

## Abstracts

AULD, D. A. L., and P. DILWORTH: "Residential Land Values, Zoning, and the Producer-Protection Hypothesis": The performance of a land-use regulating regime with respect to zoning applications to permit non-conforming uses is analyzed in this paper. It begins with a review of the framework within which regulatory decisions about land take place; particular emphasis is placed on the trade-off between equity and efficiency. The role of political and private instruments to reveal preferences about land are explored as well. A binary choice model is used to analyze actual decisions rendered by the planning authorities in a typical, diversified Canadian city. The model indicates that the degree of forcefulness in opposing a non-conformity is highly correlated with the probability of the application being refused. In addition, the willingness of an applicant to modify a proposal clearly enhances the success of the proposed change. Finally, the model demonstrates that the average income of the area in which the change is proposed is not statistically a factor in the final decision.

LANGLOIS, A., and E. RAZIN: "Self-Employment among Ethnic Minorities in Canadian Metropolitan Areas": This paper examines the influence of metropolitan structural opportunities on entrepreneurship among major ethno-linguistic minorities in Canada. Analysis of the 1981 Census data indicates that opportunities for minority entrepreneurs were slightly higher in the three largest Canadian metropolitan areas (CMAs) than in smaller CMAs and varied considerably among the large CMAs. Self-employment in low-barriers-to-entry industries had a particular role in the upward mobility routes of immigrant groups in Montreal and Toronto. The ethno-cultural milieu of Montreal, however, drove minority entrepreneurs to distributional activities unassociated with assimilation. Minorities tended to be overrepresented in the self-employed sector because of their overall lower accessibility to salaried jobs. But the ethnic entrepreneurial concentrations of, for example, the Greeks in Montreal or the Germans/Dutch in Toronto and

in other Ontario CMAs, did not seem to offer these groups paths to economic advancement more attractive than salaried jobs.

SIDDIQ, F. K., and M. P. BROWN: "Economic Impact of Environmental Production": This study defines the *environmental industry* as an economic entity and provides a first attempt at measuring its contribution to the economy. In particular, the study uses a random sample of private sector suppliers of environmental goods and services in Nova Scotia to estimate the size distribution, productivity levels, and growth potential of environmental production in Nova Scotia. It was found that the environmental industry makes an important contribution to the provincial gross domestic product and employment, has achieved a high level of productivity compared with that of other resource-based industries, and has the potential to grow at a rapid rate over the next five years.

DE VANSSAY, X., and Z. A. SPINDLER: "Regional Rent-Seeking in Canadian Sales Tax Reform": This paper investigates the regional and sectoral basis for interest group competition over the Canadian government's proposed replacement of its manufacturer's sales tax (MST) with a goods and services tax (GST). The Canadian provinces are viewed as crucial participants in the federal government's tax reform game. Provincial positions in this game are affected by the influence of their own special-interest groups as well as by the resulting redistribution of the net provincial tax burden. The latter will depend in large part on the relative importance of services versus manufactured goods in each provincial economy. The evidence suggests that replacing the MST with the GST will shift the associated burden away from the central provinces to the western provinces which partly explains the existing patterns of political opposition to and support of the reform.