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
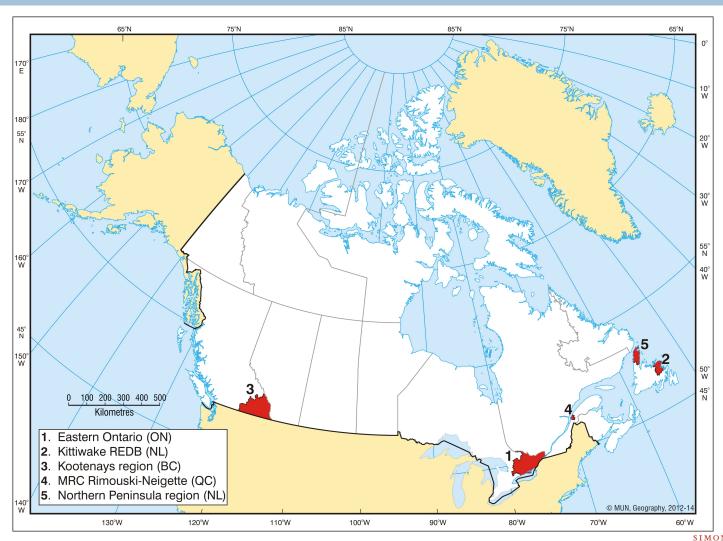 - Enhance understanding of how innovations evolve and if shared across networks

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New Regionalism

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)

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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

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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

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- 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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