Economic Development, Institutions, and Urban Governance in the Region of Ottawa, Canada

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1. Introduction: The Case of the Ottawa region

- Objective:
  - Understand the processes and mechanisms by which a region develops into an innovative region by analysing relationships between innovation and the development of institutional capacity and coalitions which operate in a region

- Goals:
  - Describe the local innovation arrangements and the capacity to build an institutional infrastructure that supports successful knowledge-based economic development
  - Analyze the new forms of urban governance that have been emerging since the 1990' high-tech boom in Ottawa
  - Identifie the economic and social challenges that Ottawa faces as an innovative region.

1. Introduction: The Case of the Ottawa region

- ## Case: Ottawa region
  - This case may offer context-specific insight into the institutional capacity and the means of identifying and addressing high-road strategies to promote technology-based economic development in a regionally knowledge-based context.

- ## From capital city to an innovative-driven region…
  - Since 1980s, high-tech boom in high-tech industries the ICT industry, electronics, and semiconductors
  - Additionally there has been a significant growth lately in optoelectronic and life-science activities
  - These sectors have high growth rates and have developed in clusters of more than 1,000 employees.
  - KIBS account for about 11.3 per cent of total regional workforce in Ottawa

Structure of the presentation

1. Introduction: The Case of the Ottawa region
2. Strong Institutional Presence: The Government Period
3. Development of Associative Modes of Governments
4. Economic & Social Challenges
5. First Cut at the Theme 3 Interviews

2. Strong Institutional Presence: The Government Period

- 1968 Trudeau – National Capital Region Ottawa and Gatineau
- Period of NCC Dominance
  - 1950's – 1970's
- Creation of Regional Governments
  - 1971 MROC
  - 1972 CRO
- Municipal Amalgamations
  - 2001 Ottawa
  - 2002 Gatineau

3. Development of Associative Modes of Governments

- OCRI (Ottawa Centre for Research and Innovation)
  – High Tech
  – Education
- TOP (The Ottawa Partnership)
  – Co-chairs –High Tech & Post Secondary
  – Clusters
- HIO (Hire Immigrants Ottawa)
  – United Way, City of Ottawa, LASI

4. Economic & Social Challenges

- Speaking for the Marginalized
    - Community Resource and Health Centres
- Immigrant Voices
    - LASI (Local Agencies Serving Immigrants)
- Women's Voices – the intersections of gender and ethno-racial diversity
    - CAWI - IVTF

5. First Cut at the Theme 3 Interviews

- 25 Interviews
  - Economic Sector – 8 (6 business)
  - Social Sector – 10 (3 immigration)
  - Political/Administrative Sector – 5 (1 Prov, 1 Fed, 3 Mun)
  - Post-secondary Education Sector - 2

Major Themes

A. Little contact between the business sector and the social sector but new articulations by business sector

- OCRI – education
- Chamber of Commerce – recent interest in social housing
- TOP – feels it should do more
- RGA – more contact (on francophone side)

B.   Business sector relatively self-satisfied

- See few social problems
- Limited understanding of immigration challenges
  - Involvement with HIO
  - Formal acknowledgment of importance but…
- Almost totally ignored growing Aboriginal population
- Almost no reference to francophone questions (except RGA, CESOC)
- No reference to Gatineau or to the NCRegion

C.   Business Leadership – Who is taking the lead?

- OCRI generally identified as most active
  - But some questions about being overextended
- Chamber of Commerce – seen as weak
- TOP – seen as in a period of low-activity

D.   United Way – as the lead organization

- Almost universally recognized as the central organization
- Given central space
- Community Foundation – present but less visible

E.   Agreement on Lack of Direction

- Almost unanimous
  - Little tri-level coordination
  - Lots of individual contacts
  - No overall structure/network/cooperation
- Two principal targets to explain inaction
  - City of Ottawa
  - Federal Government

City of Ottawa

- Everyone has contacts with CPS
  - Community and Protective Services / Steve Kanellakos – described as positive
- No mention of elected officials
- Lack of vision and direction
- Lack of political will

Federal Government

- No presence on local questions
- Doesn't understand how to act locally
- Doesn't get 'place-based' approach
- Contributes to under funding