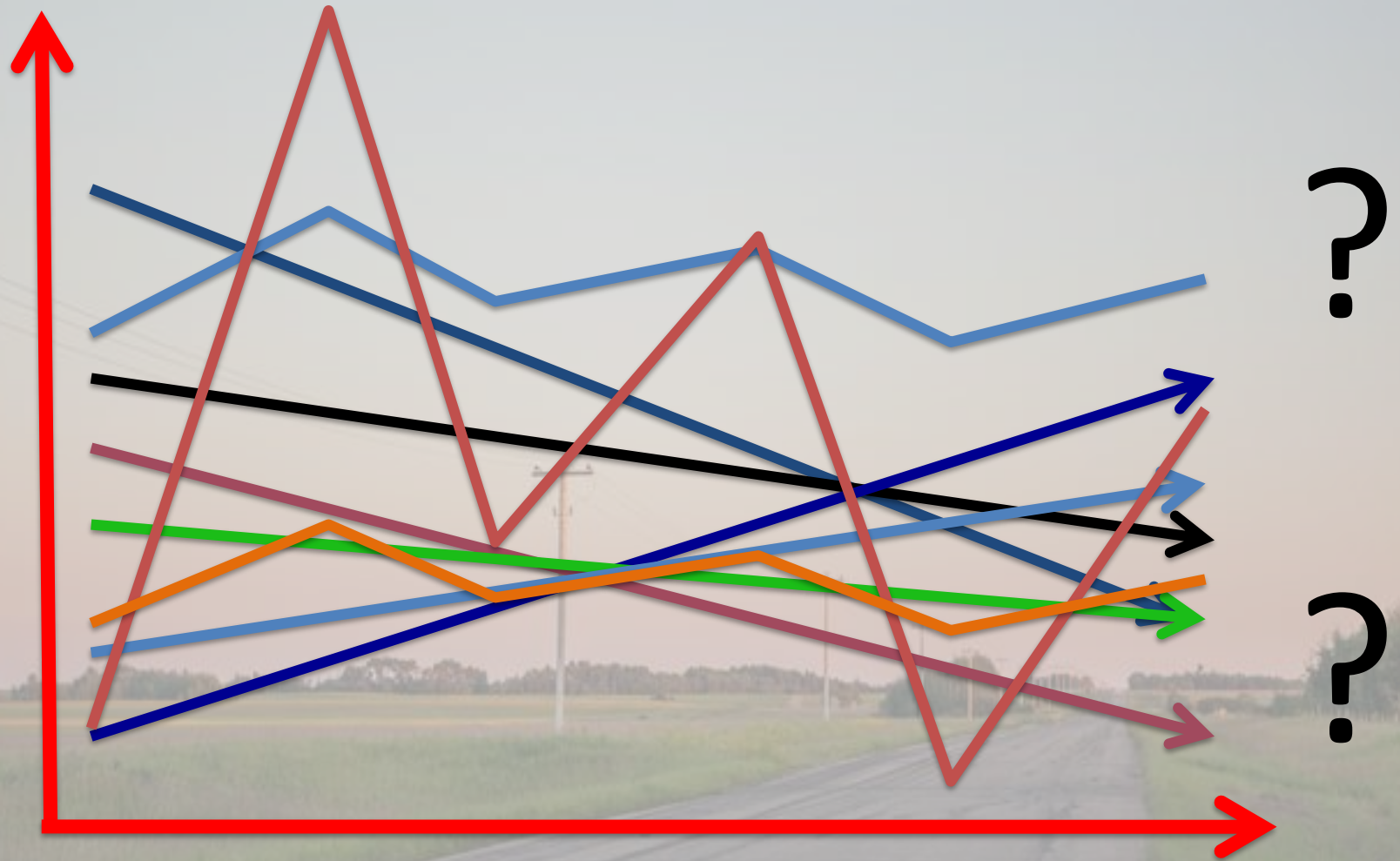




What macro/global trends/issues do you think may fundamentally change rural and small town Alberta?

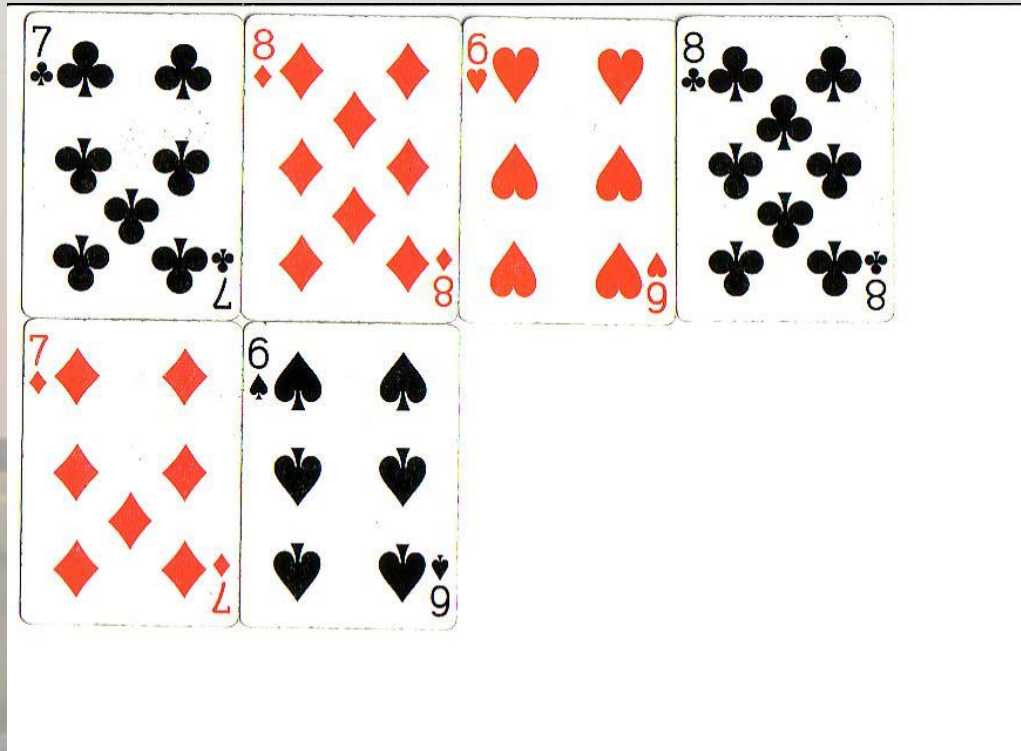
(feel free to think long-term)

The future – blending these trends



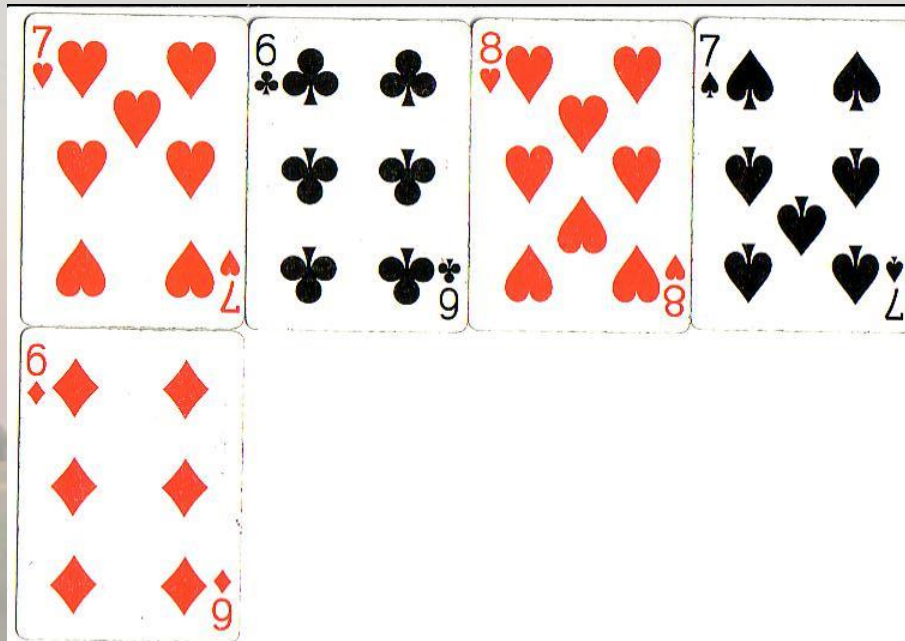
Remembering that we all see things differently....

I want you to pick and remember one of the following cards...



Now, I'm going to try to read your mind... so I want you to close your eyes and think about your card for 10-15 seconds

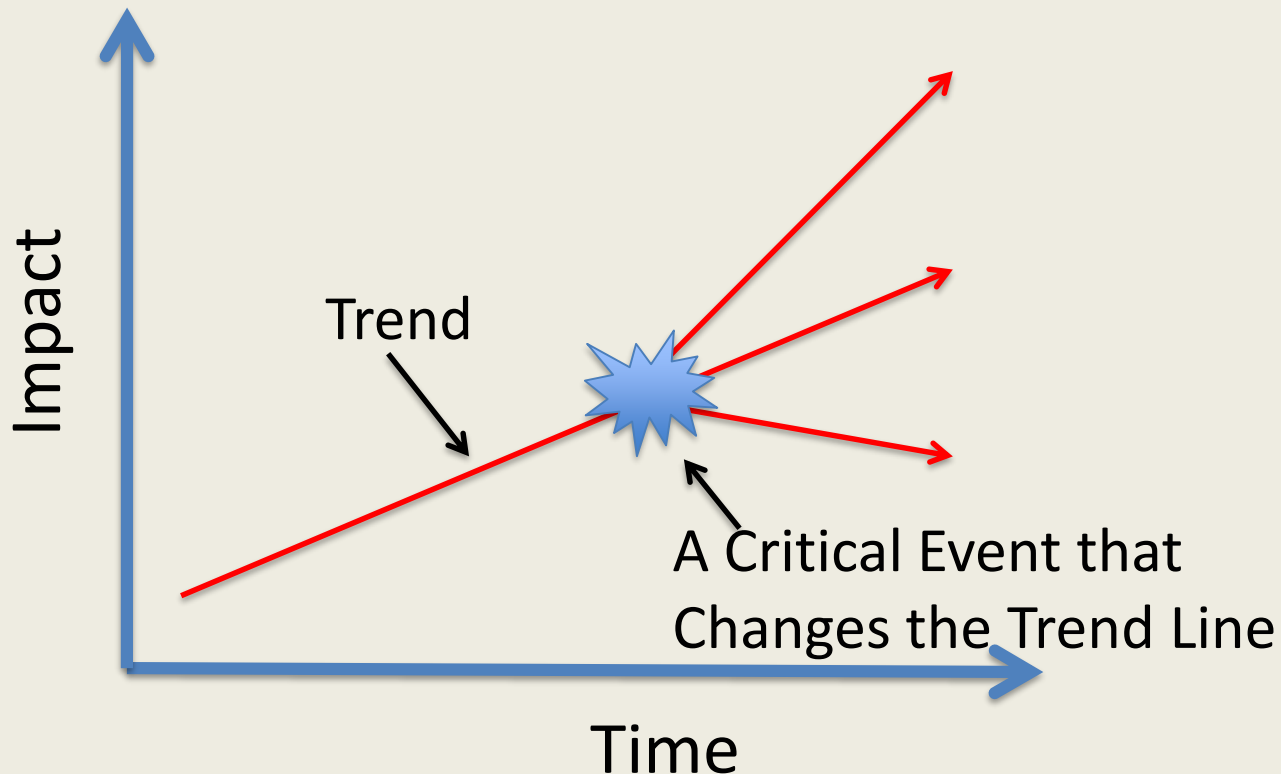
Now, if I've done this right I should have removed your card:



How'd we do?



Trends, Critical Events and Scenarios



Seven trends that can (will?) change our world...

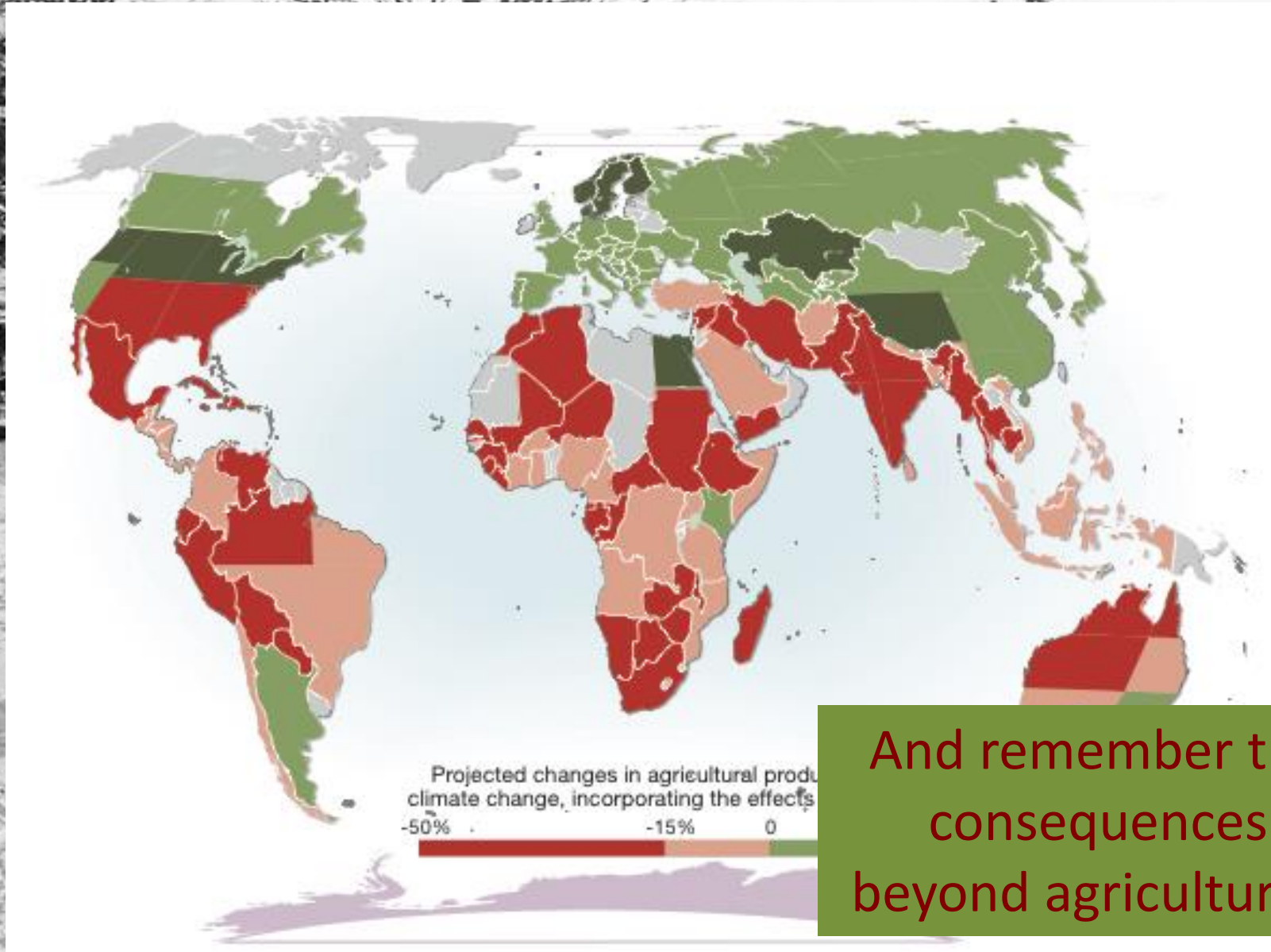
- **Climate Change**
- **Population Growth and Food Security**
- **No Growth Scenarios**
- **Loss of Biodiversity**
- **The Global Economy and Political Instability**
- **Evolving Technology**
- **Demographic Change**

Seven trends that can (will?) change our world...

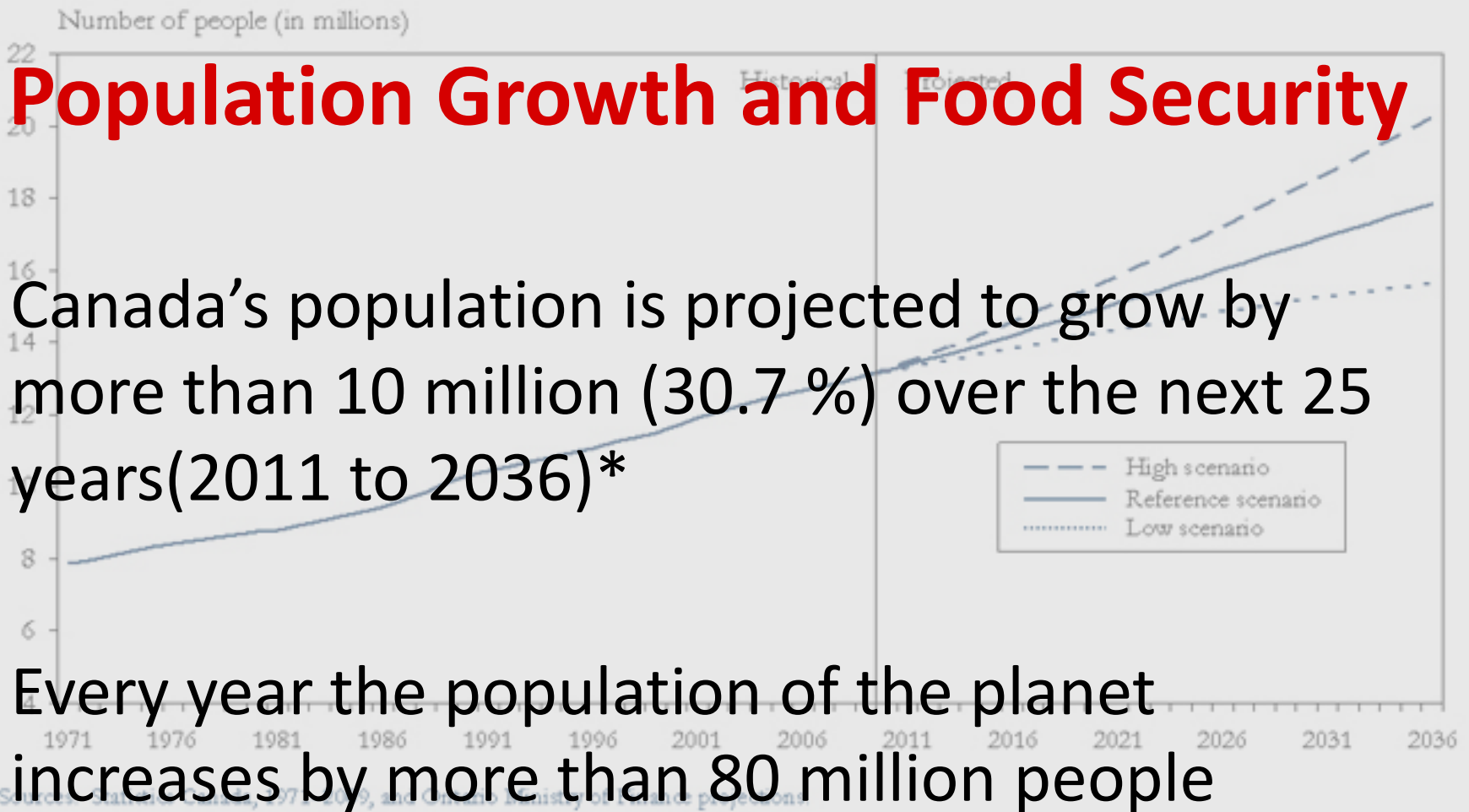
Reflecting upon this.... The need to:

- bring a global perspective to local issues
- position ourselves for change
- develop a long-term perspective
- make increasingly tough decisions
- think about the 3 pillars of sustainability
economic, environmental and social issues

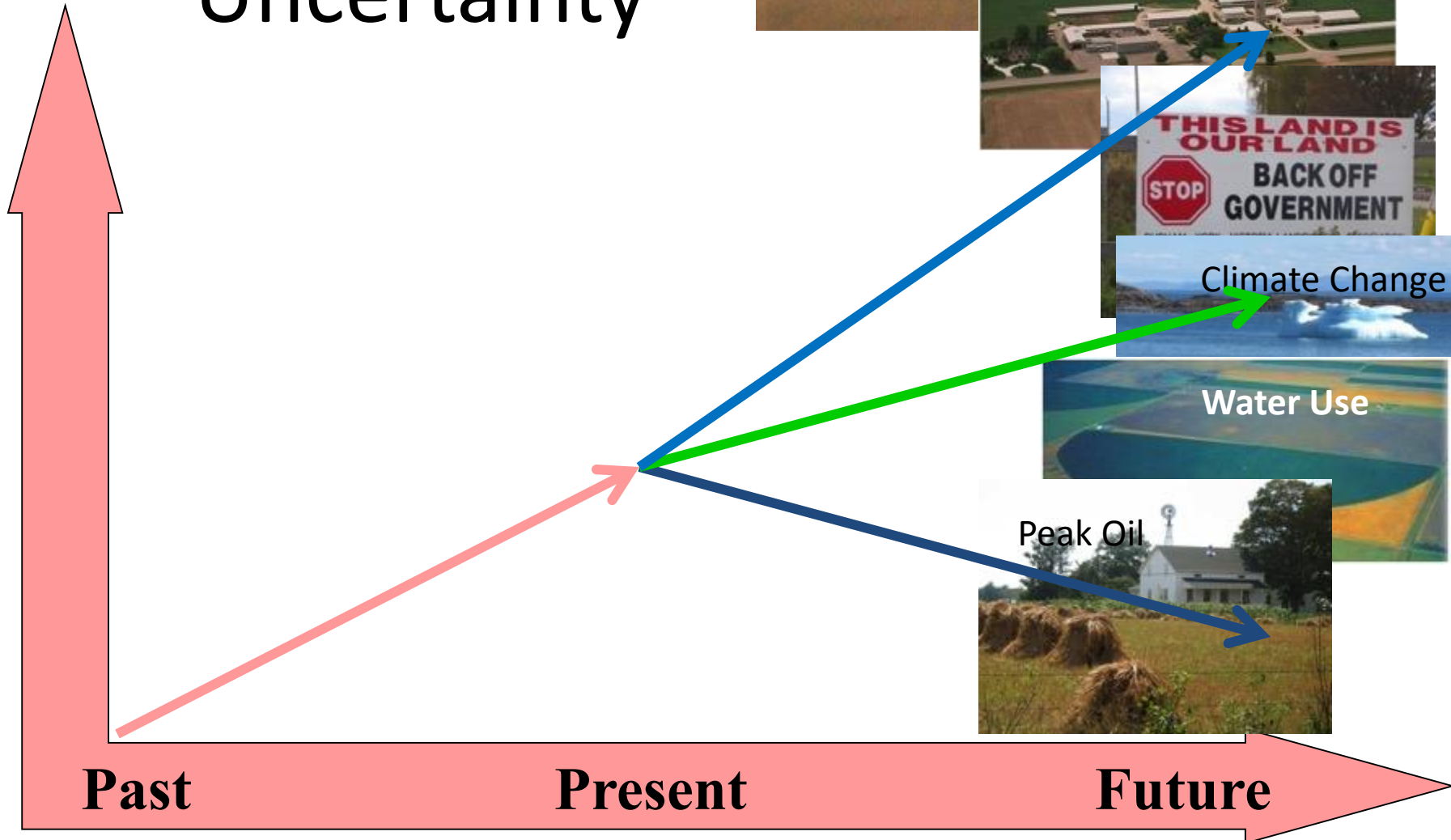
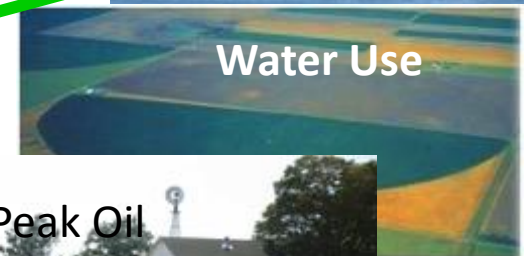
Climate Change (and water)



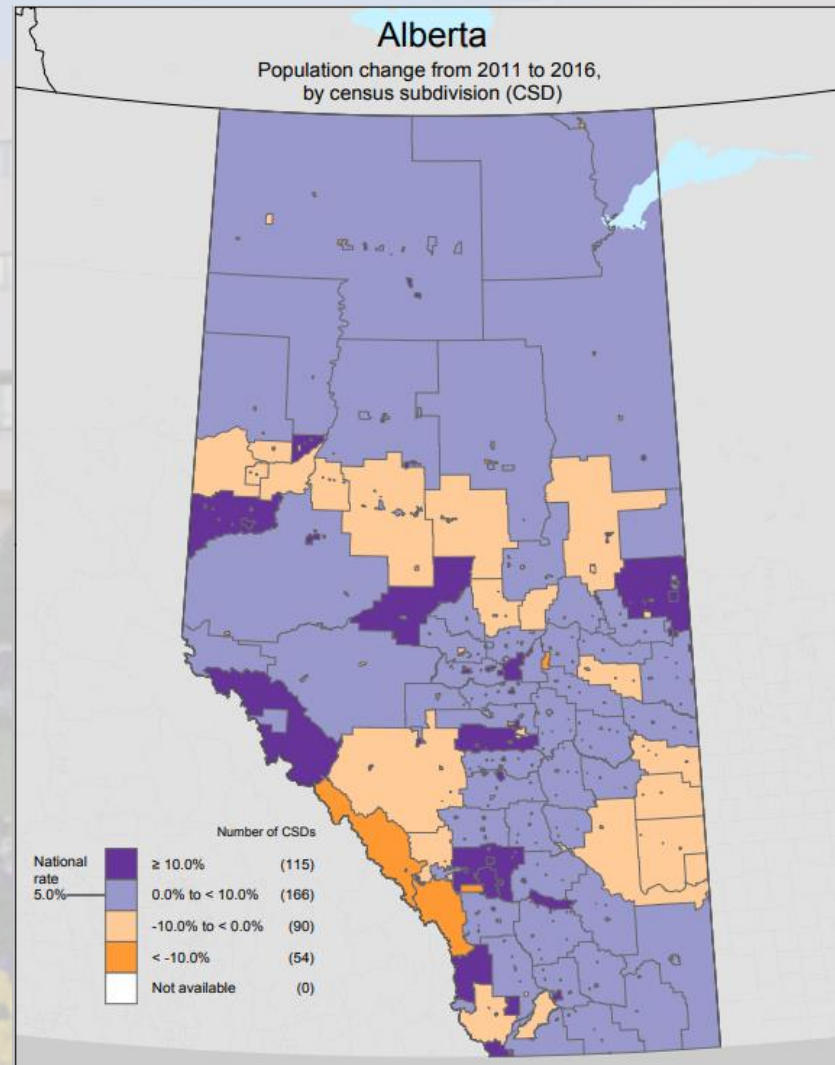
And remember the consequences beyond agriculture...



Agricultural Uncertainty



Population Change: 2011 - 2016



(Statistics Canada, 2016)

Demographic Shifts



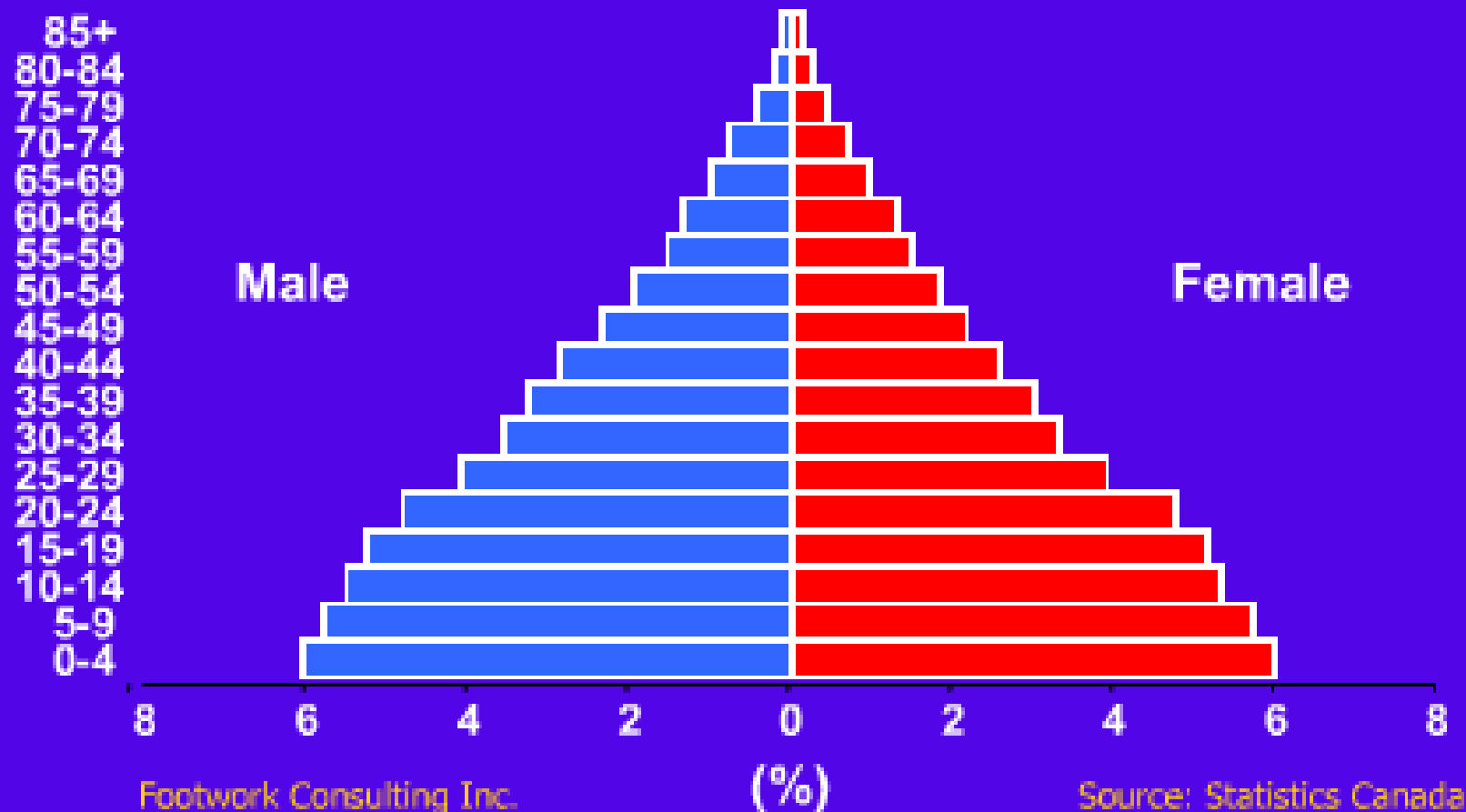
Canada: Population Pyramid 1901

Stop

Restart

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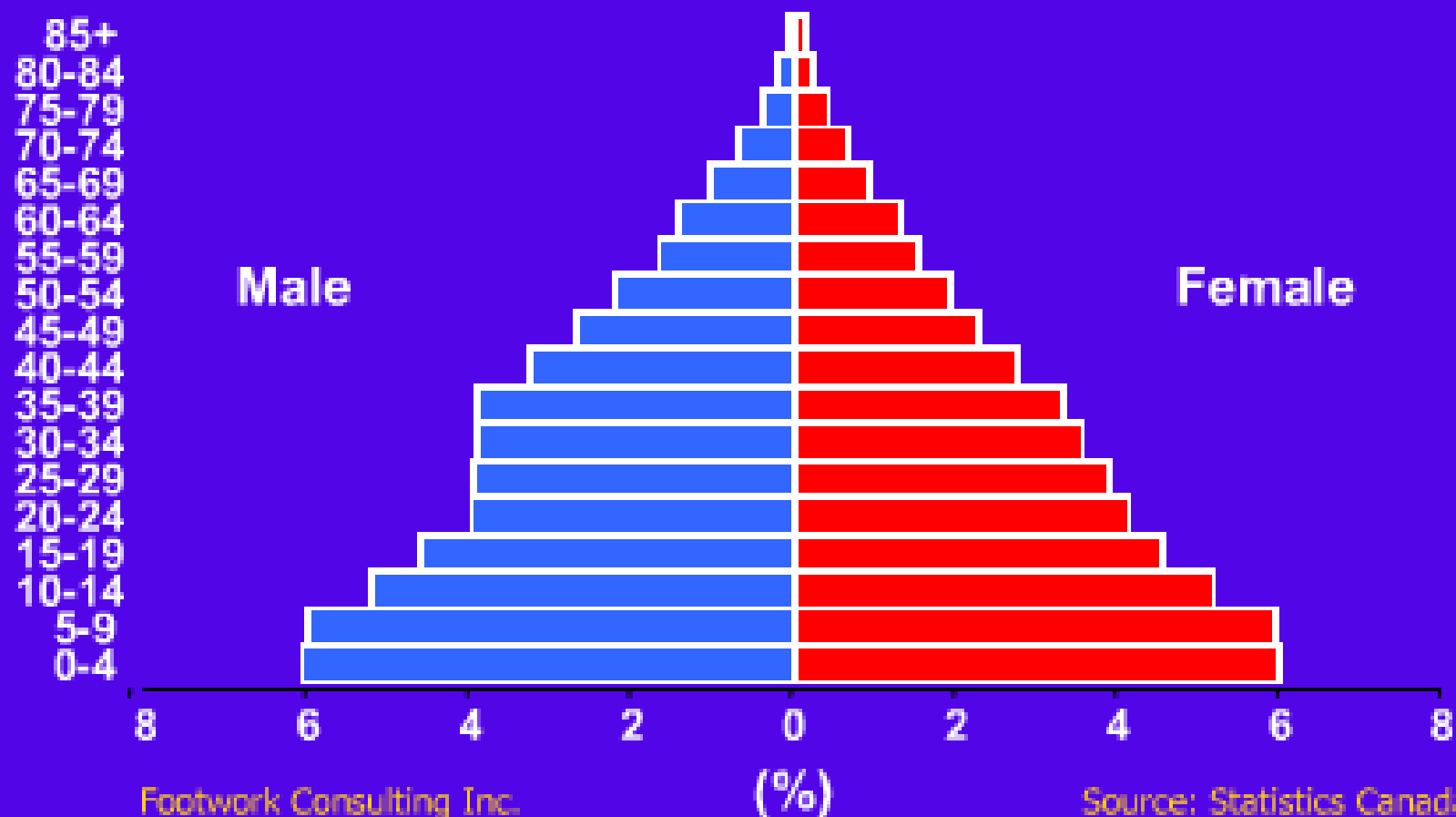
Canada: Population Pyramid 1921

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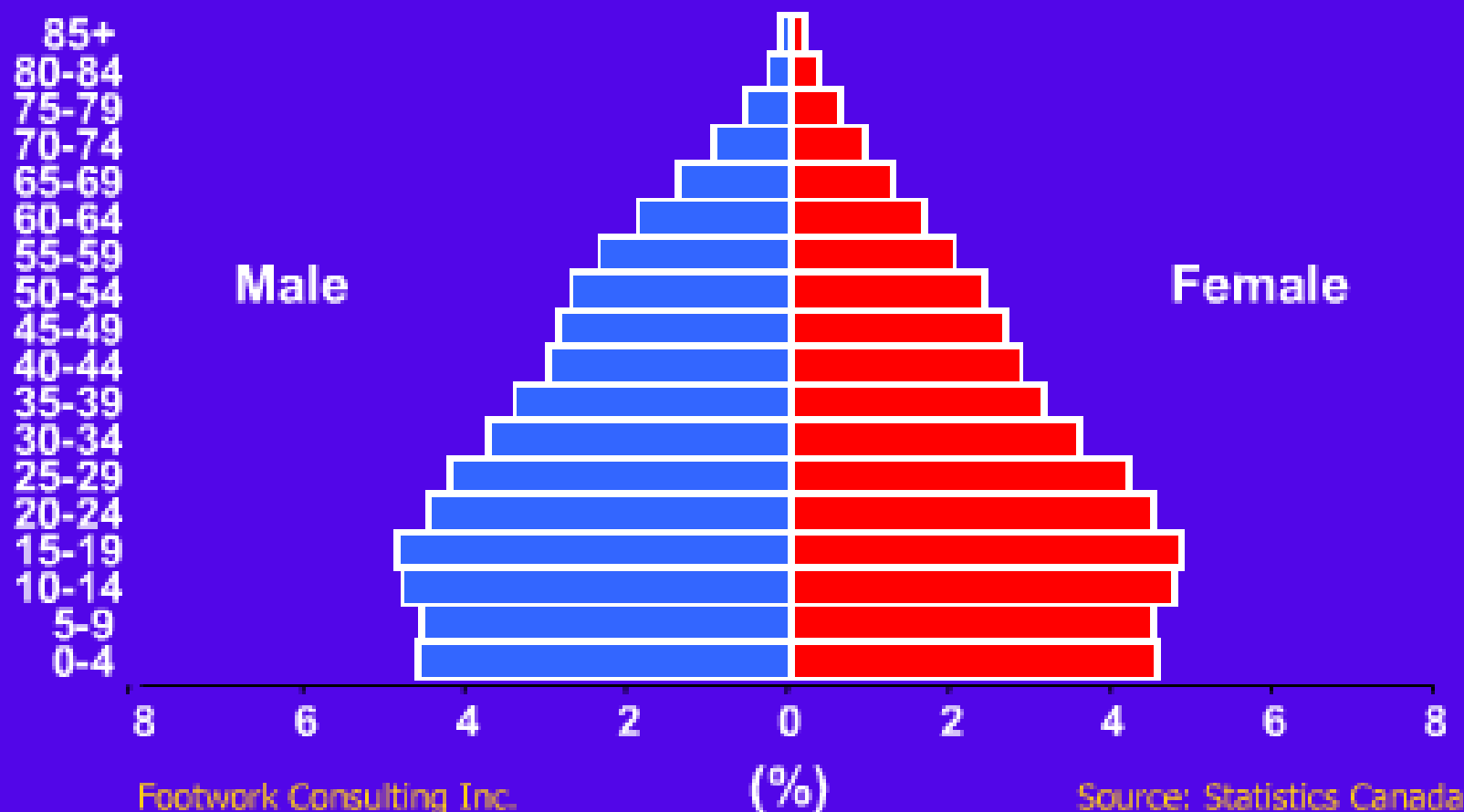
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Canada: Population Pyramid 1941

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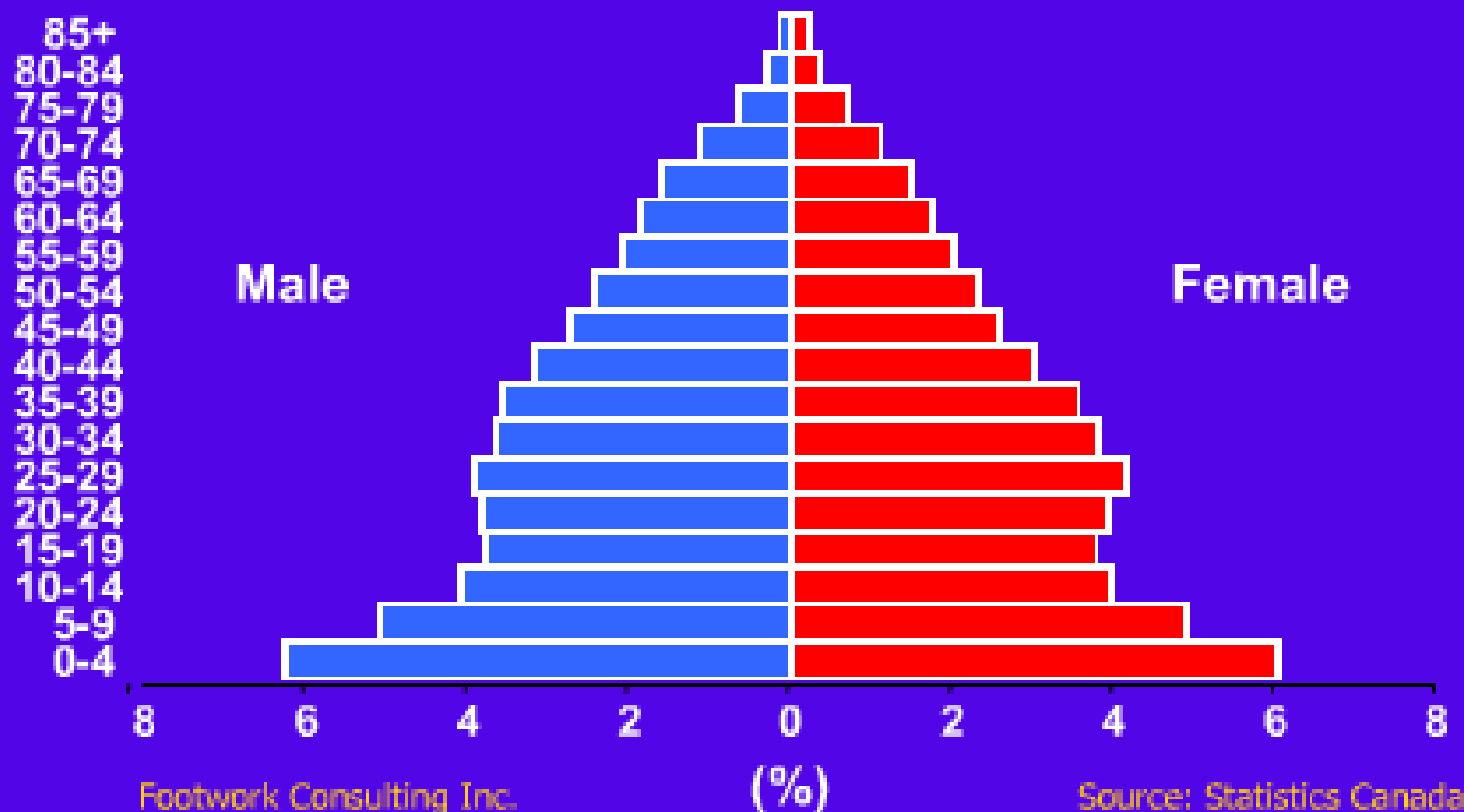
Canada: Population Pyramid 1951

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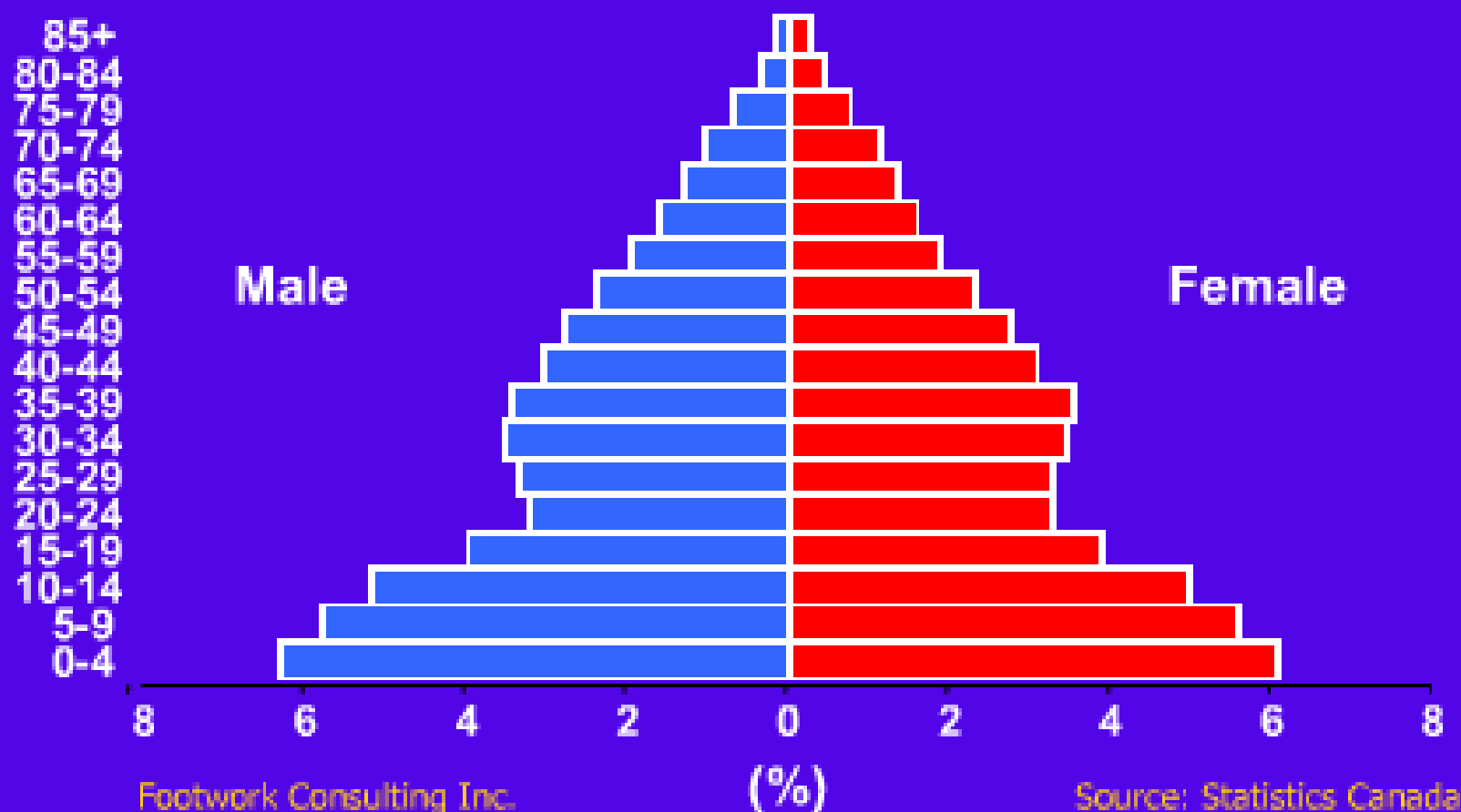
Canada: Population Pyramid 1961

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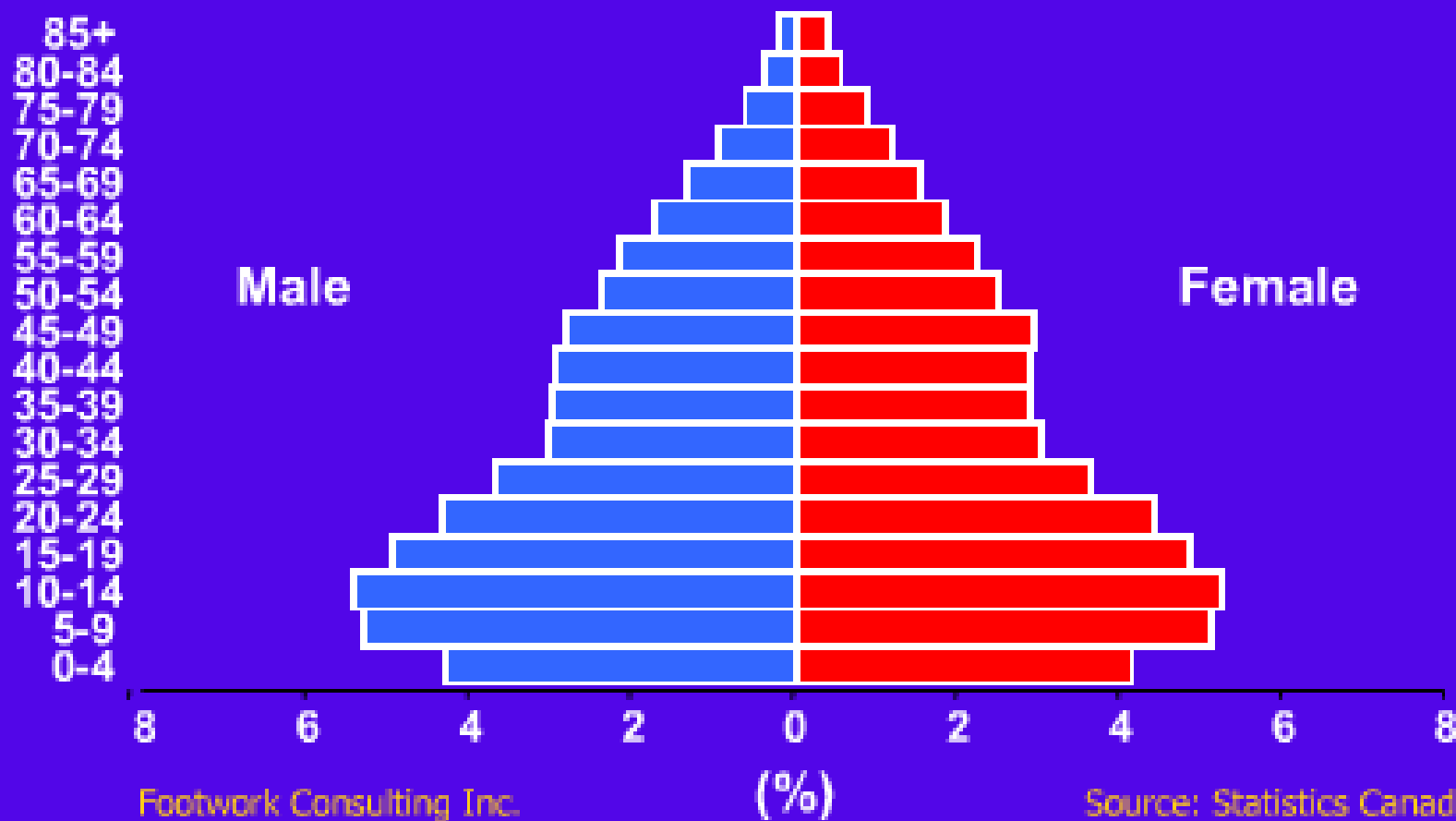
Canada: Population Pyramid 1971

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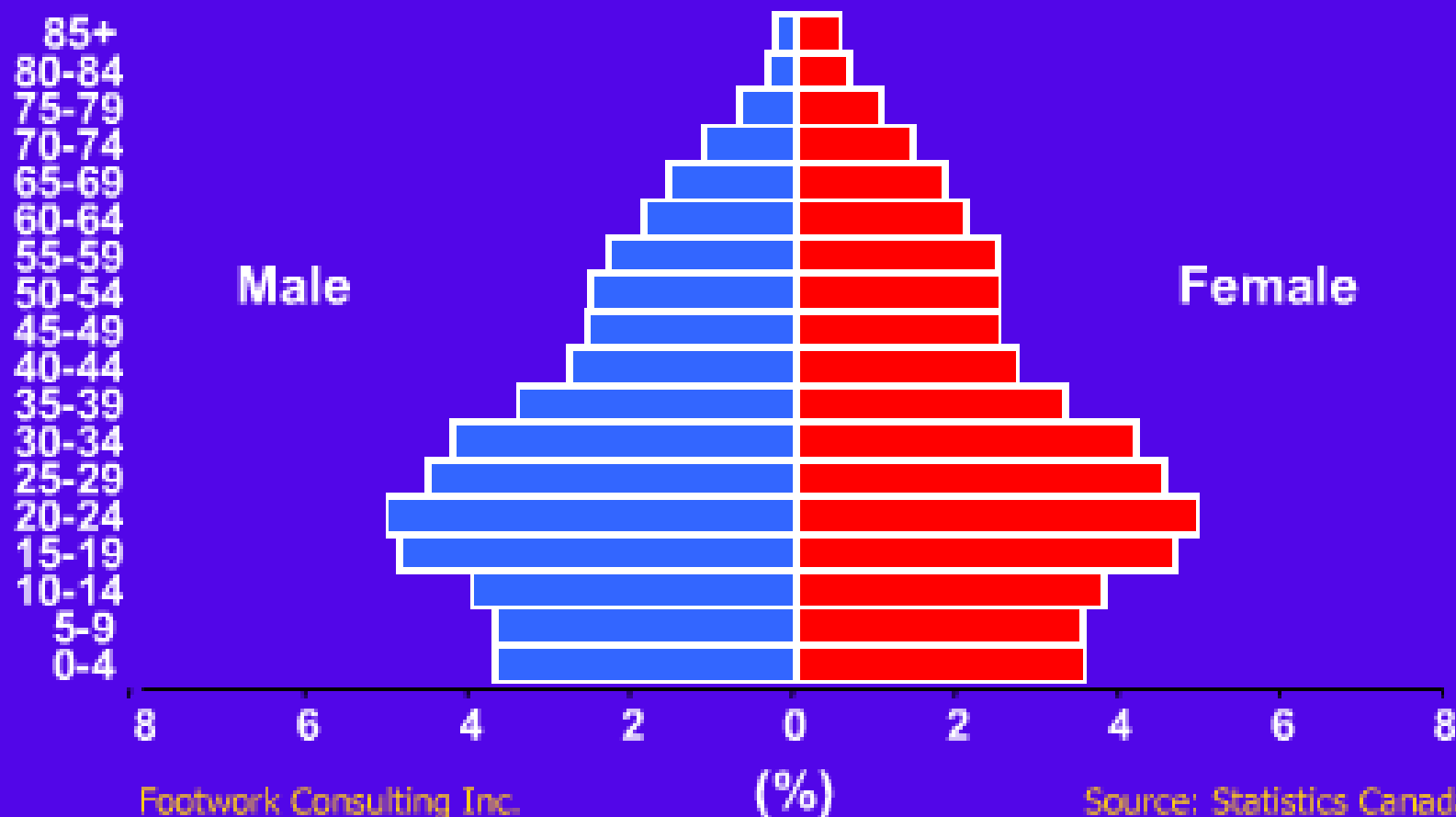
Canada: Population Pyramid 1981

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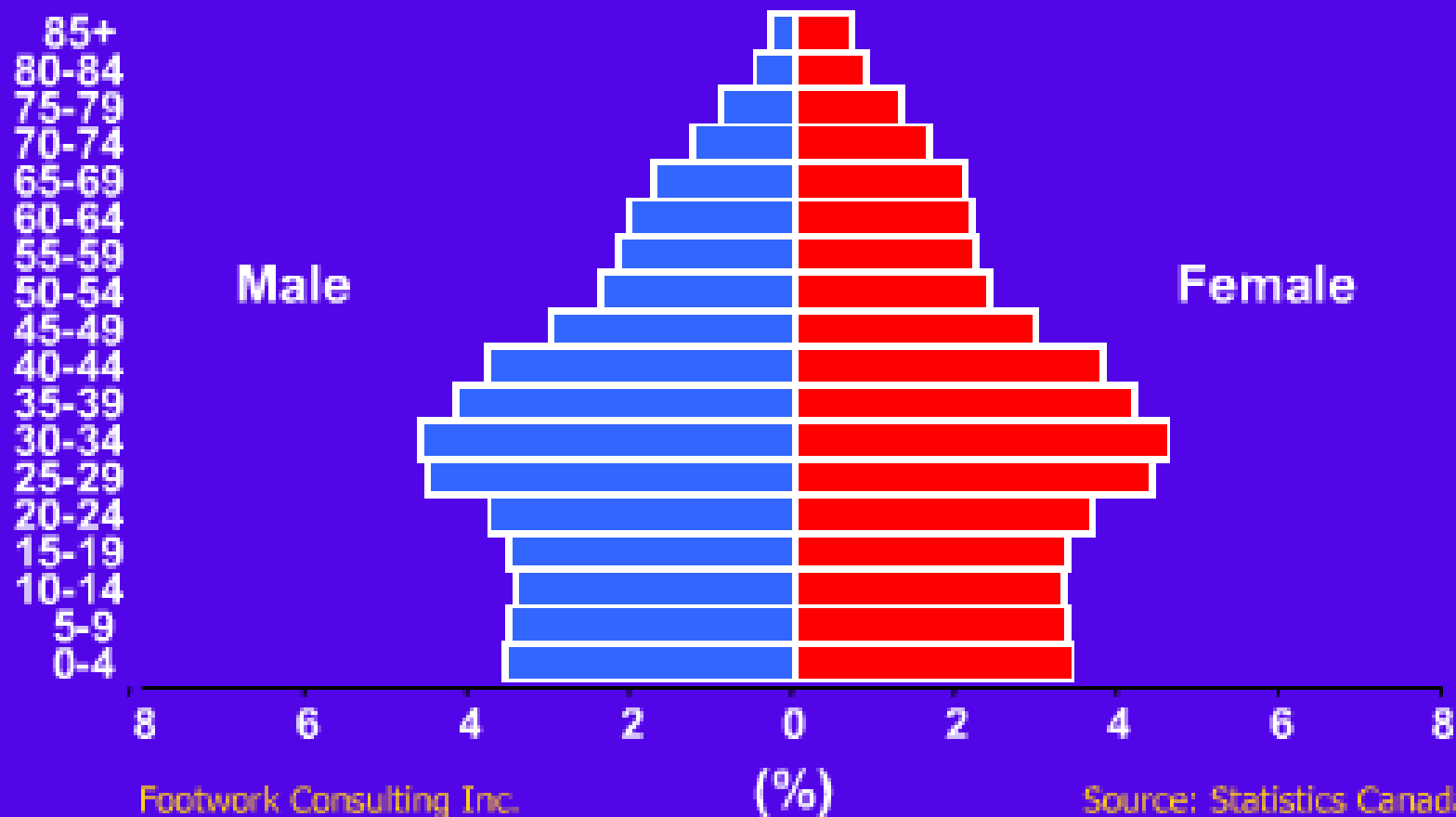
Canada: Population Pyramid 1991

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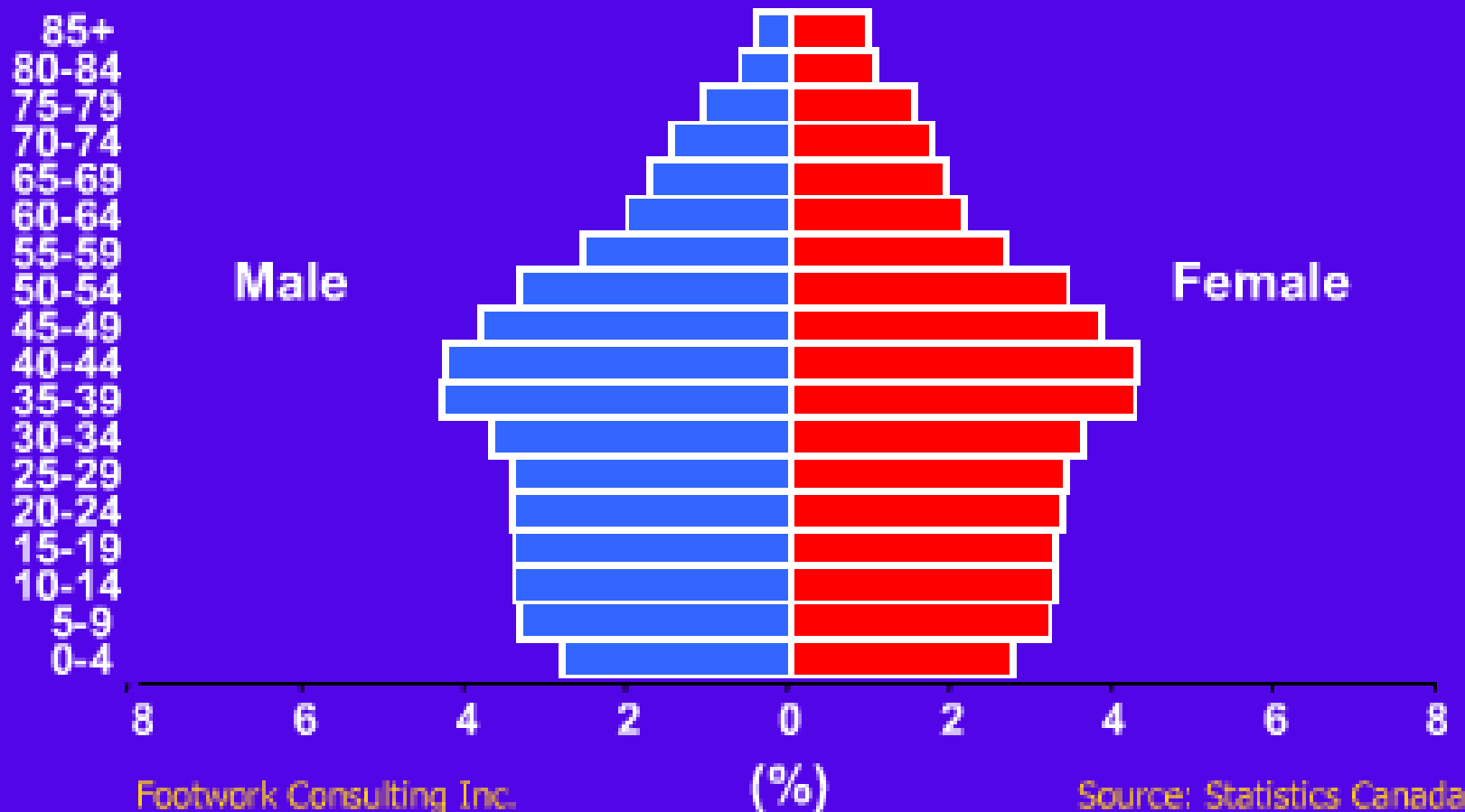
Canada: Population Pyramid 2001

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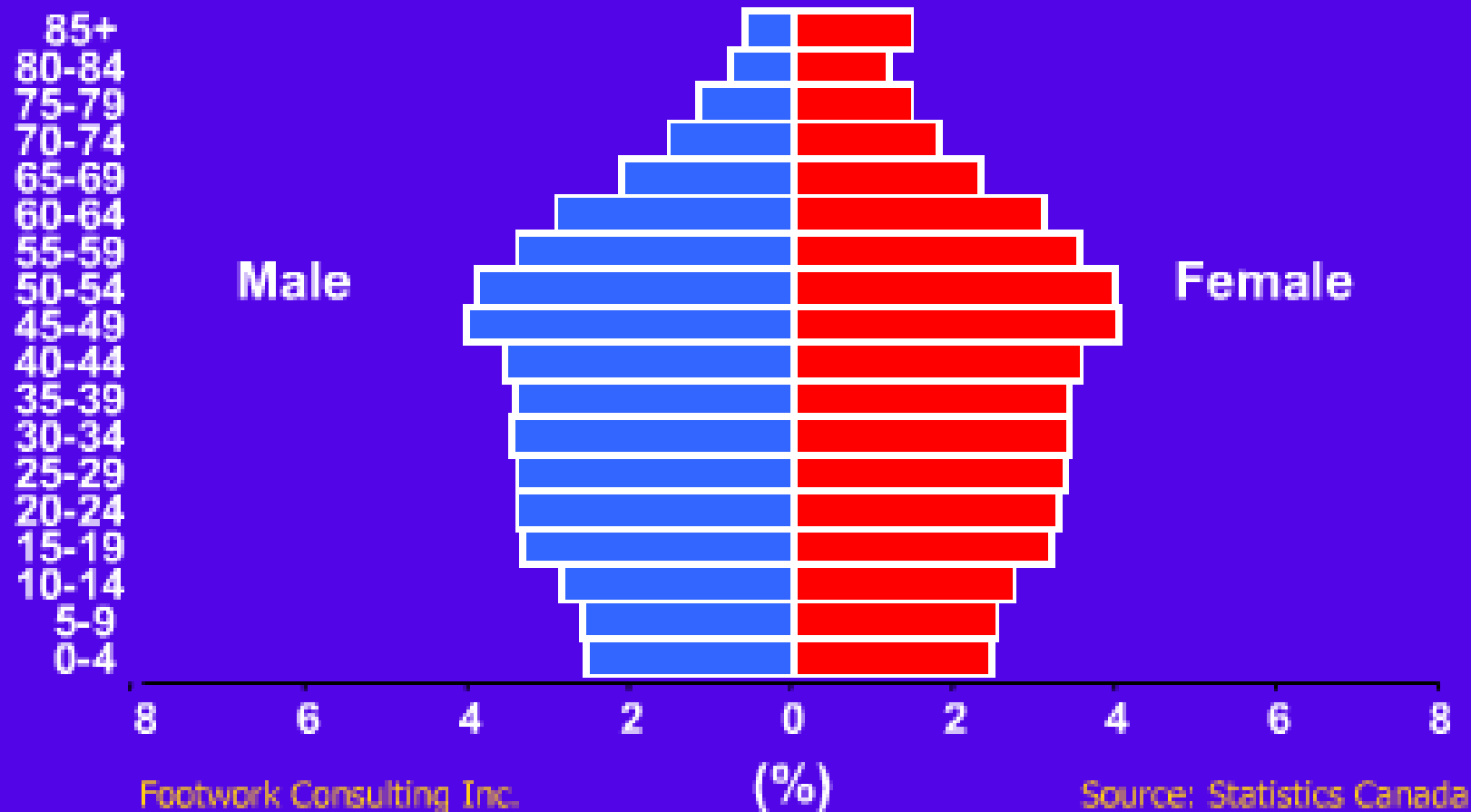
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Canada: Population Pyramid 2011

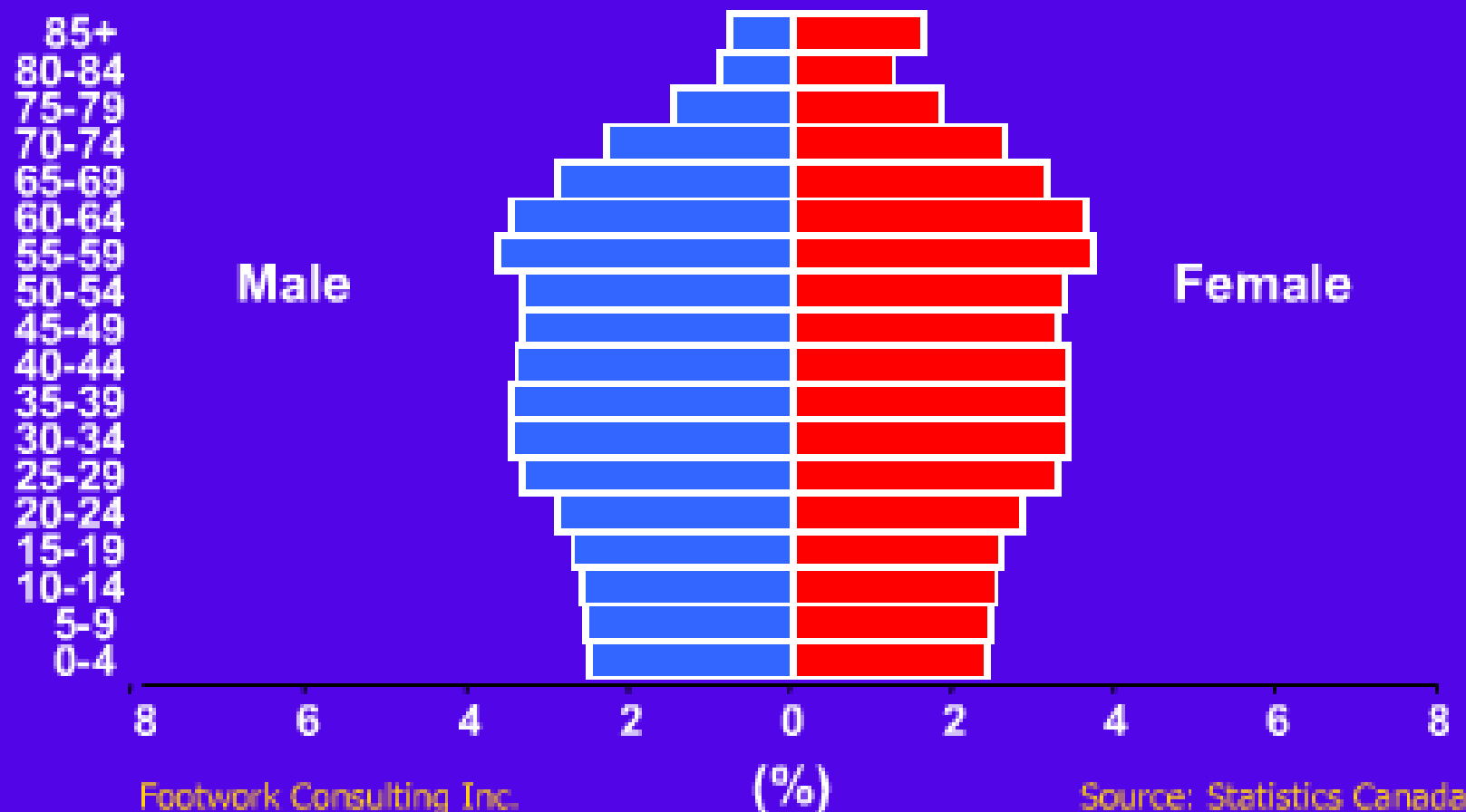
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Footwork Consulting Inc.

(%)

Source: Statistics Canada

Canada: Population Pyramid 2021

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Footwork Consulting Inc.

(%)

Source: Statistics Canada

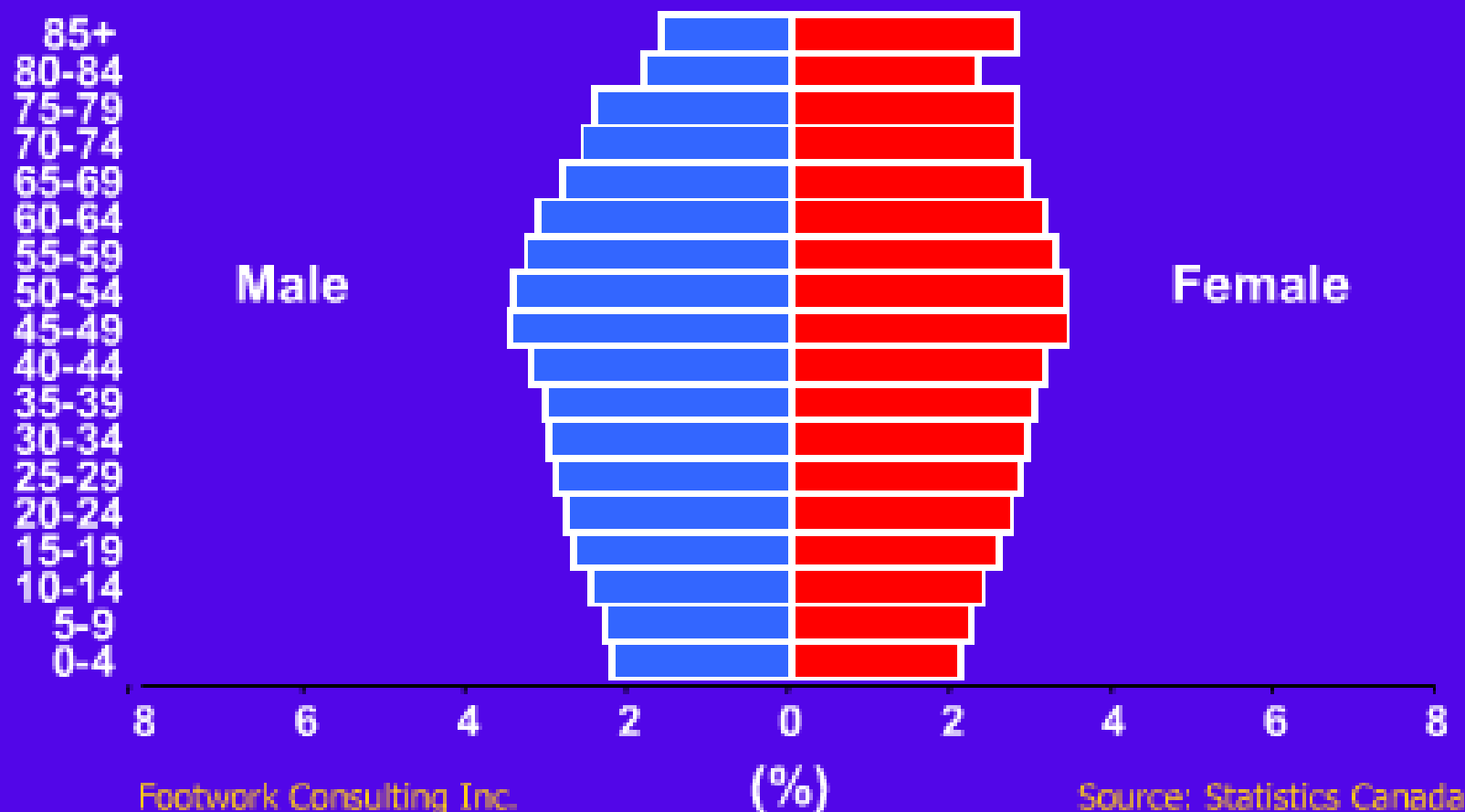
Canada: Population Pyramid 2041

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Footwork Consulting Inc.

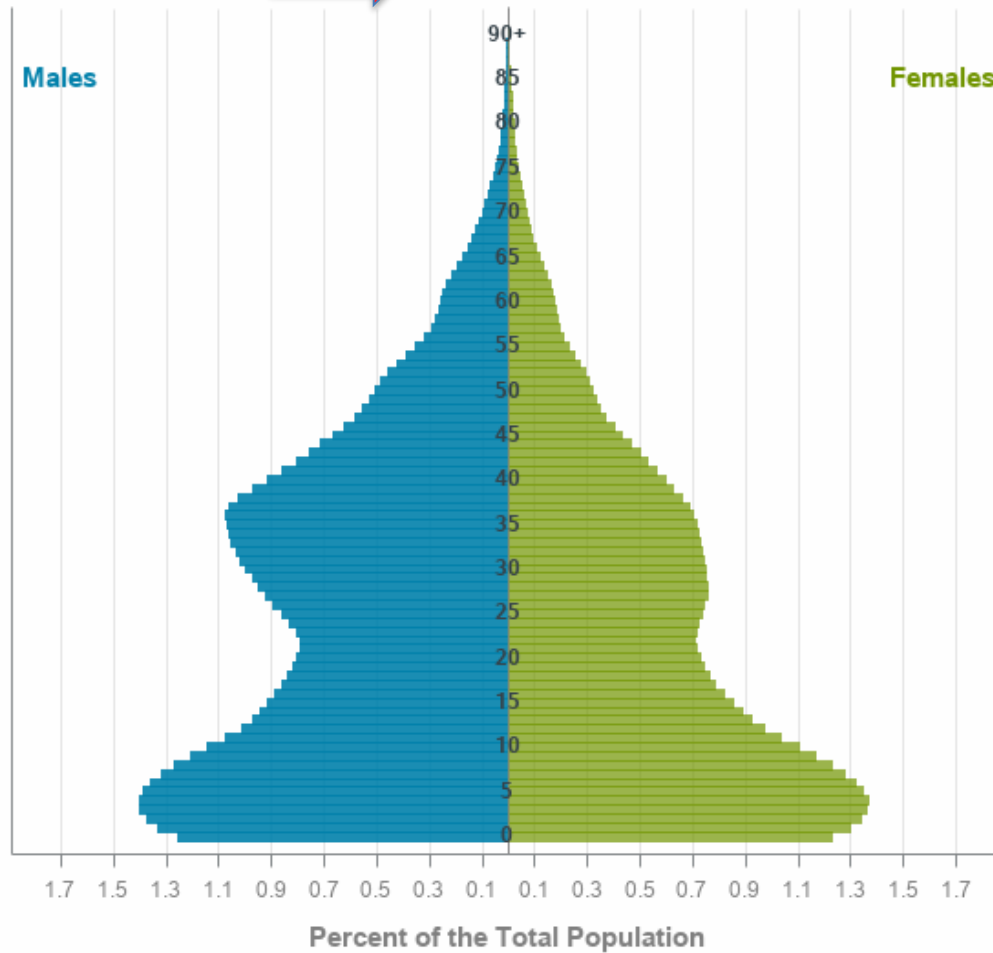
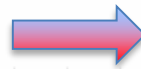
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Source: Statistics Canada

Alberta Population by Age and Sex

From 1921-2018

Year = 1921



Source: Statistics Canada

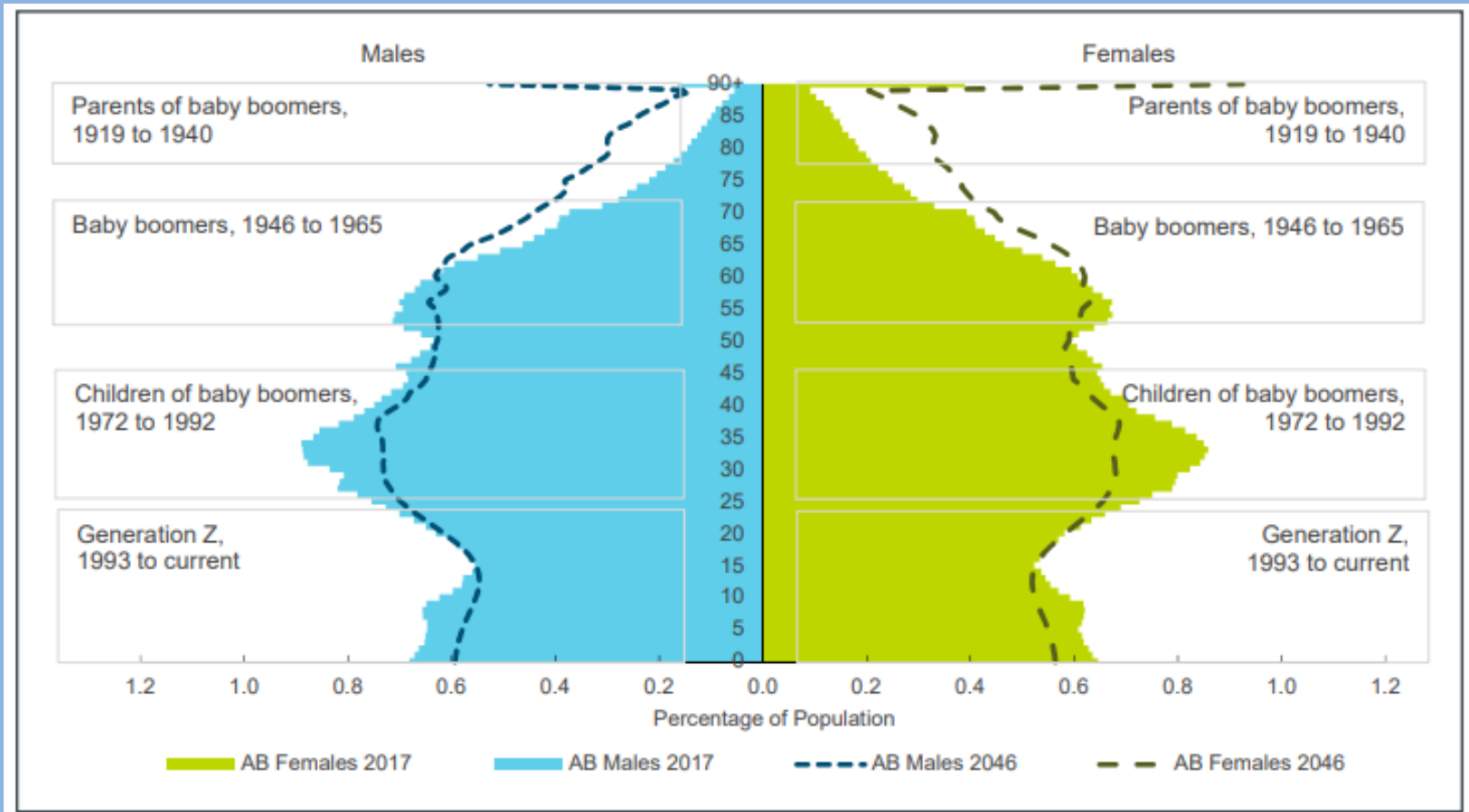
Produced by: Office of Statistics and Information

Last Updated: February, 2019

(Government of Alberta, 2018)

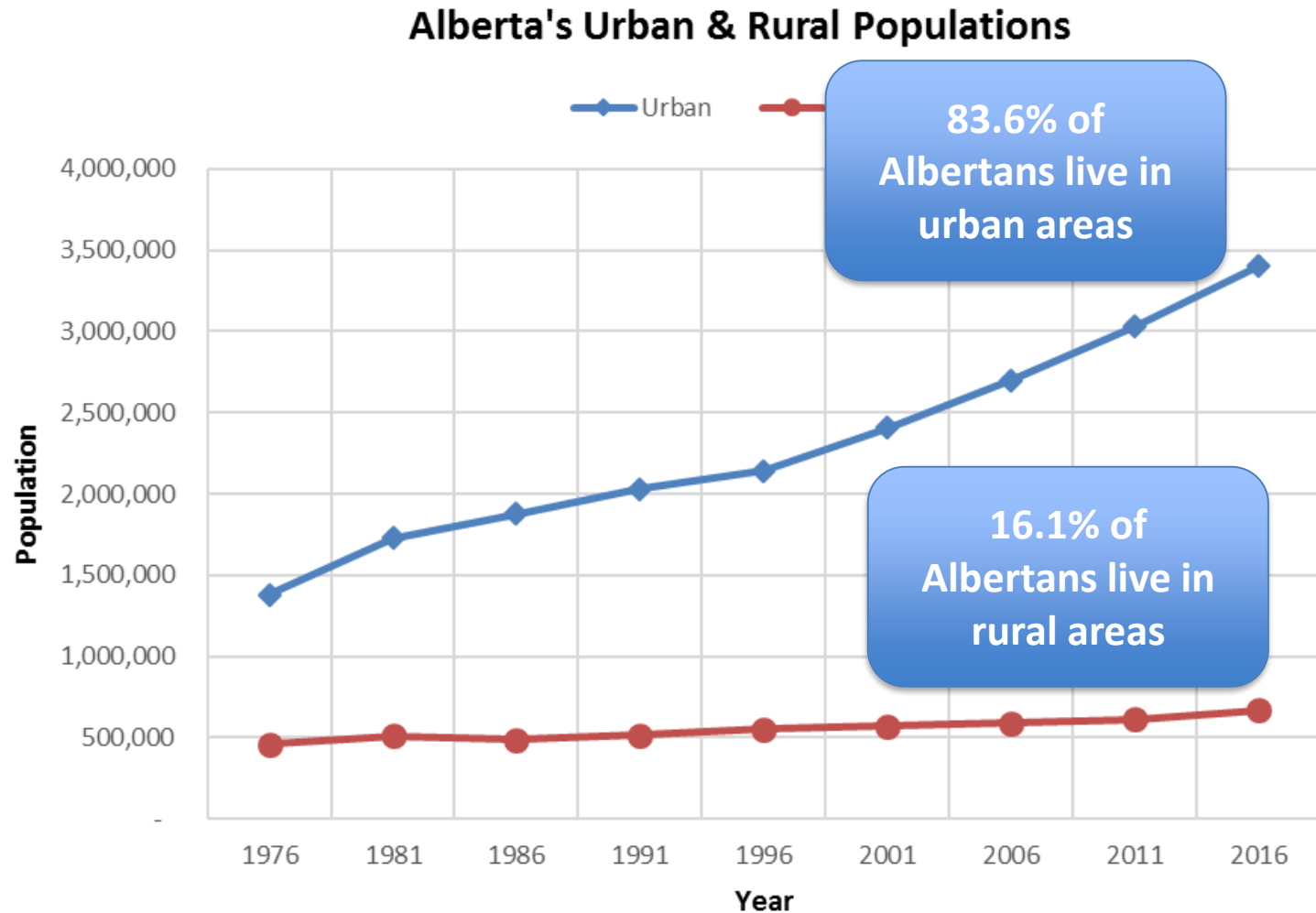
(Government of Alberta, 2018)

Alberta's Population 2017 vs. 2046



(Government of Alberta, 2018)

Alberta: Urban vs. Rural Populations



The Future:

Some things we can be fairly certain of...

- Immigration will become the sole source of population growth
- Rural communities will struggle to attract immigrants- and for many population decline will be inevitable
- Climate change will have unanticipated effects at a global level – both in terms of food security, loss of biodiversity and political instability

Some things we can be fairly certain of...

- For the foreseeable future global population growth will continue (currently increasing at more than 80 million people per year)
- Continental and global migrations are probable
- Global economic power will increasingly shift to emerging economies such as China, India and Brazil
- Economic stagnation (including no growth scenarios) driven by climate change, restructuring and related political instability will be an increasing concern
- We will increasingly reach for technological solutions, but our success with this is unknown

**Our challenge:
How do we respond to these issues?**



Ways not to respond!

A true story from Utah.

A city councilman, Mark Easton, lives in this neighbourhood. He had a beautiful view of the East Mountains, until a new neighbour purchased the lot below his house and built.

Apparently, the new home was 18 inches higher than the by-laws would allow, so Mark, mad about his lost view, went to the city to make sure they enforced the proper height. Mark and his new neighbour had some great arguments. The new neighbour had to drop the roof line - no doubt at great expense.

Recently, Mark called the city and informed them that his new neighbour had installed some vents on the side of his home. Mark didn't like the look of these vents and asked the city to investigate. When they went to Mark's home to see the vent view, this is what they found...

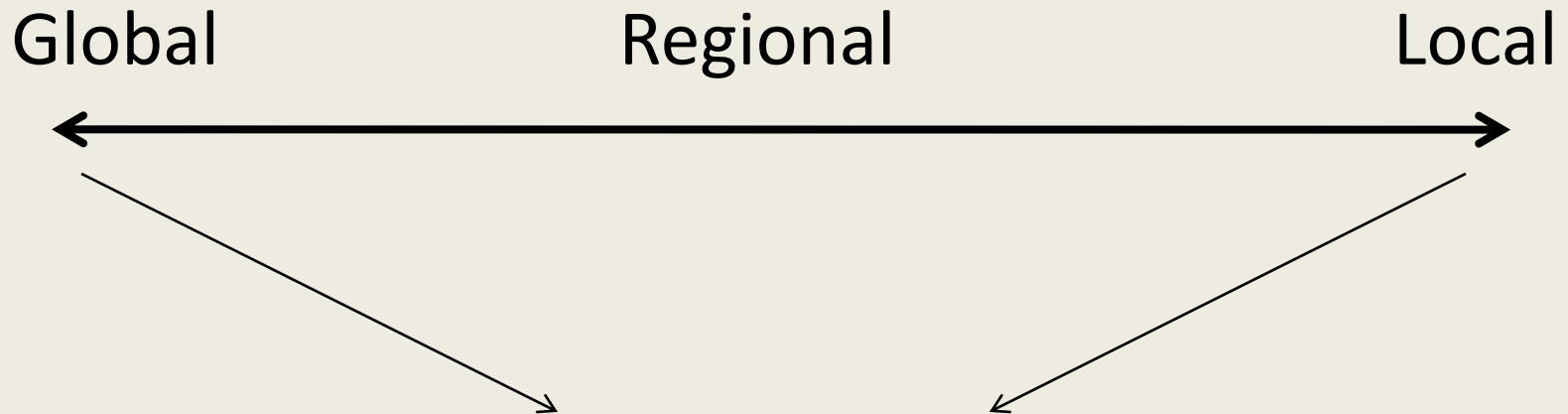


How do rural regions respond in a province/country increasingly dominated by urban issues?

Locally, develop an understanding of the community - strengths and weaknesses. Develop a vision and action plan to reach for the desired future.



Responding to Community, Economic and Environmental Issues

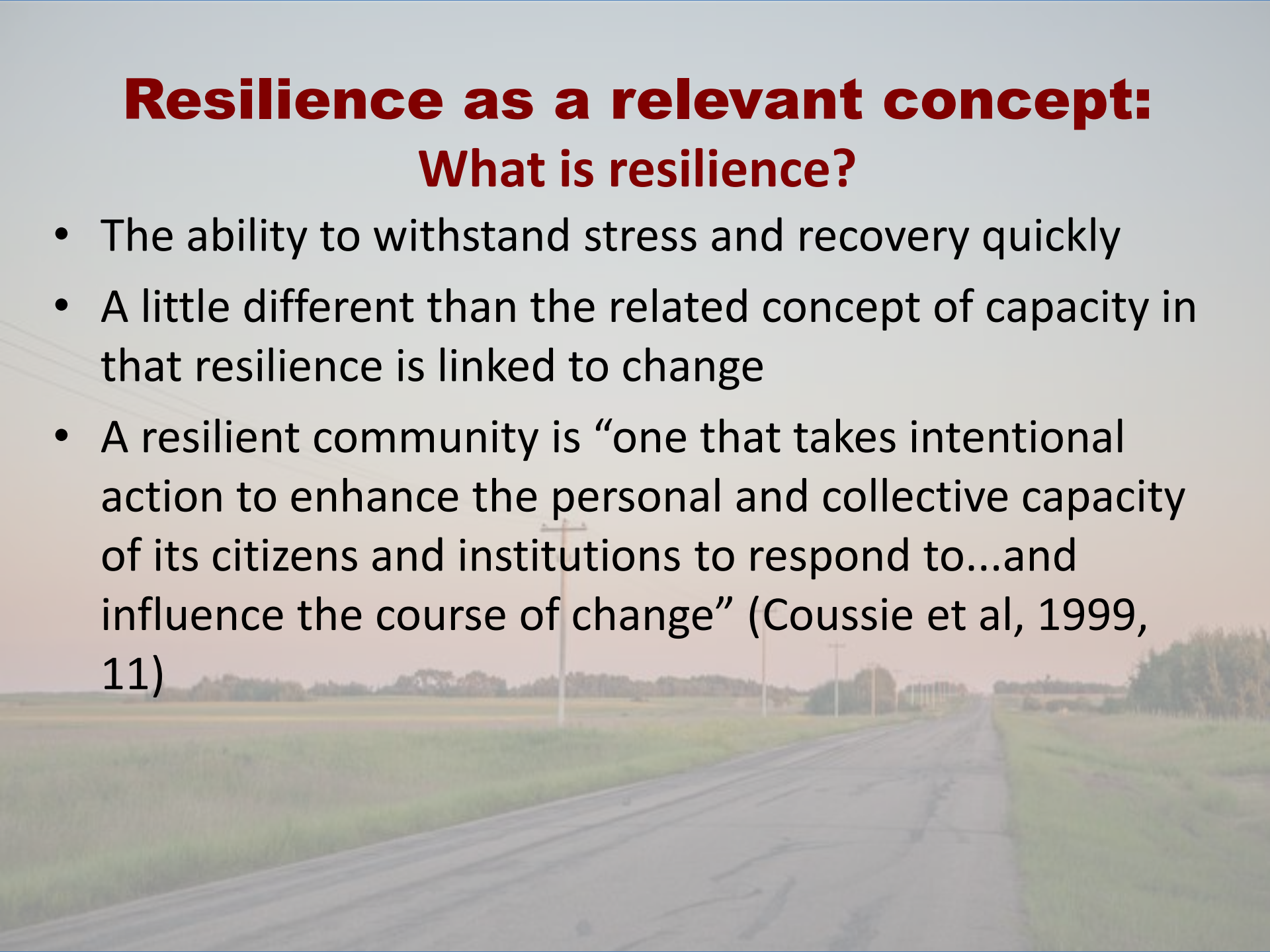


**Local response
required**

Resilience as a relevant concept:

What is resilience?

- The ability to withstand stress and recovery quickly
- A little different than the related concept of capacity in that resilience is linked to change
- A resilient community is “one that takes intentional action to enhance the personal and collective capacity of its citizens and institutions to respond to...and influence the course of change” (Coussie et al, 1999, 11)



Resilience & Planning

- Planners can work with communities to effect the direction of change
- The notion of resilience requires a broad perspective & definition of planning that blends
 - the economic
 - the environmental, and
 - the social
- Planning for resilience means building capacity in these three areas...

5 characteristics of resilient organizations

- Clear mission
- Shared decision making
- Trust building
- The encouragement of openness
- Enhanced individual & collective competence

(Cadell, Karanaiw, and Sanchez, 2001, 27)

How Might Communities Respond?

Model of Sustainability



Any Questions?...
Moving on to Part B

