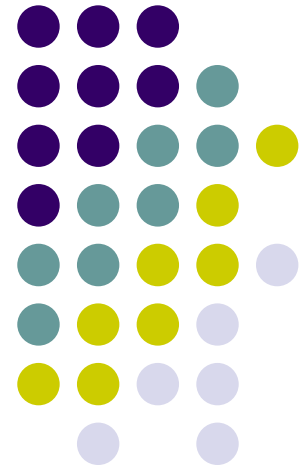


Thinking About Regional Governance

David Bruce, Director
Rural and Small Town Programme
Mount Allison University

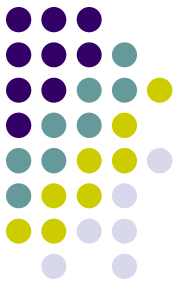
dwbruce@mta.ca
Rural Matters Conference
July 6, 2008



Purpose



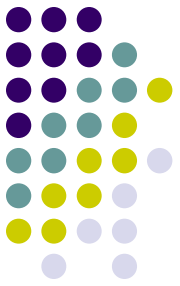
Present some ideas and examples to stimulate thinking about regional governance



What is governance?

Governance is the process whereby societies or organizations make important decisions, determine whom they involve and how they render account.

- Institute on Governance (www.iog.ca)

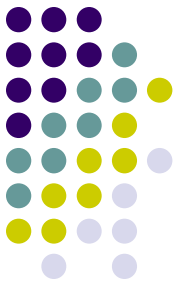


What is Good Governance?

Good governance is about both achieving desired results and achieving them in the right way.

- Participation
- Transparency
- Responsiveness
- Consensus orientation
- Equity
- Effectiveness and efficiency
- Accountability
- Strategic vision

- Institute on Governance (www.iog.ca)



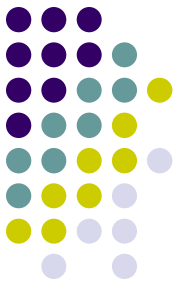
Regional... Concepts

- Changing urban structure
 - Edge cities
 - Peri-urban periphery – contested space
- City regions
 - Dominant core with vibrant large centres nearby
 - Usually accessible rural-recreation space nearby
- Clustering and economic agglomeration
- Corridors
 - Invest and manage to promote flows between growth poles
- Knowledge economy and technology
 - Debate over impact on removing distance as a barrier
- Environment
 - Watersheds
 - Eco-systems

Regional... Geographies



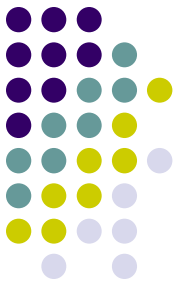
- Urban – Rural / Rural – Urban
- Multi-community collaboration
- Multiple types of municipalities and unincorporated areas



Motivations

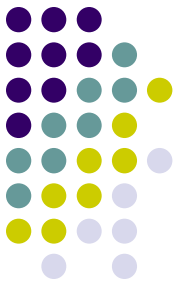
- Rising costs
- Declining population thresholds
- The search for efficiencies
- Avoid competition for scarce resources
- Take advantage of competitive advantages
- Share individual expertise not possible within one community or organization – broader base
- Whole is greater than sum of its parts

Urban-Rural Linkages are Multiple and Complex



- Trade and commerce
 - Goods, Finance, Services, People, Information
- Functional integration
 - Carbon sequestration, water protection, recreation
- Institutional integration
 - Health, education, social economy, NGOs, family
- Common environments
 - Water, air, climate
- Common identities
 - Local, regional, national, international

Starting Points



- A single issue or opportunity which leads to shared governance or management or partnership
- Often within or between existing municipal government structures
- Many existing regional service bodies already exist, but they are generally single service agencies
 - Solid waste
 - Transportation
 - Tourism
 - Land use planning
 - (Community) economic development



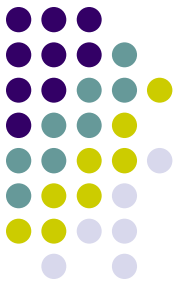
Opportunities

- Tourism (GoMoncton! & southeast NB)
- Economic
 - Labour force development
 - Industry clusters
- Land use management and preservation
 - District planning commissions
- Regional “branding” for marketing
 - CORDA – Where Business Moves
- Business Retention / Expansion / Attraction
- Labour force development strategies

Opportunities



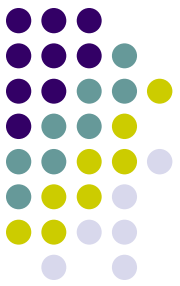
- Transportation infrastructure
 - Greater Fredericton airport bank
 - Wood River SK with 35 other municipalities
 - Purchased the Great Western Railway line
 - Secure grain transport in their area
- Solid waste
- Recreation facilities
- Protection services



Partnerships

- An agreement to do something together that will benefit all involved.
 - Share authority
 - Have joint investment of resources
 - Result in mutual benefits
 - Share risk, responsibility, accountability

Flo Frank and Anne Smith, 2000, **The Partnership Handbook**, HRDC.



Summary

- Important to understand initial motivations and starting points
- Need to think outside of traditional municipal boundaries
- Look at benefits across the region when development occurs in one municipality
- Leadership and innovation required