



The Assumption of the City


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Non-metropolitan
Communities and
Dynamic Change in
Federal Property Policy

Photo by Rob van Adrichem



We should think about Canada in terms of geography
not just in terms of demographics.

Photo by Michelle Cross-Pomponio

Outline

- The Context of Devolution and Divestiture
- The Response in Northern BC
- The Consequences for non-metropolitan communities

The Context of Devolution and Divestiture

- Federal government decides to divest and devolve federal property
 - Legislation: Real Federal Property and Federal Immovables Act (1992); Payments in Lieu of Taxes (2000); National Airports Plan (1994); the Canada Marine Act (1998)
- Decline of Keynesianism and the emergence of New Public Management

The Context of Devolution and Divestiture

- Situate this in a global context
- The context of ideas / ideology
 - Global economy and neo-liberalism
 - The decline of state and province building
 - Regional economic development at the city level

The Response in Northern BC

- The Cases: Prince Rupert and Prince George
- Devolution created the opportunity for dynamic change

The Consequences for non-metropolitan communities

- The hub communities, which are the cities, are the benefactors
- The state had, at the very most, a limited vision of development
- The province supported the local / city vision
- The hub implies that people spread out from the city