

Abstracts

HOU, F., and R. BEAUJOT: "A Study of Interregional Migration Between Ontario and Atlantic Canada: 1981-1991". This study considers various types of migration and their impact on the population redistribution system. Using the individual files of the 1981, 1986, and 1991 Canadian censuses, we examine the composition and basic socio-demographic characteristics of the migration flows between Ontario and the Atlantic provinces of Canada. During the three census periods, primary migrants are the major component of out-migration from the Atlantic region to Ontario, and return migrants are the major part of in-migration from Ontario to the Atlantic region. The net loss for the Atlantic region, or net gain for Ontario, also affects socio-demographic composition. Primary out-migrants from the Atlantic region tend to have higher occupational attainments than primary migrants who moved into the Atlantic region from Ontario, even when the effects of regional difference in industrial structure are considered. On the other hand, return in-migrants to the Atlantic region tend to be less educated and have lower occupational attainments than those returning to Ontario. This re-selection process accentuates the concentration of population with higher socio-economic profiles in the more developed region.

SLOCOMBE, D.S.: "Understanding Regions: A Framework for Description and Analysis". Planning and managing a region, whether for economic development, environmental protection, or human amenities, presumes some understanding of the region. Recent trends toward participatory, multi-objective planning and management, such as for sustainable development, put a premium on integrated understanding of a region from varied perspectives such as ecology, economics, political science, and sociology. Modern regional planning and management must also contend with increasing complexity, change, and uncertainty in their current and future state. A conceptual framework for the larger issues of describing and analyzing regions is presented, derived from human ecological and nonequilibrium systems theories, and field experience with several regions. The framework focuses on developing understanding through the activities and products of four components: description, interpretation, perception, and intention. Several key points emerge.

First, description and understanding must be distinguished: description is a part of understanding, but only a part. Second, developing understanding requires attention to many substantive details of data: choice, collection, organization, measurement, and assessment; and to many procedural details: of how best to interpret data and reflect perceptual and intentional factors. Third, complementarily and in parallel there should be interaction and iteration from general and conceptual knowledge to specific and applied knowledge. Such an approach fosters integration of information on regional structures and processes, on past and present characteristics, and from a variety of substantive disciplines.

HOBSON, P.A.R.: "Reforming Federal-Provincial Fiscal Relations: An Assessment of Some Recent Proposals". This paper examines the disenchantment with federal-provincial fiscal relations in Canada which arises from a poorly defined allocation of federal revenues between federal programs and transfers to the provinces. It is possible to achieve a greater degree of fiscal disentanglement, without sacrificing the principles of fiscal efficiency and equity, within the same general framework as the existing system. Simply put, the block grant should be escalated in accordance with growth in federal income tax revenues rather than the ad hoc arrangements which have been in place since its inception. In particular, for CAP, this would involve converting the existing cost-matching system to one tied to average per capita entitlements. EPF could then be distributed among provinces under a formula that both separates out health care and education expenditures and equalizes for differences in need within each of the program areas.

BOADWAY, R.W.: "Fiscal Federalism and Social Policy Reform". Traditionally, the general view has been that income transfers were inherently superior to transfers in kind. However, the 'new public economics' is now cognizant of the fact that redistributive policy is multi-faceted and should play a role in the evolution of policy. In Canada, many of the instruments used for redistribution are provincial responsibility, yet the federal government retains major responsibility for redistributive equity. This paper explores innovative uses of fiscal arrangements to achieve redistribution goals. In particular, as the federation becomes more decentralized, a natural and legitimate consequence of improving the delivery of services implies that the fiscal arrangement should assume greater importance. This is the only means by which the federal government can insure that national objectives of efficiency and equity are maintained.

RUGGERI, G.C., D. VAN WART, and R. HOWARD: "Reassignment of Tax Fields and the Changing Federal Role". The allocation of spending responsibilities and taxing powers between levels of government is a fundamental issue in a federation. The divergence between these two elements is referred to as

vertical fiscal imbalance (VFI). Large and increasing VFI undermine the stability of a federation. Traditionally, in Canada, VFI has been addressed through intergovernmental transfers. Recent history of unilateral federal adjustments to formulas determining EPF and CAP payments indicate that federal transfers do not represent a stable and effective tool for correcting VFI which are large in magnitude and increasing through time. In this paper, we concentrate on the opportunity to restore fiscal balance to the Canadian federation by a reassignment of tax fields to produce a closer dynamic match between the revenue raising capacity and spending demands of each order of government. Our dynamically balanced assignment of tax fields differs on one major element: we propose a substantial increase in the occupancy of the personal income tax system by provinces. Such a reassignment would involve an important shift in the federal role. The federal government would exercise less control and more coordination. This role is consistent with the position of Canada as a mature federation operating as a small open economy within a global market.

LAMARCHE, R.: "Local Development: A Selected Review of the Literature". This paper presents a brief history of the genesis of local development efforts since the 1950s. It classifies the volumes, articles, and reports reviewed into three broad streams depending on the approach taken by the authors. The studies in the first stream take a market approach to local development, those in the second have adopted a sociological approach and those in the third stream cover special issues. The paper also presents reasons that might explain why regional scientists have been absent for the most part in the discussions on local development theory and practice. Finally, the study attempts to identify a number of common factors found in most of the local development projects that have experienced a degree of success.

POOLE, E.: "A concise description of Statistics Canada's input-output models". This paper describes in a user-friendly, but technical manner, the national and international provincial input-output (I-O) models maintained by the Input-Output Division of Statistics Canada. It provides considerably more detail than previous texts including an up-to-date description of the specific treatment of unspecified leakages and fictitious commodities and industries. The paper should provide a greater understanding into the present structure of Statistics Canada's I-O models and help outside users, who often use Statistics Canada I-O tables, in constructing their own I-O models.