

## *Abstracts*

OLFERT, M.R., and J.C. STABLER: "Industrial Restructuring of the Prairie Labour Force: Spatial and Gender Impacts". The reallocation of labour to nonagriculture sectors is a necessary consequence of restructuring in primary agriculture. The ease with which these adjustments can be made will depend on opportunities in other sectors of the economy. Restructuring of the economy in the Prairie provinces has included an industrial restructuring of the labour force with a decrease in the relative importance of the goods-producing sectors as a source of employment and an increase in the relative importance of the non-goods producing sectors. This restructuring has favoured metro over non-metro areas as the former have captured a disproportionate share of the employment increase in the growing sectors. Females and males have both become more dependent on employment in non-goods producing sectors. Male employment increases during 1981-86 have been more concentrated in the non-goods producing sectors than female employment increases as the latter are more widely distributed across industries. Non-goods producing sectors continue to be the major sources of employment growth for the female labour force in both metro and nonmetro areas.

WELLER, G.R.: "Regionalism, Regionalisation, and Regional Development in a University Context: The Case of the University of Northern British Columbia". This paper analyses the nature of northern British Columbia and the regional pressures and arguments that led to the opening, in 1994, of the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC). The paper discusses the attempts the university has made to regionalise its operations and the problems that it has encountered in so doing. It also analyses the ways in which regionalism, both provincially and within northern British Columbia, is likely to affect the development of the university. Comparisons are made with other universities established in earlier decades in other parts of the circumpolar north. The paper concludes that UNBC could successfully regionalise its operations and have a significant effect on regional development in northern British Columbia, but only if it is treated appropriately by government and the private sector within the context of an overall plan for northern development.

SNODDON, T.R.: "Majority Voting and Local Public Goods Provision: Does Myopia Matter?". This model examines local public goods provision in a regional model with migration when government fiscal decisions are made according to majority voting. In this context, local public goods provision rules are derived and equilibrium levels of public goods and welfare are compared under alternative assumptions regarding individual myopia. The results show that when individuals are heterogeneous and public goods are financed by uniform head taxes, majority voting decision rules are invariant to myopia assumptions only when mobile individuals form the majority in both regions and each region's minority is immobile. A numerical example illustrates the effects of myopia on public goods provision and welfare levels.

MAXWELL, P.: "Trends in Regional Income Disparities: An Australian Perspective on the Canadian Experience". With parallels in their regional structures, one might expect similar levels and trends in regional income disparities in both Canada and Australia. But this has historically not been the case. Canada has had wide regional disparities while Australian regions have been remarkably homogeneous. Per capita incomes of Canadian provinces and territories have been converging since 1930. In Australia there appears to have been more of a cyclical phenomenon with current disparities similar to those in 1960 but still at quite a low relative level.

The argument of this paper is that despite a policy which has been pulling back from a paramount focus on regional economic equalization, Canada has now reached a level of regional income inequality close to that in Australia. In a mixed economy subject to business cycle activity such a level may be close to the optimum.

SKABURSKIS, A., and M. PILON: "The House Price Effect of the Canadian Constitutional Crisis: A Comparison of the Ottawa-Outaouais Sub-Markets". This paper assesses the effect of the Meech Lake controversy on the sales price of existing houses in the Quebec and Ontario parts of the National Capital Region. It shows that house prices differ in the two parts of the region but the rate of price increase was the same during the political turmoil that lasted close to four years. The real estate market remained remarkably stable during a time of apparent political instability and uncertainty. Changes in the expectations of future growth in prices that were being formed by people buying houses in Quebec and in Ontario did not differ during the 1987-1992 period even though the prospects of a disintegrating Canada would have had the greatest impact on the Quebec side of the border. The findings are consistent with the view that either Meech Lake did not change people's expectations of future prospects, or that house buyers on both sides of the border formed similar expectations. The general price increase in the region during this period and the steady expansion of the stock suggests that the Meech Lake controversy had little, if any, real effect on the investment climate in the region as measured by house price

changes. These findings suggest that expectations are formed more by observing recent price trends than by the rational consideration of future conditions.

DIFRANCESCO, R.J., and S.C. LONERGAN: "Examining Regional Sensitivity to Climate Change Using Aggregate Input-Output Data: The Case of Transportation in the Northwest Territories". The Northwest Territories (NWT) has been identified by global climate modellers as a region which could experience severe temperature and precipitation changes, over the next 30 to 50 years. The consistency of these findings across modelling efforts has caused serious concern on behalf of the federal government with regard to how this region could be affected. This paper presents work performed as part of a large federally funded effort (The Mackenzie Basin Impact Study) to determine how this region could be affected on all dimensions -- physical, biophysical, economic and social. Specifically, this paper presents an analysis of two scenarios of how an altered NWT climate could affect the NWT economy. Results suggest that climate change could have a measurable impact on the region's economy. Specifically, the results indicate that an impact on the water based shipping system could lead to significant sectoral impacts (concentrated on the household and service based sectors). The analysis also illustrates that the primary effect of a climatically induced expansion of barge capacity could be an efficiency gain for the entire transportation system of the region.

AMRHEIN, C.: "Testing the Use of a Hybrid Regionalization Scheme for Confidential Tax-Filer Data". The Small Area and Administrative Data Division of Statistics Canada maintains an annual sample of individual income tax returns. This data set is an excellent sample containing a range of socio-economic data at the individual level of resolution. As required by Canadian law, access to this data set is impossible due to requirements of confidentiality. However, customized aggregations of these records that preserve the requirements of confidentiality, and still maintain as much of the information in the data as possible would provide analysts a rich source of socio-demographic and economic data. This paper examines two issues: the usefulness of the data after aggregation, and the effect of aggregation by comparing simple statistics calculated (by Statistics Canada staff) on the micro-level, to the statistics calculated on the aggregated data. It is suggested that this rather unique data set provides a potentially rich source of data that should be exploited, and that important insights into the aggregation problem can be obtained.