

Introduction to UDIRA

What is UDIRA ?

UDIRA is an acronym for “Urban Development in Rural Areas”.

UDIRA is a concentration of lots which is unserviced or inadequately serviced. That is, “urban development” equates to “concentrated” and “rural area” to “unserviced”. In contrast, “rural development” means “spread-out” and related to resource activities.

UDIRA may be linear or in-depth in form; i.e. along the sides of a single road or highway or along several intersecting or parallel roads in the same area.

UDIRA is located outside present and former towns and cities. It is also located outside the former Class 4 communities, which were defined by the Province in the 1980's as other, usually serviced, concentrated settlements.

Why is UDIRA an Issue ?

UDIRA can have a number of effects on matters which fall within the jurisdictional or other interest of the municipal or provincial government.

There can be SERVICE INEFFICIENCIES & INCREASED COSTS in school bussing, solid waste collection and emergency services. SCHOOLROOM SHORTAGES can result because schools designed for a rural demand base now

are facing an influx of students.

OVERLOADED ROADS can result from commuting traffic, frequent driveway accesses and school bus stops. There can be HIGH FUTURE SERVICING COSTS if problems arise with septic tanks and groundwater quality and quantity.

There can be GOVERNANCE ISSUES due to the rural municipality collecting the property taxes while the adjacent town provides services and employment. LAND USE CONFLICTS can arise between residential development and resource industries, often leading to the loss of the resource land or industry. Finally, there can be RURAL LANDSCAPE LOSS if sprawl reduces the attraction of the natural landscape for residents and tourists.

Where Do We Look for UDIRA ?

We would expect to find UDIRA within the “urban shadow” in the area of sub-urban population density (see “Population Density” report). We would expect it near urban population concentrations (see “Growth in Rural versus Urban Municipalities” and “New Census Urban” reports). Finally, we would expect to see it where the rural population is increasing sharply (see “Urban Population in Counties” report).

