

Abstracts

NAQVI, K., B. SHARPE and A. HECHT: "Local Attitudes and Perceptions Regarding Development: Parry Sound, Ontario".

Fiscal restraint and international economic restructuring is changing Canadian regional development practices from growth-pole to community-based approaches. Widespread community support and co-operative effort is seen as the comparative advantage of community-based development. Thus, attitudes and perceptions regarding development are critically important, since appropriate institutions and activity cannot emerge without broad support. A survey of Parry Sound residents reveals that there is great concern regarding economic conditions and general support for community-based development. However, there is little understanding of integral community-based development concepts and low awareness of existing local institutions and practices. Furthermore, there is some polarisation between the business and general populations regarding both appropriate directions for future development and the area's problems and potential.

SIMARD, M.: «Immigration agricole au Québec: Impact sur le milieu rural et le développement régional [Agricultural Immigration in Quebec: Its Impact on Rural Life and Regional Development]».

This paper studies the impact of agricultural immigration of the 1970s on Quebec rural life. A global and diachronic approach is used to examine numerous aspects of the insertion of the migrant families into their new communities. The paper discusses economic, social, political and cultural considerations which were significant to the overall impact. Starting from the initial project of economic development which drew the immigrants to the province, the various effects immigration can have on communities and regional development is highlighted.

EDGINGTON, D.W.: "Trade, Investment and the New Regionalism: 'Cascadia' and its Economic Links with Japan".

Japan is the most important international trading partner, source of foreign investment and overseas tourism of the 'Cascadia' region. To examine the nature of this relationship, comparative data were collected and analyzed for British Columbia, Washington and Oregon. Interviews were also conducted with trade officials and Japanese corporations in the Cascadia region. The findings indicate that economic links with Japan had been an important source of impetus and cohesion in the region, yet there were limitations inherent in its current trade and investment connections. These related to the relatively small amount of value-added products and services sold to Japan and an emphasis favouring metropolitan locations. The paper

concludes with policy suggestions to advance Cascadia as a centre for Pacific Rim hospitality, recreation and allied service activities.

LIPSHITZ, G.: "Regional Disparities: The Canadian Case in the Theoretical Context".

The economic growth or decline of many countries is spread unequally over the area of the country. In most countries, national economic growth is accompanied by an intensified polarization between regions and an increase in the disparities between them. Only in a few countries is national economic growth accompanied by a narrowing of regional gaps. Do regional disparities shrink or increase over time, and is governmental intervention needed to reduce them? There are three main schools of thought: the spatial-equilibrium school, the spatial-disequilibrium school and the radical school. This research presents the main arguments in the debate among these three schools, in general, and among Canadian researchers -- economists, geographers, sociologists, political scientists, and planners -- in particular.

HARTUNG, V.L.: "Regional and Statistical Variation in the Commodity Structure of Canada's Intra-Industry Trade with the United States".

The objective of this paper is to explore developing trends in intra-industry trade between Canada and the United States in order to better our understanding of evolving trade patterns between developed nations. The results from the analysis suggest that Canada has high levels of intra-industry trade with the United States and should take advantage of this economic closeness by developing clusters of like firms with its southern neighbours. If a statistic, such as an intra-industry trade index, can be used to measure the level of industrial interconnectedness, then policy initiatives can be developed that utilize the strategies of the successful or internationally competitive industry clusters across international borders such as Detroit, Michigan and Windsor, Ontario.

BROWN, W.M.: "Competitiveness in a Resource Dependent Region: The Case of Food Processing in Canada's Maritime Provinces".

One of the problems facing the Maritime economy has been an inability to add significant value to the region's natural resource output. This paper sheds some light on why this has been the case. It is hypothesized that there are significant differences between how low and high value added firms compete for markets, and that these differences point toward factors that hinder the region's ability to add more value to its resource output. Presented in this paper are the results of a mail survey of the region's food processors. The analysis shows higher value added firms tend to rely on more advanced factors and strategies to establish

and maintain markets, and that it is likely that there are significant constraints on their ability to pursue them effectively.

Contact the journal at: dwserve@nb.sympatico.ca