Bibliography on Rescaling and Regional Cooperation
Prepared by the Intergovernmental Committee on Urban and Regional Research (ICURR)
# Bibliography on Rescaling and Regional Cooperation

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AMALGAMATION AND RESTRUCTURING

MUNICIPAL PAPERS

Examines the persistence of municipal identities after amalgamation. It begins by presenting arguments for and against amalgamation. It focuses on the erosion of local identity and illustrates this through the experience in Miramichi, which was created by the amalgamation of the towns of Newcastle and Chatham in 1995. It provides information on the merger, the realized benefits of amalgamation, and how the distinct communities have remained post-amalgamation. It concludes with a summary of other New Brunswick amalgamations.

Presents highlights from Toronto’s change in municipal governance that occurred in 1998 when the regional level of government merged with six local governments. It describes: (1) how amalgamation has changed the governance structures and the service responsibilities from a federated two-tier system of government to a unified metropolitan governance structure for the City of Toronto; (2) the key features of the reform process; (3) the role that the new City of Toronto plays in the intergovernmental arena; and (4) in what ways the new governance structures have increased cooperation and coordination among political representatives, leaders of civil society, and the community.

Discusses amalgamation in St. John's and the fight to keep the Southlands, formerly from the City of Mount Pearl, amalgamation in Atlantic Canada (Town of Grand Falls-Windsor, Northeast Avalon, City of Miramichi, Charlottetown, City of Summerside, Cape Breton Regional Municipality, Halifax Regional Municipality, Region of Queens, and Saint John), municipal services in St. John's, arguments against amalgamation in St. John's, and a final analysis of the situation there.

PROVINCIAL PAPERS

Contains a detailed analysis of New Brunswick’s current local governance institutions and of the challenges they are facing today. Some of the recommendations include: the elimination of unincorporated areas; present local service districts, rural communities, villages and most towns reconstituted into larger municipal units; the establishment of 12 regional service
districts and boards; services (planning, solid waste management, policing, emergency measures and economic development) offered exclusively through regional service districts; increased fiscal autonomy for local government, including the abolishment of the current unconditional grant funding system; accountability and transparency measures for municipal government; the consolidation of various statutory provisions; use of a spheres of jurisdiction approach in outlining the by-law-making powers and responsibilities of municipalities; and implementation recommendations.

**A guide to voluntary municipal restructuring.** *(2008).*  
New North [*et al.*].  
*Regina, SK*: Saskatchewan Government Relations, Municipal Relations Division.  
Provides a step-by-step overview of the process of voluntary municipal restructuring to assist in determining if voluntary restructuring is desired. It lists quick facts on municipalities in Saskatchewan and several examples of municipal dissolution and incorporation in Saskatchewan. It then provides a step-by-step process for voluntary municipal restructuring. It also provides guidance on financial assistance for voluntary municipal restructuring and available help from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs. Appendix A provides a financial comparison worksheet and Appendix B outlines the process of village dissolution.  

**Does the number and power of municipalities matter for Saskatchewan’s development in the 21st century?** *(2000).*  
Saskatchewan.  
Discusses possible changes to the number and types of municipal governments in Saskatchewan. It outlines the preliminary report which covers issues such as the importance of the municipal system and multifaceted renewal; reviews the objectives, directions, approaches and requirements for renewal; and examines issues such as demographics, and financial features of the municipal system.

**Functional economic areas in Saskatchewan: A framework for municipal restructuring.** *(2000).*  
Stabler, J.C., & Olfert, M.R.  
*Saskatoon, SK*: Municipal Affairs, Culture and Housing.  
Provides a brief historical background of economic, agricultural and rural development in Saskatchewan since the beginning of the 20th century. It discusses two systems of functional economic areas: one based on an 11 region system and the other on 17. It examines commuting patterns, population projections and administrative framework. It includes the results of a public opinion survey. Includes recommendations.

**Managing changes to local government structure in British Columbia: A review and program guide.** *(2000, October).*  
British Columbia.  
*Ministry of Municipal Affairs.* Local Government Structure Branch.  
*Victoria, BC*: Ministry of Municipal Affairs.  
Provides the framework for local government restructuring activity in British Columbia. It explains the provincial interest in local government structures that adapt to changing circumstances; reviews the options available to local governments and communities that are considering restructuring; summarizes the historical trends in local government restructuring;
outlines the principles underlying restructuring; outlines the ministry programs which facilitate the process for restructuring local governments; and clarifies the roles of those involved in the restructuring process.


Reviews problems pertaining to the organization of the municipal sector and the key objectives of municipal reorganization in Québec. Only the summary is available in English.


Focuses on the need for and nature of municipal renewal within the Northern Administration District in Saskatchewan. It provides an overview of requirements for achieving municipal renewal; an overview of the factors that create the need and impetus for renewal; and a detailed framework of issues, options and potential directions that should be considered in undertaking municipal renewal.


Focuses on municipal renewal within the rural and urban sectors in southern Saskatchewan. It provides an overview of the factors that create the need and impetus for renewal; a detailed framework of issues, options & potential directions that should be considered in undertaking municipal renewal; and an overview of the requirements for achieving municipal renewal.


Includes the summary of the final report on rural and urban sectors and the summary of the final report on the northern sector. It discusses the need, vision and goals for renewal as well as the requirements and nature of municipal renewal.


Outlines the amalgamation process for Alberta municipalities. It covers why municipalities might amalgamate, how the process starts, what else happens, and what happens after amalgamation.


THINK TANKS AND INSTITUTIONAL PAPERS

The maturing metropolis: Governance in Toronto a decade from amalgamation. (2009). Côté, A. [Toronto, ON]: Institute on Municipal Finance and Governance, Munk Centre for International Studies, University of Toronto. Evaluates whether the amalgamation of communities within the Toronto metropolitan area has produced a mature metropolis that represents its residents based on four criteria: (1) effectiveness and responsiveness, (2) consensus oriented, (3) transparency, accountability and participation, and (4) maturity. URL: http://www.utoronto.ca/mcis/imfg/pdf/The%20Maturing%20Metropolis%20(Andre%20Cote).pdf

Municipal mergers and demergers in Quebec and Ontario. (2005). Sancton, A. Laval : Centre d'analyse des politiques publiques, Université Laval. Presents a history of recent amalgamations and mergers in both Québec and Ontario. It recounts the process of amalgamation in both Québec and Ontario and then tries to determine why the de-amalgamation movement has been successful in Québec, but not in Ontario. URL: http://www.capp.ulaval.ca/cahier_web/textes/Sancton.pdf

Intergovernmental relations and polyscalar social mobilization: The cases of Montreal and Toronto. (2003). Boudreau, J-A. Kingston, ON: Institute of Intergovernmental Relations. Looks at the significance of local autonomy movements that appear in reaction to municipal amalgamations in both Montréal and Toronto. URL: http://www.queensu.ca/iigr/conf/Arch/03/03-2/Boudreau.pdf

Revisiting municipal reforms in Quebec and the new responsibilities of local actors in a globalising world. Draft. (2003). Hamel, P.J., & Rousseau, J. Kingston ON: Institute of
Intergovernmental Relations.  
Looks at the history of Québec's municipal reforms since the Quiet Revolution; presents an overview of the new municipal reforms, particularly the political and institutional changes in Montréal; and, suggests an analysis of the limitations of these reforms.  
URL: [http://www.queensu.ca/iigr/conf/Arch/03/03-2/Hamel-Rousseau.pdf](http://www.queensu.ca/iigr/conf/Arch/03/03-2/Hamel-Rousseau.pdf)

Argues that the provincial governments of Nova Scotia, Ontario, and Québec were acting "autonomously" when amalgamating Halifax, Toronto, and Montréal and not responding to globalization or internal political pressures.  
URL: [http://www.queensu.ca/iigr/conf/Arch/03/03-2/Sancton.pdf](http://www.queensu.ca/iigr/conf/Arch/03/03-2/Sancton.pdf)

Examines the amalgamation experiences of five Canadian metropolitan areas, four of them with two-level political and administrative structures, having central and sublocal entities. The four with this dual structure are Toronto, Halifax, Montréal and Québec City. Ottawa is the sole city discussed with a unified arrangement.

Reviews 50 years of evidence on the relationship between the structure and performance of local governments in metropolitan areas. The paper suggests that, given the diversity of communities and local services, no single organization can perform all the tasks demanded of local government. One solution that is heavily examined is the role of amalgamation.  

Describes and analyzes Canadian cases of municipal amalgamation and inter-municipal cooperation to assess the pros and cons of each. This study evaluates some of the mechanisms used to govern local communities and arrange for the provision of local public services. Case studies include Laval, Edmonton, Cape Breton, St. John’s, Abbotsford, Regina and Moose Jaw, London and the Regional Municipalities of York and Durham.  

Examines the report of the Commission and the reorganization plan that was proposed by the Québec government in the beginning of 2000. It uses Kingdon’s theoretical framework to
analyze the determinants of the policy process.

**Municipal restructuring in rural Ontario: Lessons learned from experience. (2000).**
Fitzgibbon, J., Summers, R., & Summers, S. (*Managing Rural Communities into the New Millennium Project*). Guelph, ON : University of Guelph, School of Rural Planning and Development.
Documents the process of amalgamation, describing the experiences of a number of municipalities. It summarizes the results of the Municipal Restructuring Survey, which was carried out in spring 2000, and looks at the experiences of 15 municipalities. It covers initiation of restructuring, committees and procedures, development of new government structure, human resources, the financial merger, municipal and community identity, services, etc.

**State of municipal restructuring in rural Ontario. (2000).** Fitzgibbon, J., Summers, R., & Summers, S. (*Managing Rural Communities into the New Millennium Project*). Guelph, ON : University of Guelph, School of Rural Planning and Development.
Discusses the restructuring process and its successes and challenges, and examines the criteria used by the municipalities to measure the impact of restructuring on service delivery, finances, the community and human resources.

**ACADEMIC**

Examines local government reforms in 6 developed Anglo-American countries: Australia, New Zealand, Britain, Ireland, United States, and Canada. It discusses municipal reforms, examining the structural, functional, financial, jurisdictional, and organizational/managerial reforms in each jurisdiction. The final section provides a comparative analysis of all six jurisdictions. Topics include: amalgamation, regional cooperation, intergovernmental partnerships, Commonwealth funding, intergovernmental cost shifting, public participation, political leadership, managerial reform, property taxation and assessment, fiscal autonomy, electoral system reforms, accountability, and performance evaluation systems.

Details the planning in nine regions in Atlantic Canada prior and after to municipal amalgamations between 1991 and 1997, the response to amalgamation, and the lessons learned. It includes a table summarizing the result of each amalgamation, the population sizes in 1996, 2001 and 2006, and the year that the region was amalgamated, and a second table noting whether there were regional and other plans in effect prior to reorganization and the plans adopted since reorganization.
Exames voter preference concerning municipal consolidation using the data from the 2004 Québec referendum. It reviews the theory of optimal jurisdictional size, reviews literature dealing with the economic determinants of local government structure, develops hypotheses about citizen preferences regarding municipal mergers, and describes the voting process and variables.

Explores whether the megacities created from municipal amalgamations have satisfied the key roles of municipal government. It discusses the consolidationist (fewer, larger municipalities) and the public choice perspective (large number of smaller municipalities), the myth that amalgamation produces less government with examples from the US and UK, and the adoption and implementation of blended structures to meet service delivery roles (e.g. British Columbia’s regional district system).

Contains papers from the book that present an account of recent local government reforms in major Canadian metropolitan areas and evaluates metropolitan governance and reforms in these areas. The jurisdictions covered include: Toronto, Greater London, Montréal, Winnipeg, Greater Vancouver, and Ottawa-Gatineau.

Examines in brief five significant Canadian developments with respect to the governance of metropolitan areas: annexations and mergers such that there is one level of government for the metropolitan area, two-tier metropolitan government, the amalgamation of two-tier metropolitan systems into a single municipality, demergers in Québec, and the creation of flexible and innovative entities for metropolitan governance. It particularly focuses on the Greater Toronto Area, although it also covers cities across Canada.

Evaluates whether the recent Ontario municipal amalgamations resulted in more efficient service delivery by comparing the 1999 level of expenditures (2000 for Chatham-Kent) in each of the three amalgamated municipalities with the 1996 level of expenditures in their constituent municipalities. It specifically looks at the municipalities of Chatham-Kent, Central Elgin, and Kingston.

Reviews three amalgamations in Ontario, which reduced the number of municipalities from twenty-nine to three, to determine whether the mergers resulted in a change in the quality of service delivery. It analyses the changes in the level of outcomes as measured by the level of public satisfaction with the quality of service before and after amalgamation for the communities of Central Elgin, Chatham-Kent, and Kingston.

Examines the restructuring of the municipal system in rural Ontario in 1996. Through the application of rural development principles and criteria, it concludes that the process was antithetical to rural development, and in terms of outcomes, of dubious value. It poses several questions and challenges for rural development theory related to governance and practice.

Discusses local government / municipal reform in all ten provinces and 1 territory, Northwest Territories, focusing on whether to centralize or decentralize. It addresses changes in the roles, structure, and functions of municipal government and municipal-provincial relations.

Examines whether municipal amalgamations in Ontario reduce the number of councillors and whether this equates to a financial savings.

Examines the metropolitan consolidation of the Ottawa-Carleton region of Ontario, focusing on the experience of the former City of Gloucester. It represents a mid-stage report on consolidation.

Discusses the reaction of the citizenry to the amalgamation in Central Elgin (Belmont, Port Stanley, and Yarmouth), Chatham-Kent, and Kingston (City of Kingston, Kingston Township, and Pittsburgh Township). It reports on the citizens' attitude to the amalgamation, both before and after, the citizens' perceptions of value for taxes, and citizens' sense of attachment to the new and old municipalities.

Examines the saga of local government restructuring in Canada's capital city. Specifically, it analyzes the interplay between provincial and local agendas for local government reform over
many years, which culminated in provincial legislation and a one-year transition process to establish one municipality for the Ottawa city region. In doing so, the article addresses the extent to which the Ottawa transition demonstrates learning from other major urban restructuring efforts and the extent to which the Ottawa case provides new insights for future local government reform efforts. Key conclusions are that the key motivation for provincially initiated reform—cost saving through simplification of the local government structure in Ottawa—does not fully coincide with local needs and interests. Furthermore, the promise of financial savings has proven difficult to realize as a result of the local politics surrounding existing municipal debt and unresolved human resource management costs. Instead, future benefits from the amalgamation may lie in improved capacity to manage physical development, environmental sustainability, and cultural diversity.

Analyses the advantages and disadvantages of municipal amalgamations, provides a historical perspective of such amalgamations, and examines how these experiences apply to the city-region of Montreal. Reviews amalgamations in the USA, Canada (notably Toronto & Halifax), Great Britain, New Zealand and Australia. Includes case studies.

Examines the transition and short-term effects of municipal amalgamation, reviewing the impacts of restructuring on the administrative, financial, and political systems, of five recently amalgamated municipalities in Canada: Abbotsford, Aldborough, Victoriaville, Miramichi, and Halifax.

Suggests that city-regions proceed through distinct stages of reform. It develops a descriptive process model, which traces the progress of local and regional government reorganization for a hypothetical city-region. Canadian examples are used to identify how the local government system progresses.
URL: [http://www.lib.unb.ca/Texts/CJRS/Autumn00/Meligrana.pdf](http://www.lib.unb.ca/Texts/CJRS/Autumn00/Meligrana.pdf)

Studies service typologies and the design of tax-service packages in two recently amalgamated urban regions in the Maritimes: Halifax Regional Municipality, NS, and the City of Miramichi, NB. Study assesses whether restructuring of boundaries can address inefficiencies and inequities associated with municipal spillovers. It draws a distinction between four service
characteristics: point specific, non-point specific, externality generating and non-externality generating services.

Examines recent municipal consolidations in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Ontario and of the consolidation debates in Québec and British Columbia. It covers amalgamation, downloading of services, service realignment, alternative service delivery and citizen response to municipal consolidation.
REGIONAL CO-OPERATION

MUNICIPAL PAPERS


Analyzes the feasibility and benefit of creating an integrated growth management plan for Alberta's Capital Region. The report addresses: past approaches to regional cooperation and the need for a regional approach now; the framework for an integrated regional growth management plan (growth projections, land use, core infrastructure, social infrastructure, areas of provincial responsibility, and areas of municipal responsibility); the recommended regional governance structure and approach; cost estimates for future infrastructure needs; cost sharing; funding the Regional Board's activities and mandate; and establishing the Board and creating a framework for land use decisions.

URL: http://www.alberta.ca/home/CapRegionFiles/Working_Together.pdf

PROVINCIAL PAPERS


Reports on a public consultation to explore acceptable and appropriate local governance models and regional service delivery structures, which was conducted in response to three recommendations of the Round Table on Local Governance pertaining to local governance in unincorporated areas, regional collaboration and service delivery. Some of the recommendations are targeted at laying the foundation for the gradual acquisition of local powers in unincorporated areas. Other recommendations are targeted at improving existing regional service commissions and at providing a mechanism for communities to voluntarily and formally enter into arrangements for the shared provision of other services.


Looks at the benefits of inter-municipal agreements, guidelines for inter-municipal agreements, and the evaluation of inter-municipal agreements. It includes the results of a focus group workshop. The handbook is a collaboration between Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations and the Union of Nova Scotia Urban Municipalities.


THINK TANKS AND INSTITUTIONAL PAPERS
Provides a framework for assessing multi-level governance arrangements and then applies the framework to five case studies of regional development policy: France, Italy, Germany, Spain, and Canada. It relates the importance of contractual arrangements for customized management of interdependencies, for clarifying responsibilities among actors, for dialogue, and for learning.

Reviews alternative definitions of what a large city is; identifies key trends, challenges and opportunities; assesses the relative performance of large Canadian cities with cities abroad in four categories (economic sustainability, social sustainability, cultural sustainability, and environmental sustainability); and examines government structures and models, including one-tier, two-tier, voluntary cooperation, special purpose districts, and the provincial government as regional government.

Examines the potential for municipalities within a city-region to cooperate. It investigates the current status of regional governance, the pressures for, and barriers to, regional cooperation, strategies for First Nations participation in regional governance, and best practices in regional cooperation.
URL: http://www.cwf.ca/pdf/200113.pdf

Describes and analyzes Canadian cases of municipal amalgamation and inter-municipal cooperation to assess the pros and cons of each. This study evaluates some of the mechanisms used to govern local communities and arrange for the provision of local public services. Case studies include Laval, Edmonton, Cape Breton, St. John’s, Abbotsford, Regina and Moose Jaw, London and the Regional Municipalities of York and Durham.
REGIONAL GOVERNANCE

THINK TANKS AND INSTITUTIONAL PAPERS


Analyzes the economic performance of the Greater Toronto Area and proposes a new agenda for sustainable competitiveness in order to enhance productivity. It recommends improving current governance by means of strategic planning at the regional level.


Reviews the nature of city-regions and why they exist, describes the history of the Capital Region, and specifically addresses some of the formal issues that must be considered in the development of regional governance structures.

URL: [http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/crsc/pdf/UTA%20SUPA%20Regional%20Governance%20Explored%20v8.pdf](http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/crsc/pdf/UTA%20SUPA%20Regional%20Governance%20Explored%20v8.pdf)


Provides an overview of public policies and policy instruments to promote rural and regional development in Canada, both at the federal level and select other jurisdictions (Ontario, Québec, British Columbia, the European Union, the United Kingdom, Scotland, Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Alaska, Oregon, and Wisconsin). The approaches include: traditional economic instruments; promotion of innovation, technology and regional clusters; support for local economic development; community development and capacity building; and new governance models. It concludes by summarizing the key lessons for the Newfoundland and Labrador context.


Examines the Montréal area and addresses the competitiveness and governance questions facing this metropolitan region. The report (1) defines the region of Montréal and the region's competitiveness from a global standpoint; (2) looks at governance in the region, including the past amalgamation municipal resources, and tax structure; and (3) examines ways to enhance the metropolitan economic competitiveness of the region.
Examines current and historical trends in metropolitan governance in the United States and to a lesser extent Canada and Mexico. Of note are the chapters on metropolitan governance in Canada by Andrew Sancton and Vancouver’s regional governance by Patrick Smith.

Examines urban growth and regional planning in the Calgary Region and the conflict over the construction of a beef processing facility by Rancher’s Beef Ltd. It details how Calgary and the Municipal District of Rocky View feuded over the provision of water and waste water infrastructure to support the facility and the eventual closure of the facility. The article discusses an evolutionary approach to urban change, the history of Calgary and the beef industry, regional planning and urban/rural conflict, changes brought in with the 1995 Municipal Government Act, and annexation in Alberta.

Describes and analyzes the various approaches that have been taken within Canada over the past fifty years to the problems of metropolitan governance. The paper defines metropolitan areas, looks at four different types of institutional arrangements for metropolitan governance, and examines the politics of metropolitan areas and metropolitan policy. It concludes with a discussion on possible future shapes of metropolitan governance.

Looks at how to structure city-regions for effective governance. The author argues that city-regions in western liberal democracies cannot be self-governing. It demonstrates that difficulties in reaching agreements on boundaries fatally limits the capacity of city-regions to be self-governing. It considers municipal boundaries, discussing the need for boundaries, expanding municipal boundaries, two-tier systems of urban governments, local approval for boundary change, and the statistical use and definition of metropolitan areas. It also looks at the theory and practice of city-states, including city-states in Europe. The book concludes with a look at self-government for the City of Toronto.

Examines in brief five significant Canadian developments with respect to the governance of metropolitan areas: annexations and mergers such that there is one level of government for the
Bibliography on Rescaling and Regional Cooperation

metropolitan area, two-tier metropolitan government, the amalgamation of two-tier metropolitan systems into a single municipality, demergers in Québec, and the creation of flexible and innovative entities for metropolitan governance. It particularly focuses on the Greater Toronto Area, although it also covers cities across Canada.

Is there regionalism after municipal amalgamation in Toronto? *City, 9*(1), 9–22. *(2005, April).*
*Keil, R., & Boudreau, J-A.*
Reflects on the results of metropolitan governance restructuring in Canada's largest city, Toronto, during the 'long 1990s', the time period roughly between the collapse of international property markets in the late 1980s and the events of 9/11/01. It also discusses more recent developments including the establishment of more moderately liberal and social democratic administrations in Ontario and Toronto. Based on this context, the authors develop our arguments about globalization and unequal re-scalings, and the re-territorialization of political action and social movements. Through a discussion of the search for new 'fixes' at the city-regional scale in Toronto, particularly in the sectors of competitiveness, transportation and the environment, we highlight how social movement demands have been rearticulated in the period following revisions of municipal governance mechanisms such as the debates about the municipal charter in Toronto.

Beyond the municipal: Governance for Canadian cities. *Policy Options. (2004, February).*
*Sancton, A.*
Outlines the issues that are associated with the debates about boundaries and functions and points out that, especially for Toronto and Montréal, the recent municipal amalgamations have prompted wide-ranging attempts to fix the internal municipal governance problems apparently caused, in some respects at least, by the amalgamations themselves. It also notes that the governance of Canadian cities is too important to be left to municipalities alone—regardless of their size or sway.

Provides a case study of one such “new regionalist” response. It examines the Alberta Capital Region Alliance (ACRA), a voluntary, polycentric regional organization that provides the Greater Edmonton Metropolitan region with its only pan-regional venue for coordinated municipal government action and regional advocacy.

Consolidates the history, evolution, current practice, and future prospects for regional planning in Canada into one reference work. It identifies the intellectual and conceptual foundations of regional planning and review the history and main modes of regional planning for rural regions, economic development regions, resource development regions, and metropolitan and city-regions. It also proposes a new paradigm addressing the needs of regional planning now and in the future, emphasizing regional governance, greater inclusiveness and integration of physical
planning with planning for economic sustainability and natural ecosystems.
THINK TANKS AND INSTITUTIONAL PAPERS

Examines metropolitan models of governing structure and evaluates how well these models achieve the coordination of service delivery over the entire metropolitan area as well as the extent to which they result in the equitable sharing of costs of services. The models examined include: one-tier fragmented, one-tier consolidated, two-tier, voluntary cooperation, special purpose districts.

Looks at the role of city regions as players in the creation of the wealth of nations and offers the example of the goal for growth of the Montreal Metropolitan Community and the factors that are necessary for this to occur, including the creation of a new partnership to accelerate public investment and revenue sharing of this new growth in order to reinvest in the communities.

ACADEMIC

Discusses how federal, provincial, and municipal governments can find a means to provide cities with access to self-managed revenue sources in light of the fixed municipal revenue base, the offloading of services to municipalities by the provinces, and an increasing infrastructure deficit. It details limited revenue sharing agreements and programs, offers three reasons why the federal government should care about cities, and the need for adequate revenue sources from fiscal powers granted by the provinces.
Provides a detailed service analysis of the impacts of splitting Comox Strathcona Regional District into two separate regional districts. It covers: government services, fire protection, 911 emergency answering service, building inspection services, water services, liquid waste management, pesticide awareness service, solid waste management and other waste services, planning, geographic information services, by-law enforcement, community parks, and recreation and pools.
URL: http://www.comoxstrathcona.ca/uploadedFiles/Notices/MNPreport.pdf

Reports on a public consultation to explore acceptable and appropriate local governance models and regional service delivery structures. Some of the recommendations put forward are targeted at laying the foundation for the gradual acquisition of local powers in unincorporated areas, while other recommendations are targeted at improving existing regional service commissions and at providing a mechanism for communities to voluntarily and formally enter into arrangements for the shared provision of other services.

Contains a planning framework for the Montréal Metropolitan Region put out by the Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Greater Montréal. The report (1) lays out the territory of the metropolitan region of Montréal; (2) deals with the costs and problems of an expanding metropolis, such as congestion, environmental deterioration, and contaminated land; (3) relates the Government’s vision statement on land use planning and development and the concept of spatial organization; (4) lays out the Government's expectations for the
Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal; and (5) covers government equipment and infrastructure projects, including tourist facilities, transportation infrastructures, and facilities and services for people.

THINK TANKS AND INSTITUTIONAL PAPERS

Examines metropolitan models of governing structure and evaluates how well these models achieve the coordination of service delivery over the entire metropolitan area as well as the extent to which they result in the equitable sharing of costs of services. The models examined include: one-tier fragmented, one-tier consolidated, two-tier, voluntary cooperation, special purpose districts.

ACADEMIC

Assesses whether three amalgamations (Central Elgin, Chatham-Kent, and Kingston) that reduced the number of municipalities from 29 to three resulted in efficiency improvements in service delivery.

Compares the costs, resources, service levels, crime rates, workloads, and citizen perceptions of police services before and after the amalgamation of the Town of Bedford, the cities of Dartmouth and Halifax and Halifax County.

Accommodating multiple boundaries for local services: British Columbia’s local governance system. (2002). Bish, R.L. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University.
Describes British Columbia's regional-district municipality system for local governance. It covers how it resolves theoretical issues relating to determining institutional arrangements and boundaries for different public goods and services, the problems that have arisen, and its evolution over time. It also includes the author's suggestions for incremental modifications in a
county-municipality system to achieve similar results to US metropolitan areas. URL: http://www.indiana.edu/~workshop/papers/bish_102102.pdf
Looks at the history and present state of recent municipal reform in the three Maritime provinces: New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island. It identifies a number of seminal reports calling for municipal reform in each province.

Describes and analyzes the systems of municipal government in Canada's provinces, covering the history and structure of municipal institutions, the functions, electoral rules, provincial oversight, municipal associations, municipal finance, and demography. They assess the extent to which municipal governments have the capacity to act autonomously, purposefully, and collaboratively.

Details how metropolitan regions have developed in terms of geographic and institutional organization; how political and institutional settings interrelate with the socio-cultural and economic characteristics of large urban areas and their political processes and public policy; and how various efforts have been made to reform metropolitan institutions. They analyze experiments with metropolitan governance and government on four continents, offering a look at the political dimensions of the dynamics of metropolitanization.

Provides an overview of the role, powers, and structure of local government in British Columbia. It covers: provincial ministry and agency functions related to local governments; municipal incorporation, expansion, and amalgamation; municipal governance; municipal elections and referenda; municipal services and finance; the functions, governance, and finance of regional district governments; other local governments (school districts, improvement districts, regional hospital districts, regional library districts, and the Islands Trust); local government service delivery; protective services; engineering services; recreation and cultural services; social services; local planning functions (regulation and development); labour relations; local government revenue sources and financing; and First Nation Governments.

Details local government in Canada. Chapters address the powers and roles of local government in Canada, the historical foundations of local government, turn of the century reforms, pressures of city growth and change, local government reform and restructuring, restructuring limitations and alternatives, intergovernmental relations, municipal finance, structures within
municipal government, local political process, accountability and ethics within municipal government, municipal elections, public participation with municipal government, municipal policy-making, and the future of municipal government in Canada.


Looks at the state of federal-provincial-municipal relations in 2004. Topics include: federal urban role and federal-municipal relations; fiscal municipal relations with the federal and provincial government; political-economy and fiscal-federalism; municipal amalgamations (Halifax, Toronto, and Montréal); municipal reform in Québec; polyscalar social mobilization in Montréal and Toronto; changes to provincial-municipal relations in Ontario; ethnocultural diversity and intergovernmental relations in Canadian cities; factors affecting Canadian housing policies; policymaking in Vancouver; municipal-provincial-federal relations in Mississauga; urban asymmetry and provincial mediation of federal-municipal relations in Newfoundland and Labrador; and federal-municipal-provincial relations in Saskatchewan.


Explores issues of influence and power within local institutions and decision-making processes using numerous illustrations from municipalities across Canada. It shows how communities large and small, from Toronto to Iqaluit, have distinctive political cultures and therefore respond differently to changing global and domestic environments. Includes case studies of Prince George, Sherbrooke, Saint John, and Kitchener-Waterloo are used to illuminate historical and contemporary challenges to local governance. Topics addressed include: local democracy and self government; public participation in local governance; the electoral process; party politics in local government; role of mayor and council; the evolution of provincial-local relations and municipal government; municipal restructuring; contemporary intergovernmental relations; the politics of urban planning; environmental challenges; local public administration; and business management and the municipal corporation.


Provides an overview of the principle characteristics of municipal organization in Canada, and outlines specific features in certain provinces and some of the changes that have been under way since the early 1990s. It covers the legal and political foundations of the municipal system; municipal responsibilities, functions and roles; municipalities' financial and fiscal resources; municipal organization in metropolitan areas; the electoral system, administrative organization, and intergovernmental relations. It concludes with a section examining the arguments currently being presented by big cities, which are demanding a change in their status under the Canadian constitution, and are consequently calling for a major overhaul of Canada's municipal organization.
Municipal revenue and expenditure issues in Canada. (2003). Kitchen, H.M. (Canadian tax papers ; no. 107). Toronto, ON: Canadian Tax Foundation. Discusses municipal finance issues related to municipal expenditures, revenues, governing structures, service-delivery options, and decision-making tools in Canada. It covers: the property tax base, the incidence and efficiency of property taxes, user fees, intergovernmental transfers, financing capital expenditures, additional tax sources, alternative service delivery systems, municipal structure and restructuring, and fiscal sustainability.

OECD territorial reviews: Canada = Examens territoriaux de l'OCDE : Canada. (2002). Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development = Organisation de Coopération et de Développement Économiques. Paris : Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development = Organisation de Coopération et de Développement Économiques. Reports on Canada's economic trends at the territorial level. It is broken down into five distinct sections: (1) territorial trends and disparities; (2) territorial development strategies and policies; (3) urban policymaking; (4) policies for rural regions and northern territories; and (5) fiscal and metropolitan reforms. It examines Canada's need to create and assess the consistency of policy to ensure cohesion across the three macroregions. The report advocates for increased federal involvement with urban centres and reviews recent changes in rural policies.

Urban affairs: Back on the policy agenda. (2002). Andrew, C., Graham, K.A.H., & Phillips, S.D. (Eds.). Montréal, QC ; Kingston, ON : McGill-Queen's University Press. Explores the question, "What is our national policy toward urban affairs?" It focuses on what has happened since the 1970s, examining how the ideas of city-regions and the urban policymaking process have changed. The essays are broken down into four categories: social issues affecting cities; governance issues; planning and economic development; and fiscal challenges.