Questions for Provincial/Federal Interviews – February 16, 2012

Basics/general:

- 1. Complete matrix/table Briefly describe some of your department/agency's key strategies, policies, plans and/or programs directed at regional development, the outcomes sought from these regional development policies and programs and applications and/or effects of the policy or program in case study region XYZ.
- 2. Does your department/agency have development strategies, policies, plans and/or programs specifically targeted to case study region XYZ? If yes, please explain (add to matrix).

(Note: some strategies etc. can be filled out in advance based on prior research but where listed in advance wait and see if the respondent mentions them in response to the question and indicate this in the notes section before continuing to discuss)

Key strategies, policies, plans and/or programs directed at regional development	Objectives/outcomes sought	Examples of applications in case study region and related outcomes	Other Notes

- 3. Does your department/agency or level government (i.e. provincial or federal) have an overarching strategy for rural or regional development? If "yes," rationale and principal components; if "no" why not?
- 4. In your experience, has the importance of regional programs and policy changed over the past two decades (e.g. since the mid 1980s)? If so, why?

Multi-level governance – complete matrix/table and draw from these probes:

5. Actors involved/collaboration – Who do you work with in developing and/or implementing your policies and/or programs?

Partners/collaborators:

- Participation of non-state actors? Extent of engagement? How encouraged?
- With other levels of government?
- With other ministries or departments?

Ways you work together/ways co-ordination takes place:

- What are the most frequent issues discussed or dealt with?
- How do you communicate (e-mails, face-to-face, regular meetings, occasional meetings, workshops, conferences)?
- How often? Who is involved, most often? etc.
- Who makes decisions (in fact, not just on paper)?
- How are conflicts or differing points of view managed?
- What accommodations or resources do you make available to facilitate the different capacities of partners, e.g. non-state actors (including child care, bending rules, travel funds, or funds for preparation of proposals?

Changes in these relationships over time:

- In what ways? changes in responsibilities, authority, resources, objectives?

Multi-level Governance Relationships - General

Partner/ collaborator	Role, responsibility or authority	Nature of relationship /ways you work together, make decisions, resolve conflicts	Changes over time in roles and relationships (e.g. over past one or two decades, since late 80s/early 90s)?	Other Notes

Multi-level Governance Relationships - Region-specific

Partner/ collaborator	Role, responsibility or authority	Nature of relationship /ways you work together	Changes over time in roles and relationships (e.g. over past one or two decades, since late 80s/early 90s)?	Notes

Integrated

If not already covered above:

General

6. To what extent, in their design and delivery, are your regional development policies and programs explicitly and concretely tied into those of other governments (i.e. Federal, Municipal, Aboriginal)? Please explain and provide examples.

Level	Ways that RD policies and programs are explicitly and concretely tied into those of these other governments	Other notes
Municipal		
Federal (for provincial reps)/ Provincial (for federal reps)		
Aboriginal		

7. To what extent have your policies and programme initiatives, in their design and delivery, explicitly addressed considerations other than economic development, e.g. cultural integrity, physical and mental health, community cohesion, local political development, environmental stewardship and other factors? Please explain.

Examples - "how so"?

8. In the design of your programme, were expected outcomes explicitly linked to required outputs, which were in turn backed up with explicit input requirements (e.g. budgets, completed projects, personnel resources)?"

If "yes", can you provide one or two concrete examples of this type of integrated planning?

Region-specific

9. Are there differences between the case study region and other regions in the level of integration across various levels of government? Between the various kinds of considerations discussed above? i.e., would your answers above differ for your policies and programs specific to the XYZ region?

Innovation and Learning

General

10. Does your department/agency have policies and programs that support and/or foster new ideas/approaches (i.e. innovation)? If yes, please explain.

Note: Research should be conducted on this advance and interviewers prepared to probe re. specific relevant programs.

11. What are the most important things you have learned about (rural and/or regional) development policy and practice over the past few years? How did you learn about it? May be absence of regional policy.

In general, how do you learn from what you are doing (i.e. evaluation, assessment)? Where do you get new sources of information/ideas?

Regional

12. In your experience, to what extent is the case study region innovative or not? Please explain.

13. What do you consider to be the most innovative policy, program, or action that has taken place in the region over the last 10 years? Which factors supported this innovation?

Rural-Urban Interrelationships

General

- 14. Which policies or programs, if any, in your department or agency address the relationships between rural and urban places? Explicitly? Implicitly? In practice?
- 15. What are the issues they address? PROBE: Food? Water? Environment (e.g. waste disposal)? Recreation? Culture? Land management? Trade (what types)? Institutional jurisdiction, rights, and responsibilities? Identity and culture (e.g. branding, aboriginal affairs, immigration)?

Rural/Urban Interaction Issue	Notes

Regional

16. Types and nature of rural-urban relationships in the case study region? Different than other regions in the province?

Place-based Development

If not already covered above:

General:

- 17. Co-construction: How are policies developed in your department? (see governance for overlap re: regional actors noted in the policy process);
 - a. Please discuss policy development from the perspective of government and community/regional roles.
 - b. Does your department have any mechanisms to facilitate participation from communities and regions? Organizations, residents, regional reps? How? Example?
 - c. Are policies centrally developed and tailored to regions; or do regional priorities drive policy formation?
- 18. How does regional participation matter to the process? What benefits result from regional participation in development processes?
 - Probe: Do place particular characteristics of the region (assets, liabilities, other characteristics) have a direct effect on the content of policy, the policy formulation process, and it intent?

19. What challenges are associated with involving regional participation in policy and program development?

Region Specific:

20. How does your department collect information from the XYZ region?

- Who participates (i.e., in this process of information gathering)? (see also governance for overlap)

21. How would you describe the identity of the region?