

Symposium
Official Languages Research Issues

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Institut canadien de recherche en politiques
et administration publiques

Canadian Institute for Research on Public Policy
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Université de Moncton

Canadian Institute for Research on Public Policy and Public Administration

- Since 1983, CIRPPPA conducts applied and fundamental research in regional economic development; since 2005, two additional policy fields: Acadian communities and governance
- 2006: Structures of governance in francophone economic development in Atlantic Canada
- 2007: Francophone knowledge economy (NB)
- 2007: OLMC socioeconomic profile (IC)

Profile - 2001 (DA at least 5 %)

- Age : ageing population, less youth
- Education : population less educated (9th grade)
- Immigration : Francophone immigrants not sufficient
- Economy :
 - + primary sectors (agriculture, forestry, fisheries)
 - + 'blue collar' trades > liberal professions
 - + lower revenue brackets; - higher revenue brackets
 - + unemployment rate (even in Quebec)

*** *Anglophones in Quebec are relatively better off :***

- + *educated*
- + *tertiary sectors*
- + *higher revenue brackets (but also lower revenue brackets)*
- + *English-speaking immigration*

Three main challenges

- Conceptual
- Methodological
- Sectoral

Conceptual challenges

- What is a minority 'community':
geography, interest, school?
- What is 'Anglophone' or 'Minority' economy = owner, language of work, other indicator?
- What are the priority sectors of intervention (beyond education) = early childhood, health, economy?
- What is 'community development/vitality'?
- What is the difference between regional economic development and community economic development?
- What is the link between economy and language/culture?

Methodological challenges

- Statistics Canada data (census, studies) available on time and not too costly
- Questions formulated jointly : communities, universities & research institutes, federal and provincial institutions
- Statistics Canada studies do not always include questions/variables on language
- Share data (ex: PCH, StatsCan Data Centres)

Sectoral challenges

- 'Anglophone' or 'Minority' Economy = ownership, language of work, other?
- Test : 'positive measures' vs 'opportunity costs' (what if we did nothing, something else?)
- Globalisation of markets (forestry, mining) vs local 'niches'

Possible solutions

- Partnership between Canadian Institute for research on Linguistic Minorities and collaborators with Statistics Canada to make StatsCan Data Centre at l'Université de Moncton free of charge ('positive measure')
- Questions on language (mother tongue, language of work, language at home, etc.) inserted into all/most of Statistics Canada studies
- Research concepts: 'vitality', 'community economic development', 'Anglophone' or 'minority' economy, etc.

Possible solutions

- Joint (governments-researchers-communities) programme of (action) research based on reciprocity: *policy-relevant research + research-based policies*
- Programme of research 'assessments and prospects' per sector since the Royal Commission on Bilingualism et Biculturalism (1963-1970)
- Measure each community (census subdivision?) (ex: reproduce the analysis on socioeconomic data every 5 years (census data) to determine if gaps are evolving positively or negatively, in order to determine the most effective solutions)

Possible solutions

- Horizontality (numerous institutions)
- Governance
 - Federal-Provincial-OLMC (agreements, etc.)
 - Role of CEDECs: institutional completeness
- *Policy gap analysis*: OLMC needs vs government programs

Possible solutions

- 10-year (action) research programme in economic development (including elaborating criteria to compare minority and majority: ownership, language of work, etc.):
 - Added value to natural resources in rural communities?
 - Transition towards knowledge economy (if so, call centres?)
 - Social Economy, Social Capital, Cultural Capitals (Florida)?
 - Research, Development and Innovation in rural communities?
 - Youth Entrepreneurship?
 - Literacy and GEDs for 55 years and older?
 - Localisation of federal jobs and offices in OLMCs?

Conclusion

- **Scope and breath of significant variations**
 - Why are the differences so important between the minority and the majority?
 - Why are there differences in so many variables?
- **Evolution of significant variations?**
 - Have we made progress since 1969?
 - Has evolution been progressive, negative or up-and-down?



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