Abstracts

COURCHENE, T.J.: "Glocalization: The Regional/International Interface". The dual imperatives of the fiscal burden and the knowledge/information revolution will, in the future, lead sub-national governments to focus more on policies dealing with the international sector rather than the dictates of their national economies. There will, consequently, be a shift away from the traditional relationship between countries towards a regional-international relationship. This is the challenge that faces regional jurisdictions, not only in Canada but in other countries, and is the issue explored in this paper.

BOURNE, L.S.: "Living on the Periphery: Regional Science and the Future of the Canadian Experiment". This paper draws a parallel between the peripheral status of the discipline of regional science and the condition of the Canadian state. It outlines the historical pressures, both internal and external, that have shaped the Canadian territory and its development trajectory or what is called here the Canadian project or experiment and produced the contemporary geography of cultural diversity, regional economic specialization and political uncertainty. It then examines the weaknesses of regional science in addressing these kinds of issues. The paper concludes that while the future of regional science and of the Canadian project are uncertain, both offer opportunities for a new and re-invigorated mandate.

LEE, F.C., and S. COULOMBE: "Regional Productivity Convergence in Canada". In this paper, an extension of Coulombe and Lee (1995), we estimate the convergence speed, and compare the growth patterns, of productivity in the ten Canadian provinces over the 1966-1992 period. Output per worker and per hour worked are relevant measures to test for changes in regional disparities since, in a neoclassical framework, where factors are free to move, the productive ability of factors should converge in all regions of an economic and political union, despite initial differences in endowments. Our empirical analysis suggests that measures of regional output per worker and output per hour have been converging faster than measures of regional per capita income and output. It then follows that the continued existence of large disparities in per capita incomes must be related to large differentials in unemployment rates across regions. Thus, there is a need to facilitate adjustments in the labour
market by reducing impediments to interprovincial labour mobility.

SAVOIE, D.J.: "Revisiting the Base Closures". In April 1989, the federal Minister of Finance announced the closing of several military bases in Canada. One of those destined for closure was CFB Summerside. Both the community and the Prince Edward Island government reacted strongly to the announcement and pressure was applied on Ottawa to reverse its decision. Later, ambitious measures were launched to bring new economic activities to the community. This paper compares the economic health of Summerside "before" and "after" the base closure, as well as the cost of operating the base in relation to the costs of attracting new activities to the community. It draws on these findings and the American experience with base closures to offer some lessons for policy makers wishing to design a new approach to military base closure.

PETERS, E., and M.W. ROSENBERG: "Labour Force Attachment and Regional Development for Native Peoples: Theoretical and Methodological Issues". While it is well-recognized that unemployment rates and lack of attachment to the labour force are much greater for Native Peoples compared to the Canadian population in total, there appears to be little consensus on the processes which underlay these realities. Various theories, methodologies and measures are used to explain these phenomena. In this paper, we review the competing theoretical frameworks proposed for understanding labour force attachment and methodologies and measures used in studies of the economic development of Native Peoples. We conclude by arguing for a re-assessment of labour force attachment of Native Peoples and its impact on regional development with self-government likely in the near future.

HIGGINS, B.: "Whatever Became of Public Works Planning?". Since World War II the concept of "public works planning" has gone through many stages. Key to the realization of the importance of such policies was the work of Keynes and the resulting Keynesian revolution. The degree of success of these policies has been mixed and it would be untrue to state that public works planning is the be-all and end-all of government policy to move the Canadian economy toward full-employment at low inflation. In order to even hope to reach such a position we would still need a solid foundation of appropriate monetary policy and macro-fiscal policy, supported by appropriate regional policies. However, as this paper argues, converting publics works spending, in the broad sense of the term, and at all levels of government, into a stabilizing rather than the destabilizing factor it now is, would move the Canadian economy further toward full-employment without inflation.