Abstracts

V. LANTZ AND D. MURRELL: “Climate Change Plan for Canada: A Full Cost-Benefit Framework for Evaluating Options at the Provincial Level”. This paper examines the provincial economic impacts from implementing the Kyoto Protocol in Canada under two policy options currently being considered by the federal government: the Broad-as-Practical and Reference-Package options. Using information from federal documents and academic literature, we find that the federal forecasts of undiscounted GDP changes to provincial economies represent misleading indicators of true economic impacts. We suggest that a more accurate provincial impact analysis of GHG policy options would be based on a net present value framework that incorporates discounted costs and ancillary benefits over the time-frame of the program. Once these elements are accounted for, we find that most provinces will benefit under both policy options, and prefer the Reference-Package. Specifically, the Reference-Package option reduces provincial burdens of achieving Canada’s Kyoto commitment, and may do so at virtually no net efficiency cost relative to the Broad-as-Practical option. These findings emphasize the importance of incorporating both market and non-market values into the policy-making arena.

G. POUYANNE: “Urban Form and Travel Patterns: An Application to the Metropolitan Area of Bordeaux”. The influence of urban form on travel patterns is of growing interest among researchers. It has been notably argued that high density, mixed land use settlements reduce automobile use and distances travelled, hence energy consumption per capita. To analyse the interaction between land use and mobility at an intra-urban level, we propose a conceptual framework linking mobility patterns, urban form and economic and/or demographic characteristics in a ‘triangular relationship’. This study aims at determining the factors of urban daily travel in the metropolitan area of Bordeaux (France), by using OLS regressions for the commonly used transportation variables and a multinomial logit model for modal shares. An original component of this work consists in linking both sets of factors of daily travel so as to take into account their possible interactions.

The results are twofold: first, we are able to confirm the traditional impact of density on travel patterns, underlying the compact city model. The evidence for
The main hypothesis is partially confirmed: some structural factors are the best explanatory factors for the export propensity of these firms. The main hypothesis is that structural factors are the best predictors of export propensity. Location factors may not contribute much to differentiating between firms in a small region where distances are short. Among other factors, such as location, economic sector, and R&D expenses, the location of a firm, within a specific export-intensive territory, is also mentioned. However, the historical evolution of such factors has not been studied yet. Only a few authors have tried to test empirically multiple factor datasets with longitudinal concerns.

Based on large samples of manufacturing firms located in the regions of Quebec and Chaudière-Appalaches in 1994 and 2002, logistic regression models were built in order to better identify some of the main factors accounting for the propensity of these firms to export. The main hypothesis is that structural factors inherent to a firm are the best predictors. Location factors may not contribute much to differentiating between firms in a small region where distances are short. Among other factors, such as location, economic sector, and R&D expenses, the location of a firm, within a specific export-intensive territory, is also mentioned. However, the historical evolution of such factors has not been studied yet. Only a few authors have tried to test empirically multiple factor datasets with longitudinal concerns.
important economic partner.

M. SIMARD: "Areas with Low Population Density: A Challenge to the Development of Rural Areas in Quebec". ["Les espaces à faible densité: un défi au développement des milieux ruraux québécois."] In the last 40 years, the rural world has received considerable attention on the part of experts in the Province of Quebec, the United States of America and Europe. But detailed studies on areas where the rural population is scattered have been scarce and far apart. Yet in the Province of Quebec, such areas represent a major part of rural areas. The distance between the localities, their small demographic size, the scattered households along country roads, the spacing of the houses in the same villages, the distance from the cities and the main roads - all these are clear signs of isolation and dispersion. This breaking up of the territory into scattered units has considerable negative impact on the economic development of the small communities as well as on the quality and quantity of the services that can be offered to the local population. The dispersion in rural areas hinders the composition and the evolution of demography as well as the quality and the conditions of life of individuals.

Rural localities with a scattered population, that is, with a population inferior to 5 inhabitants per square kilometre, make up a particularly fragile segment of rural territory. In 2001 in the Province, there were 267 small scattered localities with a total population of 146,897 people. They amounted to 2 % of the entire population of the Province of Quebec, 21.5 % of rural localities, and 35 % of the socio-spatial territory of Quebec. The average population of such localities is 551 people. We find them in greater numbers in the northern and eastern parts of the Province.

Those areas are characterized by considerable disparities between other larger rural localities on the one hand and the rest of the Province on the other. The disparities clearly show their negative effects on the demography, the geography, the economy and the income. In fact, those areas with a scattered population have seen a decrease of 0.3 % in their population between 1991 and 2001, whereas all other categories of localities, including the total population of the Province, have been characterized by an increase.

For the entire segment of these thinly populated localities, the average distance to the nearest city is 51.9 kilometres, varying from 3 to 1,038 kilometres. This shows clearly the great isolation that affects this category of localities. From an economic point of view, it can be said that a large number of scattered localities are plagued by unemployment. This means that the number of unemployed is much higher than the national average. It can also be said that most of the small and isolated localities depend on an economy that rests primarily on the exploitation and transformation of natural resources. All the above problems are the result of a large number of factors such as topography, the locational pattern of the resources, the biophysical potential, the laws and mechanisms that regulate the economy, and government policies and priorities. To deal with structural problems, structural interventions are necessary.

For this reason, I would suggest five forms of interventions that could possibly help correct the structural malaise that plagues thinly populated and isolated localities: 1) to work towards a more evenly distributed population in the settlements; 2) to adopt new measures for a better harmonization of public offices; 3) to favour a better management and more rational exploitation of the natural resources; 4) to set up plans to improve the quality of the habitat with a view to protecting and preserving the architectural heritage; 5) to improve access to highways for certain isolated municipalities in the settlements. Policies of this kind would not only slow down but decrease the lack of balance in the rural settlements in Quebec and promote regional development. On the other hand, implementing such policies requires the implication of all socio-economic actors. Massive investments of capital would be necessary with a view to decreasing the socio-economic disparities between the small rural localities and the rest of rural Quebec, which is far from being the norm in the present National Policy for Rural Areas. Above all, what is needed is the political will to resolve the problems.

M. TOMAS and J.-P. COLLIN: "Constance and Change: The Discourse of Municipal Actors in the Face of the De-Merger Movement in Quebec". ["Constance et mutation: le discours des acteurs municipaux devant le mouvement « défusionniste » au Québec"]. Since the election of the Liberal Party to form the provincial government in April 2003, the debate on municipal reorganization in Quebec has entered a new cycle of reforms: that of demergers and the creation of the councils of agglomeration. In this paper, we analyze the views expressed by the municipal actors regarding the demerger movement. The analysis is based on the study of the reports presented at the National Assembly (Commission on Regional Planning) during the hearings of Bill 9 (Act Respecting the Consultation of the Citizens with Respect to the Territorial Reorganization of Certain Municipalities).

The paper begins with a presentation of the debate on metropolitan governance as a succession of three waves: the metropolitan reform tradition, the public choice approach and the so-called new regionalism. These approaches have different conceptions on how metropolitan cooperation should be achieved (i.e. consolidation, institutional fragmentation and co-operative arrangements) and what are the principles of metropolitan regionalism (efficiency, democracy, competitiveness). In the next section, we present a brief overview of the key elements of merger and demerger policies. The following part is devoted to the analysis of the arguments expressed by municipal actors in favour of or against the demergers. The promoters of demergers use mainly the argument of local democracy and local autonomy to protest against the amalgamations imposed by the Provincial government in 2000, while the municipal actors defending the new cities underline the benefits of mergers in terms of economic development and efficiency in the delivery of services.

In conclusion, on the one hand, we examine these views in relation to the principles rising from the three dominant approaches of metropolitan regionalism.
In spite of the argument of economic development associated with the new regionalist approach, the debate between promoters and opponents of amalgamations is similar to that of the reform versus public choice school. On the other hand, we also consider the elements of continuity and change in relation to the debate held during the merger movement in 2000-2002. To sum up, we stress the continuity in the arguments used by the municipal actors and the stability of their conception of metropolitan regionalism.

J. F. DE LIMA: “Notes on Growth Poles and Territorial Strategies in Quebec”. [« Notes sur les pôles de croissance et les stratégies territoriales au Québec. »]

This research note proposes general ideas on the polarization and the reinforcement of regional poles as an alternative in order to instigate the economic growth of different areas in Quebec.

The analysis Quebec's experiment shows, in terms of the structure of occupation of space, that the territorial strategies are focussed mainly on demographic problems. Consequently, in spite of a polycentric structure of production and resource exploitation, the dynamics of Quebec's is, still today, dependent on a monocentric industrial dynamism. The cycle of the growth of the territories within Quebec starts when the centre (Montreal and Quebec) or exports remain the king pin of the process of growth. In short, there is a very strong tendency for demographic growth to occur in the central cities.

Indeed, the territories develop different strategies according to their potentials, their trajectories and their weaknesses. Public intervention can contribute through two strategies: 1) reinforcement of the production and agri-food transformation; 2) the creation of a policy of subsidies for the formation of the various bases of export in Quebec's peripheral areas.

In relation to the first strategy, according to growth pole theory (Perroux), regional economies are instigated by distribution, and integration of the markets and processing and manufacturing of resources. In Quebec, the issue is whether growth of production and income is able to lead to a diversification of the productive activities, in order to be able create a more sustainable pattern of territorial development. These problems are at the origin of the absence of an effective public policy for the location of productive activities, the occupation of geographic space and the stimulation of rurality.

In relation to the second strategy, it is possible to work with the improvement of the local productive activities, by establishing strategies such as the creation of business incubators, the formation of industrial districts, labour qualifications, the formation of information networks, and the formation of partnerships, to name but a few. Accordingly, we should establish political differences in tax exemptions in industrial investment, extending them to some areas and thus encouraging integration with rural production and with other productive activities. Furthermore in relation to rural production, it should be noticed that small and medium-sized businesses have an important role to play in job creation. It should be recalled that the principal objective is not to set up only one alternative model, but to develop alternative forms of State intervention in different territories.

ABSTRACTS

It is important to refer to the social policy of well-being, which increased the quality of life in Quebec. This policy must always be preserved. The durability of this type of policy is possible only thanks to the generation of the taxes and revenues.