



Governing Social Development in the 21st Century

Presentation to the New Century, New Risks:

Challenges for Social Development in Canada Conference

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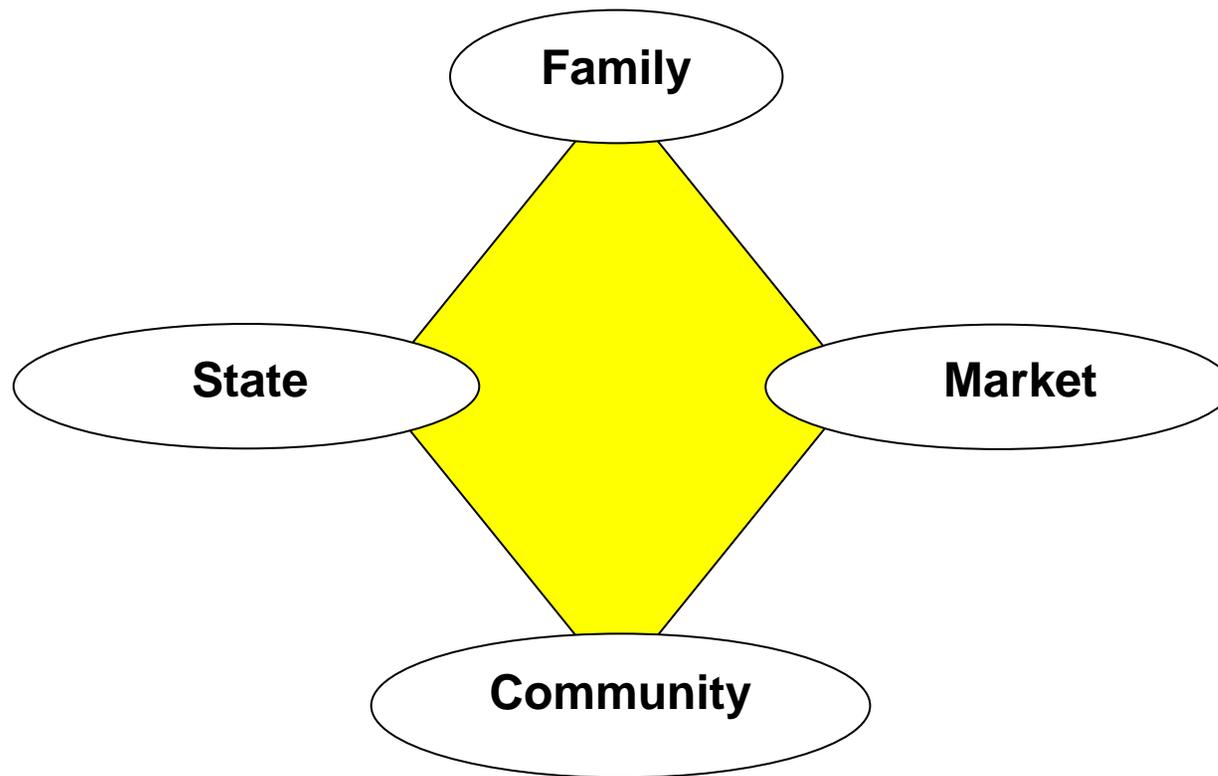


Introduction

- Four political actors – families, communities, markets (business) and governments share responsibility for the well-being of Canadians
- To maximize economic and social well-being, their actions must reinforce each other
- If they do not, then money and effort are wasted and well-being falls short of potential
- People begin to fall through the cracks – a problem endemic in the system today



The Well-being Diamond



Out of Kilter

- Families are overstretched by time crunch and/or money crunch
- Communities are overloaded and under-capitalized – smaller organizations are most at risk
- The state needs new tools
- Few businesses take social responsibilities seriously



Why Out of Kilter?

1. Structural shifts:

- Re-centralization of decision-making in large organizations – state and corporate
- Erosion of trust among governments caused by fiscal cuts of 1990s and unilateralism
- Cities have outgrown their power and are limited by statutory barriers
- Aboriginal leaders greater autonomy isolated from national affairs



Why?

2. Missing tools for problem-solving

- No tradition of citizen participation
- Social partners do not work/talk together
 - Labour, business, government and community
- ‘Wicked’ problems in our communities demand new tools of governance
- FPT relationships are not functioning well
- All have impacts on well-being of Canadians, and are key to problem-solving i.e. good governance



Three Major Requirements

To re-balance governance in the Diamond;

- Holistic **place-based policies**, responsive to local needs, driven by local actors and buttressed by responsive senior governments
- **Public spaces for national and local conversations** with citizens on important policy issues.
- **Renewed federalism** to re-discover the tools for federal – provincial cooperation (No time to pursue this one today)



Politics of Place

- Mandates to promote territorial equity are in tension with mandates to promote well-being
- General policies for health, education, labour markets, economic growth are essential
- But place-based policies are the only way to respond to unique local needs and to mobilize unique local assets
- Europe and US now have 15 years of real success
 - Economic and social development are joint goals
- Success comes with a local champion and responsive provincial and federal partners

(Bradford, forthcoming and Bradford, 2003)



Place-based Policies

Seeds of the future: Urban Development Agreements

- Long-term agreements
 - Shared funding, innovative “joined-up” governance
 - Flexibility in how money is directed
 - Policy learning -- early experiences shape later program design
- Highly participatory, with investments in community capacity building
 - Senior governments delegate -- public servants become community facilitators

*Vancouver and Winnipeg have agreements. SCPI has similar characteristics.



Our National Conversations

- Canada is a country of fragments but a strong pan-Canadian identity
- Citizens lack public spaces to dialogue across the fragments
- Need to open legislatures and city councils to informed dialogue with unaffiliated Canadians
- Need to facilitate multi-partite discussion – business, labour, community, public officials
- Each one can contribute to solving the wicked problems we face



Closing Comment

- History shows that governments can do place-based policy; they just have to choose to do it
- And it shows that federalism can be made to work, if they choose to make it happen
- Without these efforts from public sector, it will be hard for communities, business, and families to bring the Well-being Diamond back into balance
- And, if they don't, Canadians will pay the price



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