

## **Abstracts**

**MCPHERSON, A.D.:** Canadian Direct Investment in Western New York: A Tracking Study of Subsidiaries and Parent Companies.

This paper examines the economic performance of Canadian-owned business units located within the Western New York region of the United States. Canadian subsidiaries that were surveyed in 1991 were re-surveyed in 1997 with a view to assessing re-cent patterns of change across a variety of dimensions, including employment growth, market expansion, and strategic goals. The empirical results indicate that growth performance has been strongest among subsidiaries in the manufacturing sector, whereas rates of market exit and/or relocation have been particularly evident among service establishments. The results also suggest that growth within the Western New York area has not been accompanied by any significant disinvestment in Canada. The paper concludes with a brief discussion of the role of Canadian foreign investment in the economic integration of Upstate New York and Southern Ontario.

**MOAZZAMI:** "Regional Wage Convergence in Canada: An Error-Correction Approach".

This paper examines the convergence hypothesis for ten provinces and two regions of Canada using wages per unit of paid labour as the economic indicator. This is done within an error-correction framework which allows testing the convergence hypothesis as a long-run proposition while allowing for short-run disparities to take place. Our results provide strong support for convergence in Canada.

**DUHAIME, É.:** «The "Archipel" Project: Historical Background and Evaluation of the Theoretical Basis» [Le projet archipel: historique et évaluation des fondements théoriques].

This paper questions the theoretical basis for a large water development plan, the "Archipel" Project. We start by presenting the historical background of the project, based on different feasibility studies published between 1979 and 1986. The theoretical relevancy of the three main stages of the project (hydro production, flow control and water-front development) is then examined in more detail. Our main conclusion is that the "Archipel" Project is an economic development tool that was diverted from its initial purpose to be transformed into a development plan aiming to resolve outlying problems affecting only a minority of citizens.

**KEEFE, J.M.:** "The Likelihood of Combining Employment and Helping Elderly Kin in Rural and Urban Areas Among Canadian Regions".

This paper analyzes regional differences in the likelihood that women will combine employment and eldercare responsibilities in rural and urban contexts. Analysis of a sample of women, aged 30 to 64 from the 1990 General Social Survey reveals differences among regions in the prevalence of women combining work and eldercare. Employed urban women in Ontario and B.C., especially women employed part-time, are more likely to provide assistance to elderly parents than are employed rural women in these regions. In Atlantic Canada, helping elderly parents is consistently more prevalent among the rural population regardless of employment status. Using selected aspects of restructuring theory with socialist feminism as a guide, these findings reinforce the importance of place to understand the likelihood of combining employment and helping elderly kin.

**TARZWELL, G.:** "Canadian City Unemployment Rates and the Impact of Economic Diversity".

This paper analyzes city unemployment rates in an effort to better explain inter provincial unemployment rate differences. The paper concludes that thirty-two percent of the variation in unemployment across cities can be explained by controlling for economic diversity within urban areas and urban versus rural population ratios. Increasing industrial diversity tends to reduce unemployment while increasing occupational diversity tends to increase it. This paper would suggest that governments wishing to lower inter province unemployment rate differences should: firstly, compare rates that have accounted for urban/rural population differences; secondly, encourage industries that are diverse in the products that they produce but not in the types of labour that they use to locate in cities with above average unemployment rates.

**SKABURSKIS, A. and R. TOMALTY:** "Land Value Taxation and Development Activity: the Reaction of Toronto and Ottawa Developers , Planners, and Municipal Finance Officials".

This article presents the reactions of developers and municipal officials in the Ottawa and Toronto metropolitan regions to a policy that would increase the rate at which land is taxed while reducing the rate on the improvements to land. Its focus is on the effect of land value taxes on urban form and on their potential use in growth management. The interviews suggest that the land value tax would reduce land prices, encourage more dense development in parts of the region, and encourage early development as expected, given our theory of the

development process. However, the lower land prices do not translate into a greater ease of land assembly or the development of vacant land in the built-up part of the city and a number of impacts on the development process are revealed. The interviews raised ethical, practical and administrative concerns that would have to be addressed when setting taxation policies that aim to increase the efficiency of urban land use. Conclusions are developed regarding the use of land taxes as part of a broader planning approach that tries to make urban regions more compact.

**WEERSINK, A., C. NICHOLSON, P. COUGHLER and A. NOVAKOVIC:** "Comparison of Dairy Farm Family Support Systems in New York and Ontario".

Satisfaction of family services by dairy farm households is compared between four neighbouring regions in Ontario and New York to determine the effect of government agricultural and social support policies. Dairy families in Ontario are much more likely to be satisfied with government-sponsored services such as medical care, especially in comparison to families in northern New York. The greatest differences in satisfaction levels for family services were noted between eastern Ontario and northern New York, which are less densely populated and have lower dairy farm incomes than the regions examined in the western part of their province/state. Few differences were found in satisfaction with family services between regions of the same state or province, suggesting that government policy has a larger impact on satisfaction than more geographic specific differences. Personal characteristics and objective attributes of the service were found to have a modest effect on satisfaction. Instead, the major determinants of family service satisfaction were variables measuring the individual's standard against which the service was judged, such as perceived availability and attitude towards farm life. The result stresses the importance of including variables other than only objective information to measure social conditions.