

TALKING GOVERNANCE FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Ryan Gibson

University of Guelph

Our Way Forward: Sharing Knowledge and Building Capacity
for Regional Development Conference
St Anthony, NL

UNIVERSITY
of GUELPH



**CHANGE
AHEAD**

Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation

- a charitable institution committed to bettering the lives of rural Canadians through collaborative research and education
- enhances the understanding of rural issues and opportunities
- facilitates national and regional dialogues

www.crrf.ca

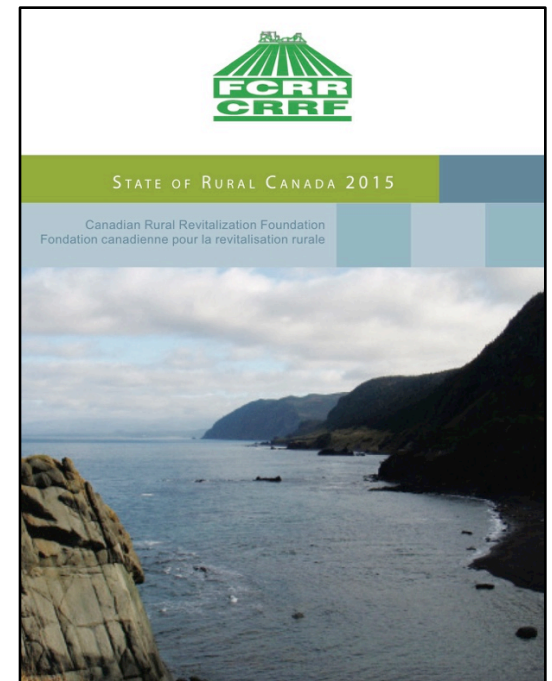


State of Rural Canada 2015

- » rural paradox
 - » sites of wealth production
 - » infrastructure deficits

- » need for comprehensive strategy for rural areas

- » www.sorc.crrf.ca





GOVERNANCE

new governance is the revolution
that no one noticed

Reimer (2004)

COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE

- Is initiated by public agencies/institutions
- Participants in the governance forum include non-government actors
- Participants engage directly in decision-making
- Formally organized and meets collectively
- Aims to make decisions by consensus
- Focus on public policy



governance and regional development

- » opportunity to enhance on existing relationships
- » opportunity to build on local assets
- » opportunities for place-based priorities

new forms of governance

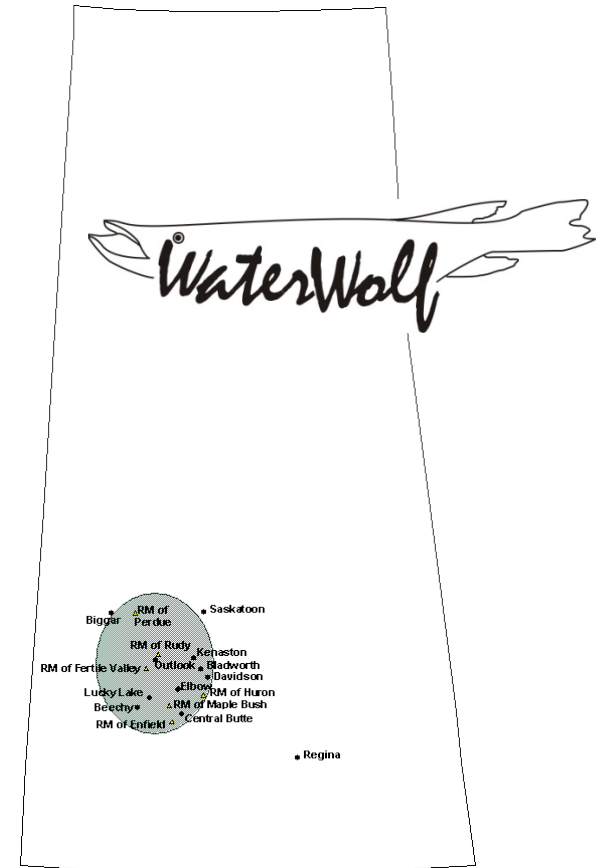
frustration with central governments

local empowerment

rise of multi-community collaboration

WaterWolf RRT

- » established 2005
- » water technician services, regional planning, GIS, land use planning, service delivery
- » identity of local communities maintained



Upper Madawaska

- » 6 local service districts, 4 villages
- » 58% voted in favour of creating 'Upper Madawaska'
- » 10 municipal taxes rates in the region

ICI  acadie
+ DE RÉGIONS ▾

• ACCUEIL |
• POLITIQUE

Les électeurs disent « oui » au regroupement du Haut-Madawaska

PUBLIÉ LE LUNDI 14 NOVEMBRE 2016 À 21 H 00 | Mis à jour le 14 novembre 2016 à 21 h 29



Des résidents du Haut-Madawaska réagissent à l'annonce que le regroupement municipal a été accepté PHOTO : RADIO-CANADA

Le projet de regroupement des districts de services locaux (DSL) pour former une communauté rurale dans le Haut-Madawaska, au Nouveau-Brunswick, est finalement accepté par la population.

Un texte de [Antoine Trépanier](#)  

2009

“Government will work with regional leaders to explore collaborative forms of governance that advance regional sustainability”

NP Pilot Initiative

to provide advice to government decision-makers

to create an inclusive forum in the region for discussions of challenges and opportunities

to provide advice on how government can development/support innovative regional collaboration

challenges

local communities

- competition to collaboration transition
- legitimacy concerns
- 'who' speaks for new governance
- new governance not status quo for government

government

- assumption local has capacity
- need new 'mechanisms'
- maintaining participation
- evaluation of new governance

2009

“Government will work with regional leaders to explore collaborative forms of governance that advance regional sustainability”



2016

“By 2019, Government will implement regional governance pilot(s)”

suggestions

#1

You are not alone!

**“The current system
does not work –
everyone knows it,
yet no one will
make a change”**

#2

re-arranging local
governance should
not be a mystery
novel

#3

New mechanisms
are required within
government to
work with
communities as
partners



SUCCESSFUL
COLLABORATION

It only works when everyone knows their talents.

#4
place
matters

PLACE PERIPHERAL

Place-Based Development in Rural, Island, and Remote Regions



Edited by
Kelly Vodden, Ryan Gibson,
and Godfrey Baldacchino

#5

changes to governance
is a long term initiative

contact



gibsonr@uoguelph.ca



[@ryanfgibson](https://twitter.com/ryanfgibson)



519-824-4120 ext. 56785



www.ryangibson.org



[ryanfgibson](https://www.linkedin.com/in/ryanfgibson)



www.ruraldev.ca

JOHN MAYNARD KEYNES

**THE DIFFICULTY LIES
NOT SO MUCH IN
DEVELOPING NEW
IDEAS AS ESCAPING
FROM OLD ONES**