

# Hidden treasures: estimating intergenerational wealth transfers in rural Canada

## INTRODUCTION

This document provides a summary of a recent research journal article by Alex Petric and Ryan Gibson published in 2025 titled “*Hidden Treasures: Estimating Intergenerational Wealth Transfers in Rural Canada.*”

## SUMMARY

This research is an initial attempt to estimate how wealth is transferred across generations in rural Canada. Focusing on housing as a primary asset, the study estimates the scale of intergenerational wealth transfers and explores the risks of wealth leaving rural communities without targeted intervention. The research uses data from the Canada Revenue Agency and Statistics Canada to create a series of low, medium, and high projections over 10, 20, and 50 years.

### KEY FINDINGS:

- ❑ **Significant Wealth Transfers Taking Place in Rural Canada:** Throughout the country, projections show significant intergenerational wealth transfers based on housing assets
- ❑ **Spatial Variation:** Wealth distribution varies by proximity to urban areas, with noticeable differences among the provinces.
- ❑ **Supporting Local Re-investment of Family Wealth Could Boost Rural Prosperity:** Even modest levels of retained wealth could have a substantial impact on rural community development.
- ❑ **Understanding Wealth Transfer Patterns Helps Plan for Rural Economic Futures:** Knowing how wealth transfers can help rural communities design better strategies for long-term development.

## IMPLICATIONS

- ❑ **Intergenerational wealth is a major but overlooked rural development resource:** Rural Canada holds significant latent wealth that could be mobilized to support local development.
- ❑ **Without a plan, intergenerational wealth transfers will leave rural communities:** Charities like community foundations have a role to play in retaining and reinvesting wealth
- ❑ **More research on wealth transfers can improve rural planning:** Understanding how much wealth is moving and when it might move is critical to rural development.
- ❑ **The projections include low, medium, and high scenarios,** showing that future rural wealth transfers could vary depending on economic and demographic conditions.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

The full publication titled “**Hidden treasures: estimating intergenerational wealth transfers in rural Canada**” can be accessed online at [Regional Studies, Regional Science](#).

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