

REMOTE CONTROL: LESSONS IN GOVERNANCE FROM RURAL AND REMOTE REGIONS

Webinar for Rural Policy Learning Commons

Rob Greenwood, Ph.D.

February 4, 2016



THE HARRIS CENTRE

www.mun.ca/harriscentre



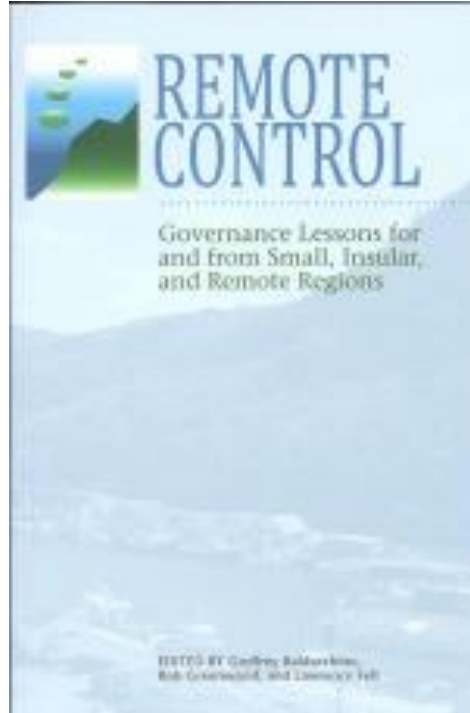
COLLABORATION FOR LEARNING AROUND THE NORTH ATLANTIC RIM



Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation
Fondation Canadienne pour la Revitalisation Rurale



NORTH ATLANTIC FORUM: ORIGINS IN NORTH ATLANTIC ISLANDS PROGRAM



2005 Twillingate, NL conference;
“Remote Control: Governance
Lessons for and from Small,
Insular, and Remote Regions”
(ISER Books, Memorial University)

THE NORTH ATLANTIC RIM

- Cultural / Historic connections
- Sparse population dispersed over a wide geographic area
- Transportation challenges
- Resource industry dependence
- Labour market shortages
- Differences in national / regional / local governance



LOCAL GOVERNANCE; GLOBAL POTENTIAL

- Globalization offers potential for rural individuals and groups but does not guarantee it
- Critical to understand how the 'local' can be mobilized for maximal benefit
- Role local governance assumes in achieving these benefits
- Particularly acute where 'local' is composed of small, largely rural populations isolated by distance and/or natural barriers such as oceans

KEY QUESTIONS

- How can local capacity be developed?
- Most important agents?
- What role do local governments, and governance in general, play?
- How can isolation, smallness and marginality in an increasingly global world be in fact advantageous?

NORTH ATLANTIC RIM: GOVERNANCE TOOLS IN THE TOOL KIT

- Iceland, with 330,000 people, and an area smaller than the island of Newfoundland, enjoys all the powers of a sovereign nation
- The Isle of Man, a Crown Dependency of Britain, has much greater fiscal autonomy than a Canadian province, with only 75,000 people
- The Åland Islands, far-reaching home rule powers as an autonomy within the Finnish state and a negotiated separate protocol with Finland's accession to the European Union in 1995, population of just over 26,000

THE ECONOMIST, 2003

- Recognized the superior economic performance of small jurisdictions in the global economy – from Bermuda to Luxembourg, from Liechtenstein to Cayman
- Defying the myth that bigger and central is necessarily better in forging competitiveness

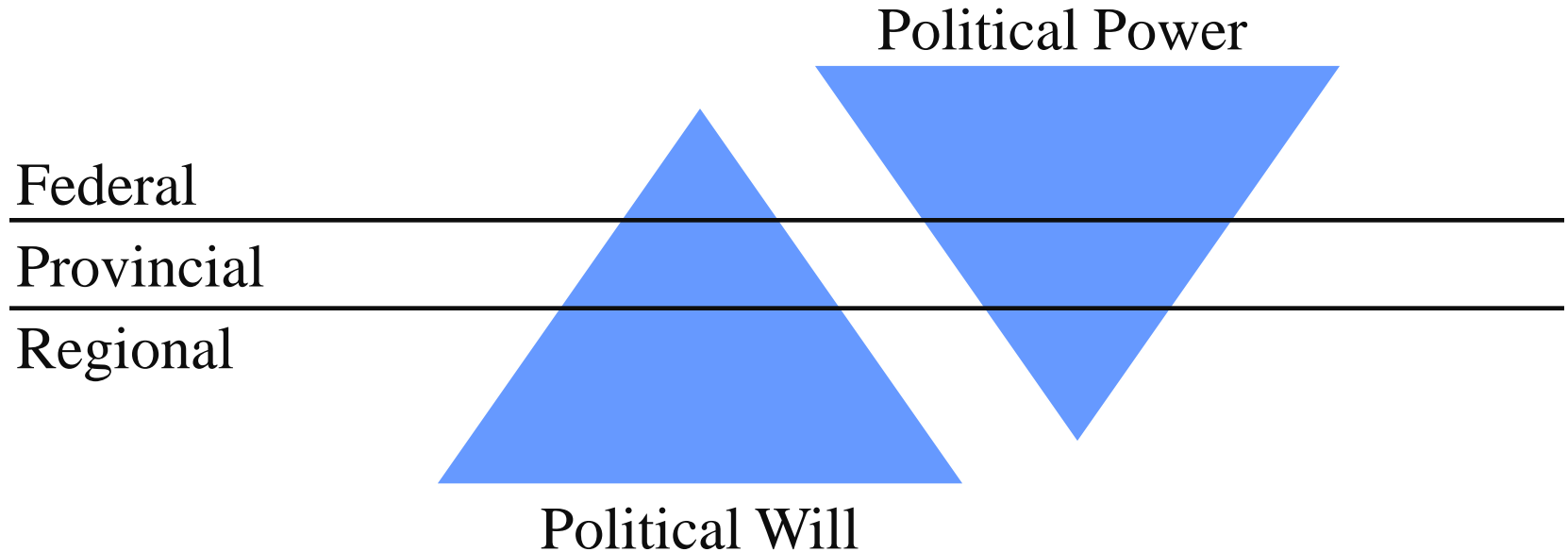
SET OF WINNING TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

- The ‘scaling up’ of municipal units
- The development of tourist and commuter-driven industries
- A strategic engagement with their diaspora
- A branding of niche products and services
- The facilitation of ‘boutique’, small scale manufacturing
- A limitation on local firm rivalry
- The creative deployment of the resourcefulness of jurisdiction

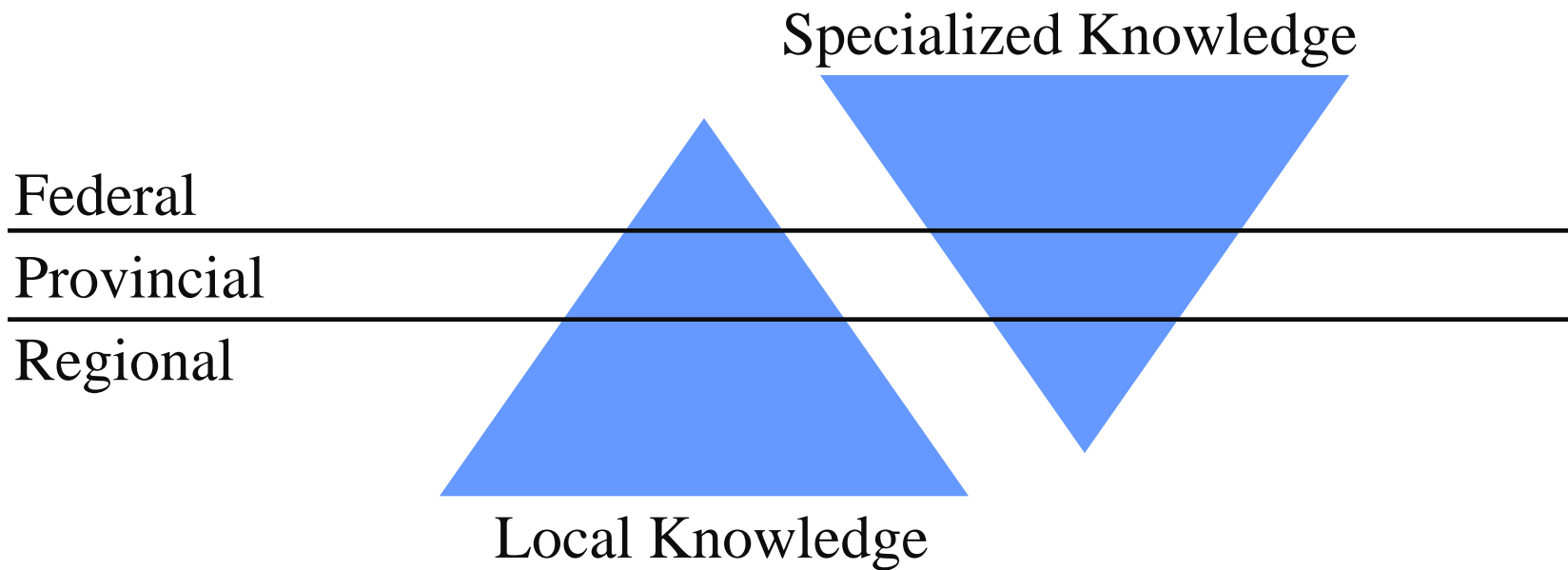
USING / STRETCHING / CREATING NEW FORMS OF JURISDICTIONAL AUTHORITY

- Subsidiarity
- Municipalities, regions and small jurisdictions have far more room to manoeuvre than they normally realize
- Stretch their jurisdictional authority to advance their development goals in strategically creative ways that are outside their formal allocation of powers
- Confident leaders who can work in partnership with other levels of government and with non-governmental partners, can forge new systems of governance

POLITICAL POWER VS. POLITICAL WILL: CANADA

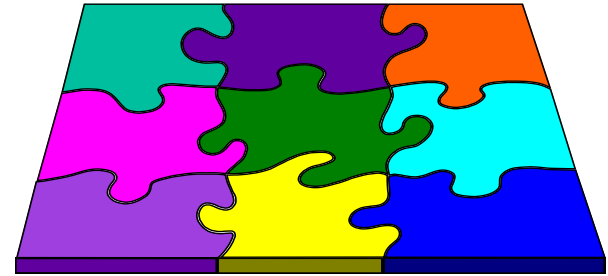


SPECIALIZED KNOWLEDGE VS. LOCAL KNOWLEDGE



ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY FOR RURAL / REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Fiscal Resources
- Human Resources
 - Leadership
 - Skilled Staff
 - Community Participation
- Legal Authority
- Local Democratic Accountability/Legitimacy
- Geographic Area
- Time



CREATIVE, ASSERTIVE APPROACH TO GOVERNANCE TO ACHIEVE REMOTE CONTROL

- Good governance is the key to long term sustainability
- Communities, regions, and provinces can position and lobby for more powers, but they must also make best use of the powers they have
- Explicitly considering:
 - How they govern in any policy area
 - How devolve authority / use what they have
 - How partner outside jurisdiction

THANK YOU!

Questions?

Discussion?