



New Frontiers of Local Governance in Canada's Fluid Federal System

Municipalities and Urban Contexts

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Cities in Canada and around the world have become the frontlines of public value creation and co-production in an age of unprecedented economic, social and technological restructuring and institutional realignments. The main objective of the proposed paper is to examine the new frontiers of local governance in Canada within the general context of the country's federal system in the face of recent global technological, economic and social perturbations. To address the complex and often chaotic emerging frontiers of local governance and their implications for the Canadian federation, the proposed paper will draw from the multilevel governance literature. The multilevel governance literature seeks to synthesize top-down and bottom-up approaches to policy making, implementation and public service delivery in multitiered jurisdictions such as Canada's federal system. It calls attention to the active, even if changing, mechanisms by which upper levels of government interact with and engage in joint policy action with lower-tier jurisdictions like cities and regions. This literature will serve as the proposed research's analytical framework for understanding how vertical and horizontal governance structures and processes impact on the resilience (or stagnation) of Canadian cities. The proposed paper will focus on the Niagara, Hamilton and Kitchener-Waterloo regions, drawing empirical lessons and theoretical insights for understanding some of the emerging challenges and prospects in the emerging frontiers of local governance in Canada's multitiered institutional system.