TALKING GOVERNANCE FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Ryan Gibson
University of Guelph

Our Way Forward: Sharing Knowledge and Building Capacity for Regional Development Conference
St Anthony, NL
CHANGE AHEAD
Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation

- a charitable institution committed to bettering the lives of rural Canadians through collaborative research and education
- enhances the understanding of rural issues and opportunities
- facilitates national and regional dialogues

www.crrf.ca
State of Rural Canada 2015

» rural paradox
  » sites of wealth production
  » infrastructure deficits

» need for comprehensive strategy for rural areas

» www.sorc.crrf.ca
GOVERNANCE

new governance is the revolution that no one noticed

Reimer (2004)
COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE

• Is initiated by public agencies/institutions
• Participants in the governance forum include non-government actors
• Participants engage directly in decision-making
• Formally organized and meets collectively
• Aims to make decisions by consensus
• Focus on public policy
governance and regional development

» opportunity to enhance on existing relationships

» opportunity to build on local assets

» opportunities for place-based priorities
new forms of governance

- frustration with central governments
- local empowerment
- rise of multi-community collaboration
WaterWolf RRT

» established 2005

» water technician services, regional planning, GIS, land use planning, service delivery

» identity of local communities maintained
Upper Madawaska

» 6 local service districts, 4 villages

» 58% voted in favour of creating ‘Upper Madawaska’

» 10 municipal taxes rates in the region
“Government will work with regional leaders to explore collaborative forms of governance that advance regional sustainability”
NP Pilot Initiative

to provide advice to government decision-makers
to create an inclusive forum in the region for discussions of challenges and opportunities
to provide advice on how government can development/support innovative regional collaboration
challenges

local communities
• competition to collaboration transition
• legitimacy concerns
• ‘who’ speaks for new governance
• new governance not status quo for government

government
• assumption local has capacity
• need new ‘mechanisms’
• maintaining participation
• evaluation of new governance
“Government will work with regional leaders to explore collaborative forms of governance that advance regional sustainability”

“By 2019, Government will implement regional governance pilot(s)”
suggestions
#1
You are not alone!

“The current system does not work – everyone knows it, yet no one will make a change”
#2

re-arranging local governance should not be a mystery novel
New mechanisms are required within government to work with communities as partners.

SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATION

It only works when everyone knows their talents.
#5

changes to governance is a long term initiative
contact

@ gibsonr@uoguelph.ca

519-824-4120 ext. 56785

www.ryangibson.org

www.ruraldev.ca

@ryanfgibson

ryanfgibson
THE DIFFICULTY LIES NOT SO MUCH IN DEVELOPING NEW IDEAS AS ESCAPING FROM OLD ONES

JOHN MAYNARD KEYNES