

## ABSTRACTS

MARTIN, F.: "L'entrepreneurship et le développement local : une évaluation": The theory of local development emphasizes local entrepreneurship. This theory is difficult to operationalize, however, since the entrepreneur is a vague concept. It is thus more convenient to use an alternative approach consisting of various modes of diffusing innovations. Furthermore, since small enterprises are the main diffusing channel of innovations within small lagging regions, one may inquire whether discrimination in favour of small business hinders interregional social efficiency. In fact, this is the case. Therefore, favouring local entrepreneurship is likely to become a way to redistribute income interregionally. Indeed, the solution to the problems of small lagging regions is likely to be more political than economic.

RABEAU, Y.: "Les salaires, les régions et la stabilisation économique": This paper deals with the regional behaviour of wages in Canada. After reviewing the existing results on this subject, various wage equations at the regional level are specified. Different data sources were used to estimate the equations. The results are compatible with the existence of regional labour markets where wage changes are related to local economic conditions. Moreover, the reaction of wages to local economic conditions varies among regions. The elasticity of wages to expected inflation also varies among regions. Hence, it is argued that in shaping macroeconomic stabilization policies one could take into account these differences in regional wage behaviour. Finally, it is emphasized that these results remain subject to various limitations and avenues for further research are suggested.

COURCHENE, T. J. and J. R. MELVIN: "Canadian Regional Policy: Lessons from the Past and Prospects for the Future": After reviewing some past approaches to regional development, it is argued that, due to national restructuring and fiscal restraint, these policies and approaches require reassessment. In particular, the nature of the current environment is such that regional policies need to be aimed in the direction of: 1) adjustment-cum-efficiency; 2) decentralization; and 3) greater private sector participation. Arguments in support of these

assertions are advanced on the basis of positive economic grounds, including a general equilibrium approach to regional problems.

SAVOIE, D. J.: "Courchene and Regional Development: Beyond the Neoclassical Approach": The neoclassical approach to regional problems is gaining increased attention, both in academic and in government circles. The principal solution posed by neoclassicists, among whom Courchene is a leading proponent in Canada, is to let the market forces resolve regional disparities. This paper argues that the neoclassical approach has important limitations and suggests that we must find another policy framework for Canada's regional development efforts.

McNIVEN, J. D.: "Regional Development Policy in the Next Decade": The pursuit of a more regionally balanced national economy has been a goal in Canada since the late 1950s. The regional policies of the past were not wrong, and yet they were not right either. Even before the recession of 1982 focused the nation's attention on the difficulties of the more developed parts of the country, public interest in the possibility of achieving some kind of regional balance in Canada had been declining. Federal fiscal problems have helped to lower what priority the regional problem might once have had. The regional development problem of today is very different from that of the past, and has arisen because of the effective distribution of the fruits of economic development across Canada. Three general principles must guide the creation of new regional policy: provision of incentive, respect for autonomy, and requirement for strategy.

BOURNE, L. S.: "Comparing Urban Systems: Measurement Criteria and Empirical Evaluations": Regularities in urbanization processes and in the spatial organization of urban systems are widely assumed to exist but are seldom tested empirically. Comparative analyses are limited by the relative absence of suitable data and consistent measurement criteria. This paper introduces a set of criteria and employs four of these in an examination of differences among developed countries in levels of urbanization, growth rates, city size distributions, degrees of population concentration and primacy. Such differences can be accounted for in terms of variations in levels of income, economic development, settlement density, export specialization, and by the distinction between market-based and centrally-planned economies.

DAVIS, H. C.: "Income and Employment Multipliers for Seven British Columbia Regions": Income and employment multipliers are constructed for seven regions in British Columbia. The multipliers reveal the amount of local value added and man-years of employment generated per dollar of wages and salaries paid by regional employers. These

multipliers are distinctive in their formulation in that they incorporate substantial information from a survey-based input-output model of one of the regions.