

## *Abstracts*

DEVLIN, R.A.: "Regional Differences in the Labour Market Response to Volunteers". Using a national survey on volunteering, this paper establishes that the regional labour markets reward volunteers over and above their non-volunteering counterparts. The earnings differential accorded volunteers differs quite remarkably from region to region: from about 13 % in British Columbia to 1 % in the Atlantic provinces. Several factors may explain these differences which rely on the characteristics of regional labour markets and the reasons why volunteers may earn a premium over non-volunteers.

LUSSIER, G.R., L. BAKER and P.J. THOMASSIN: "Implicit Prices for Resource Quality Investments in Quebec's Agricultural Land Market". Public concern for the sustainability of agriculture has resulted in the development of policies and projects to protect the agricultural land resource for future generations. Whether public or private solutions are sought to protect our farmland resource, information about private market values are necessary. Without accurate information inappropriate or ineffective policy is a distinct possibility. Specifically, this research seeks to determine whether South-western Quebec's agricultural land market rewards entrepreneurs for investments in soil conservation and capital investments that are part of a sustainable agricultural farming system. Hedonic pricing models are used to derive implicit prices for various non-priced farm land characteristics. Results of an analysis based on survey data indicate that in fact the market does not reward investments in soil conservation investments.

KULSHRESHTHA, S.N., B. JUNKINS and R. DESJARDINS: "Mitigation of Greenhouse Gas Emissions from the Agriculture and Agri-Food Sector in Canada: A Regional Perspective". The agriculture and agri-food sector (AAFS) is a major contributor to the total Canadian greenhouse gas emissions, accounting for about 15 % of the total. In agriculture, emissions of methane and nitrous oxide constitute more than two-thirds of the total. In this study, homogeneity of various Canadian regions for contributions made by the AAFS to greenhouse gas emissions is examined. Results suggest that almost two-thirds of the total Canadian greenhouse gas emissions from farm level activities are produced in

the Prairies. Different strategies with potential for mitigating greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture were examined. Ontario is estimated to have the largest relative potential for reducing emissions from primary agriculture. However, some gaps in meeting the commitments made under the Kyoto Protocol may remain in almost all provinces. This study also suggests that development of mitigation strategies would, by necessity, have to be designed at the local (regional) level rather than at national level. Consideration of the spill-over effects of the strategies on off-farm economic activities should also be an important consideration in the final selection of mitigation measures for agriculture.

GAL-OR, N.: "Commercial Alternative Dispute Resolution in Cascadia". The paper focuses on the interface between two recent trends in the context of NAFTA: regionalism in the Pacific Northwest and ADR. The purpose of the research is to study the use of ADR as practised in the narrow "Cascadia Corridor". To what extent has ADR been utilised in private party cross-border commercial trade? Have any specific sectors been developing an aptitude for ADR over court adjudication? Which ADR methods have been preferred? What has been the degree of success of ADR, if any, and under what circumstances did ADR fail? When it failed, did the parties move on to court adjudication, non-third-party facilitated process, or abandoned the dispute altogether? Would a standardisation of ADR for the Cascadia Corridor be an attractive option? In what form?

MACPHERSON, A. and V. HARTUNG: "A Comparison of the Industrial and Market Characteristics of Canadian and US Firms in the Commercial Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Sector". This paper compares the industrial, technological, and market characteristics of Canadian and US firms in the commercial geographic information systems (GIS) sector. Evidence from a postal survey suggests that Canada's GIS sector differs significantly from its counterpart in the US. Specifically, Canadian firms tend to be more export-intensive, despite being less oriented toward new product/service development. In addition, many Canadian firms have developed export specialisations that mirror the resource-based nature of the Western and Maritime provinces. In terms of export destinations, US firms mainly serve markets in Canada and Mexico, whereas Canada's exports more typically go to developing countries and/or newly emerging markets. A further contrast is that Canadian firms are more likely to forge research partnerships with complementary firms (notably US ones). The paper concludes with a brief discussion of the nature of the Canadian GIS sector relative to its US counterpart.

FINNIE, R.: "Unequal Inequality: The Distribution of Individuals' Earnings by Province". This paper presents the results of an empirical analysis of earnings inequality at the provincial level based on the recently available Longitudinal Administrative Database. The paper addresses the following questions: Are there

significant differences in earnings inequality by province? What are the patterns of any such differences, such as along regional lines or with respect to income levels? Were there any important shifts in the level of inequality at the national level or in the patterns by province over the 1982-94 period covered by the analysis? Do the provincial patterns change when inequality is measured using earnings averaged over several years -- that is, taking earnings mobility into account -- or when other income measures are employed, such as when self-employment, professional, or investment income, or government transfers, are included, or when taxes are deducted? Entrenched in the Canadian political-economic-social psyche is the notion of "have" and "have not" provinces, but the results reported here should allow us to now also speak in terms of "more inequality" and "less inequality" provinces. Policy implications are discussed.

SIMARD, J.-F.: "Worker Mentality and Local Development" [Mentalité ouvrière et développement local]. This article is inspired by the traditional Quebec monograph. It describes how the arrival of a cotton manufacturing industry at the foot of the Montmorency Falls, towards the end of the nineteenth century, led rapidly to the emergence of a culture that typified the single industry village. The research thus illustrates how factory life and the work culture that it gave rise to shaped local identity, the particularity of social relationships, economic conditions and the socio-political evolution of this small worker community. The article then shows the multiple effects of de-industrialisation on this social entity and observes that the stigmatisation associated with the industrial identity survived the closure of the factory. The author argues that this phenomenon has contributed to the passive acceptance of the definitive disappearance of manufacturing from local life. Looked at in this way, the survival of the local worker mentality is seen as an obstacle to community economic development.

GUILAIN, R. and J.-M. HURIOT.: "The Local Dimension of Information Spillovers: A Critical Review of Empirical Evidence in the Case of Innovation". The primary aim of this paper is to show that there is empirical evidence to support the theoretical claim of a link between information externalities and the agglomeration of information-intensive activities. Theoretical reasoning provides consistent and realistic explanations for the agglomeration of information-dependent activities including producer services and R&D.

Empirical testing of these models raises a number of methodological problems. However, many empirical studies have been conducted into the local character of the diffusion of information. Much progress has been made over the last ten years and initial difficulties are progressively being overcome. Indirect tests provide a better understanding of information externalities and their consequences.

These advances focus primarily on one category of information externalities: the information spillovers emitted and received by R&D. Most studies show a close link between the need for more or less tacit information exchanges and the effective proximity of agents and/or between this proximity and the production

of innovation.

MASINDA, M.: "Local Systems of Innovation : What Potential for Less Advanced Countries?" [Les systèmes locaux d'innovation: Quelle portée pour les pays moins avancés?]. This reflection stems from the observation that the concept of 'local innovation system' is relevant for lesser developed countries in general, and particularly for those of sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), because it places emphasis on the black box from which technological development is produced. It permits us to demonstrate that the growth of businesses takes place more and more through the sharing and exchange of resources in contrast to traditional analysis which places the accent on their own individual resources. First, the concept of local innovation system is discussed in relation to the technological levels of development of SSA. Then, the logical outcomes of the concept are examined for technological policy development in SSA.