

Working
Paper

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The Role of Collaboration and Functional Governance in
Regional Economic Development

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Presented at:

Regional Economic Performance in British Columbia
Workshop

November 17, 2006
Laurel Point Inn - Victoria, BC

Purpose

Purpose – *to provide overview of regional economic networks and patterns of cooperation in comparative jurisdictions and determine how these networks impact economic performance*

Process

- Analysis of literature
- Review of economic development programs in BC
- Selection of case studies
- Discussion of key findings

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Presentation Outline

- Functional collaborative governance
- Collaboration and economic performance
- Economic Development in BC Context
- Case Studies
 - Cascadia
 - New Zealand Partnership Program
 - Canada's Technology Triangle
- Lessons Learned

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Regional Economies

- More focus on regions as drivers of national and international economy
 - Vancouver's CMA accounts for 53% of BC's GDP
- Issues span territorial divisions:
 - Transportation
 - Environmental
 - Security

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Functional Governance

Functional Governance – describes **collaborative** governance arrangements which can overlap multiple territorial jurisdictions and address specific issues i.e.

- **Pacific NorthWest Economic Region** fosters economic development in Pacific NW
- Public-Private Partnership of the American states, Canadian provinces and business leaders

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Collaboration & Economic Performance

Functional collaborative governance:

- Address challenges and creates opportunities across boundaries
- Link networks of public, private and not-for profit sectors, research institutions
- Improve cooperation and trust

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BC Context

- Flexible and collaborative regional governance system
- Economic development programs targeting infrastructure investment, innovation and underperforming areas/sectors
- More collaboration necessary on regional economic development

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Case Studies

- Cases selected based on existing accessible research and:
 - Complimentary to BC's flexible and collaborative regional governance system
 - Support increased regional economic development collaboration

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Other Potential Cases

- Other Cases:
 - European Union - INTERREG program
 - Greater Houston Partnership (US)
 - James Irvine Foundation – Collaborative Regional Initiatives (US)
 - Alberta Economic Alliances (CAN)
 - Multiple Regions
 - Okanagan Partnership (CAN)

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Case Study #1

Cascadia – Cross-border region including BC, Washington State and beyond...

- Multiple overlapping cooperative governance networks addressing specific issues:
 - Economic Development
 - Transportation
 - Sustainable Development
 - Environment



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Case Study #1

Cascadia Lessons Learned –

- Governance networks reframe issues and create opportunities not addressed by traditional territorial governments
 - PNWER security, energy and tourism initiatives
- Governance networks can develop and be sustainable in the absence of legislative or financial frameworks
- Private / not-for-profit sectors provide funding to support networks



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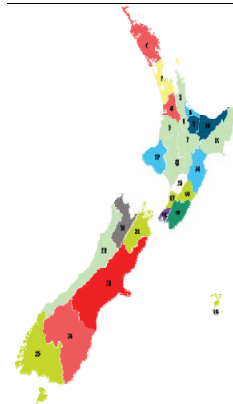


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Case Study #2

New Zealand Regional Partnership Program

- State funding for regional economic strategic planning and capacity building
- Locally driven partnerships
- Participation from:
 - State/Regional/Local Governments
 - Private sector
 - Tertiary institutions



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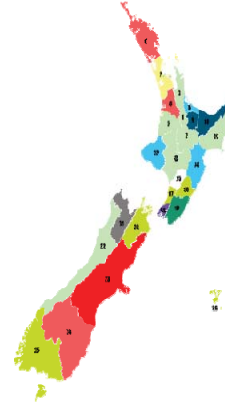


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Case Study #2

New Zealand Regional Partnership Program Lessons Learned

- Capacity building critical to success of regional economic development networks
 - Appropriate to scale of region
- 'Top-down' state funding can successfully encourage initiatives not undertaken by local government (or other organizations)
- Implementation flexibility important and achievable for a uniform state program



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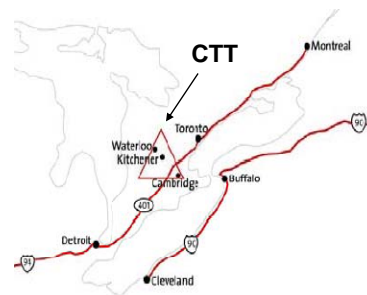


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Case Study #3

Canada's Technology Triangle (CTT) - Region of Waterloo, Ontario

- Local Government initiative to increase regional economic collaboration
- Resulted in joint marketing and information portal for the Region of Waterloo



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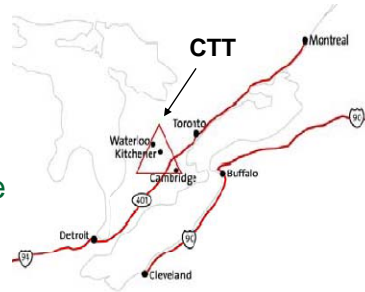


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Case Study #3

Canada's Technology Triangle Lessons Learned

- Regional cleavages can seriously limit the scope of economic collaboration
- 'Bottom-up' local initiatives require capacity building to support regional collaboration
- Lack of collaboration can limit economic development opportunities



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Lessons Learned

- Collaborative governance networks can form:
 - in the absence of policy and legislative frameworks;
 - through 'top-down' state investment; or
 - by local 'bottom-up' initiatives
- Collaborative regional governance requires trust and cooperation
- Incentives and capacity building critical to fostering collaborative regional governance

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