REGIONAL GOVERNANCE IN THE PERIPHERY

LESSONS FOR RURAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
POLICY AND PRACTICE

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Project Introduction

- Re-emergence of the ‘region’
  - New Regionalism

- Key project goals
  - Critical assessment of new regionalism in Canada
  - Examine Canadian innovations in regional development
  - Enhance understanding of how innovations evolve and if shared across networks
New Regionalism

Integration

Multi-level collaborative governance

Innovation and knowledge flows

Place-based development

Rural-urban interdependence
Case Study Descriptions

1. Eastern Ontario (ON)
2. Kittiwake REDB (NL)
3. Kootenays region (BC)
4. MRC Rimouski-Neigette (QC)
5. Northern Peninsula region (NL)
Investment Mentality

- Post-WWII period of massive rural infrastructure investment (both social and economic)
- Post-1980s economic and political restructuring views rural development as an expense
  ... massive infrastructure deficit
- New regionalism offers measured practices to renovate an investment approach to rural development
Three Key Emerging Themes

- Resistance in the shift to governance
- Resource reinvestment
- Harnessing networks and partnerships
Resistance in the Shift to Governance

- Has there been a shift of governance to local/levels?
- Northern Peninsula Regional Collaboration Pilot Initiative
- Regional Economic Development Boards
Resource Reinvestments

- Difference models of sharing
- Varying levels of resource control

Columbia Basin Trust
St Anthony Basin Resource Inc.
Harnessing Networks and Partnerships

- Most networks are informal
- Institutionalized networks are required
- Indian Bay Ecosystem Corporation
Implications

- Implications for Policy Makers
  - Good models of regional governance exist
  - What are the measures of ‘good’ investments in regional governance?
  - Picking ‘low hanging fruit’
  - Building/strengthening regional institutions is an investment
Implications for Communities
- Who is the voice of region?
- Recognition that time is an investment

Implications for Researchers
- What is the research agenda for governance?
- How do demonstrate benefits to decision makers
- How to ‘scale up’ governance pilots?
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