

# Canadian cities in transition. New directions in the twenty-first century, 4th ed. edited by Trudi Bunting, Pierre Filon, Ryan Walker

Bunting T., Filon P., Walker R. (2010): Canadian Cities in Transition. New Directions in the Twenty-First Century. Don Mills, Oxford University Press, 468 pp., ISBN 978-0-19-543125-4

It is an introduction for university students to the Canadian urban phenomenon, presenting different facets of the city:

- its historical evolution
- economic dynamics
- environmental impacts
- dependence on natural systems
- urban lifestyles
- cultural makeup
- social structure
- infrastructures
- governance
- planning
- and appearance.

The volume also is designed to assist the next:

- generation of citizens
  - consumers
  - experts
  - business people
  - and politicians
- in their efforts to solve the urban problems:
- traffic congestions
  - different forms of environmental damage
  - crime
  - social segregation
  - governance—they are inheriting

The text is situated at the confluence of different disciplines with an urban dimension: mainly

geography and planning, but also economics, political science, sociology, ecology, and history.

## **Changing Parameters of Urban Form, Structure, and Policy**

- 🌍 Fundamentals of Cities
- 🌍 Epochs of Canadian Urban Development
- 🌍 Transition in the city

## **The Structuring Parameters of Twenty-First-Century Urbanization**

- 🌍 The Global imperative
- 🌍 Getting serious about Urban sustainability: Eco-Footprints and the vulnerability of Twenty-First-century cities
- 🌍 The Dynamics of Economic Change in Canadian Cities: Innovation, Culture, and the Emergence of a Knowledge-Based Economy
- 🌍 Economic Change in Canadian Cities: Locational Dynamics of Employment
- 🌍 Life course and Lifestyle changes: Urban change through the Lens of Demography
- 🌍 New Diversity: Social Change as Immigration
- 🌍 New Divisions: social Polarization and Neighbourhood Inequality in the Canadian City
- 🌍 The Canadian city at a crossroads between 'Passage' and 'Place'
- 🌍 Neo-Liberal Governance: Entrepreneurial Municipal Regimes in Canada
- 🌍 The Economics of Urban Land

## **'Placing' and Planning the Twenty-First-Century City**

- 🌍 Black Holes or White Knights? Cities and the Environment
- 🌍 Re-imagining, Re-Elevating' and Re-Placing the Urban: The cultural Transformation of the Inner city in the Twenty-First century
- 🌍 Slow Growth and Decline in Canadian cities
- 🌍 Fear, Insecurity, and the Canadian city
- 🌍 Emerging Urban Forms in the Canadian City

- 🌍 The Changing Meanings of Urban Places
- 🌍 At Home in the City: Housing and Neighbourhood Transformation
- 🌍 Younger cities, older cities, and cities in the Balance: Spaces and Places of the Younger and Older Population
- 🌍 Aboriginal People in Canadian Cities
- 🌍 The Built Environment and Obesity: Trimming Waistlines through Neighbourhood Design
- 🌍 Food systems and the city
- Towards a Sustainable, Healthy, and 'Smart' Future for Canadian Urban communities**
- 🌍 Conclusion: Challenges and Opportunities in the Twenty-First-Century City
- 🌍 Digital Data in Urban Research
- 🌍 Selected Data on Canada's census Metropolitan Areas

## **Chapter 1 Fundamentals of Cities**

- ✚ How cities operate
- ✚ How they relate to broader social trends in order to address contemporary urban issues
- ✚ Understanding of **urban dynamics**
- ✚ Complexity, human creations, relatively stable structure/syntax
- ✚ Infrastructure network – connections between different assemblages of buildings/land use
- ✚ Economic and value systems behind urban built environment with its multiple use
- ✚ Perceptions and interpretations of this environment

Florida R. (2008): Who's Your City? How the creative economy is making where to live the most important decision of your life. Random House Canada, 374 pp., ISBN 978-0-307-35696-3 p.314-5

## Appendix B: Key Results from the Place and Happiness Survey

### FACTOR

#### AESTHETICS AND LIFESTYLE

Aesthetics

Beauty and physical setting

Outdoor parks, playgrounds, trails

Air quality

Climate

Lifestyle

Meet new people and make friends

Cultural offerings

Nightlife

#### BASIC SERVICES

Primary and secondary education

Health care

Job offerings

Faith institutions

Higher education

Housing

Traffic

Public transportation

#### OPENNESS

Families with children

Senior citizens

Young singles

Recent college graduates

Racial and ethnic minorities

Immigrants

Gay and lesbian people

People living in poverty

#### ECONOMIC AND PERSONAL SECURITY

Overall Economic Security

Economic conditions

Good time to find a job

Economy getting better

Personal security

#### LEADERSHIP

Note: Mean score is based on 1-5 scale where 1 is the

Fundamental properties for understanding the urban phenomenon:

- ✓ production
- ✓ proximity
- ✓ reproduction
- ✓ capitalization
- ✓ place
- ✓ governance
- ✓ environment

production

- create jobs
- brings people to the city
- main reason for urban growth
- change urban form and structure
- consumption and export
- transportation systems
- export-based specialization
- products and resources for sustaining....energy, water
- service rural areas, resources and labour
- ecological footprint (Rees in Ch5)
- creative class (R.Florida)
- manufacturing sector, deindustrialization
- explosion of restaurants and personal services, places of entertainment and cultural activities
- shift to service economy....administration

**Table 5.1** The Eco-Footprints and Biocapacities of Selected Nations

Country	Per Capita Eco-Footprint (global ha)	Per Capita Domestic Biocapacity (gha)	Overshoot Factor
World	2.7	2.1	1.3
United States	9.4	4.9	1.9
Australia	7.8	15.4	0.5
Canada	7.1	20.0	0.4
Greece	5.9	1.7	3.5
United Kingdom	5.3	1.6	3.3
France	4.9	3.0	1.6
Japan	4.9	0.6	8.2
Germany	4.2	1.9	2.2
Netherlands	4.0	1.1	3.6
Hungary	3.5	2.8	1.3
Mexico	3.4	3.3	1.0
Malaysia	2.4	2.7	0.9
Brazil	2.4	7.3	0.3
China	2.1	0.9	2.3
Thailand	2.1	0.8	2.6
Peru	1.6	4.0	0.4
Ethiopia	1.4	1.0	1.4
Nigeria	1.3	1.0	1.3
Indonesia	0.9	1.4	0.6
India	0.9	0.4	2.3
Bangladesh	0.6	0.3	2.0
Malawi	0.5	0.5	1.0

Source: WWF (2008).

- goods and services counterbalancing the import...taxes, protection, decisions, staple cities
- economic exchange, interdependence, heartland and hinterland
- globalization

### proximity

- communication – minimize the cost (time, effort, money) of interaction
- frequent and repeated interactions....businesses and institutions

- innovation as by-product of interaction
- cities – places of economic enterprise
- just-in-time-delivery
- high cost of city land, inner accessibility....transportation systems...activity distribution pattern...mode of transportation
- Toronto – Greater Golden Horseshoe = 180 km distance
- Telecommunications – end of geography?
- The Economist Oct 27th-Nov 2nd 2012-11-05

## Reproduction

- ❖ Continued provision of an ample labour force
- ❖ Wel-being of family/household units...health care, education, social services, family and community support facilities, immigration policies, etc.
- ❖ History – epidemics, water treatment/sewage, immunization
- ❖ Pollution, obesity, SARS, low birth rate, stress, crime
- ❖ Hygiene, maintenance
- ❖ Role of women...health, education, child care, labour force
- ❖ Growing public sector difficulties....**welfare state??????**
- ❖ Low-tax, low-wage jurisdictions ...cutting corporate-based fiscal revenues vs. high tax leveles... politically unrealistic option
- ❖ Reduced spending capacity, cutbacks in public sector reproduction services....coincided with risik expectations and demand for such services
- ❖ Private funding education, university fees...major source of social inequality
- ❖ Underfunding of public sector...tragedies of water quality.....natural hazards – hurricanes

## Capitalization

- ◆ Urban land – compact, scarce – maximized capital investment
- ◆ Residents, business, services...technologies

- ◆ Durable...**path dependence**
- ◆ Changes in technology of lifestyles
- ◆ Brownfields, greyfield sites, greenfields...financial constraints
- ◆ Bind pattern of behaviour to built environment (alliance on the automobile and the truck...)
- ◆ Citizen resistance to redevelopment...NIMBY...emotions
- ◆ Suburban capitalization ( roads, water, schools, hospitals, private industry, residential and commercial development)
- ◆ Inner cities residential intensification – high-rise condominiums
- ◆ Economy of investments both public and private sectors
- ◆ Home as main asset for a majority of households
- ◆ Speculative property bubbles
- ◆ Growing consumer debt....homeownership

## Place

- ⊕ Sense of place, enhanced interest, urbanites – meaning to space
- ⊕ Yi-Fu Tuan **topophilia**....subjective attachment
- ⊕ Place design – urban form
- ⊕ Quality of individual and collective life, physical environment
- ⊕ Diminishment of topophilic places
- ⊕ Suburban places....shopping malls, power centres...junk-scapes
- ⊕ Place as attribute of urbanity...dwellers and locales...symbolic meanings
- ⊕ Fluid sense of place....industry, marketing the place
- ⊕ Municipal land-use policies...economic development, tourism
- ⊕ Places that are valued
- ⊕ Places in globalization

## Governance



- Generating policies suited to the specific circumstances confronting cities
- Distinct management measures for urban community
- Collective control and co-operation between nearby neighbours over communal space
- Functioning of shared infrastructures and services
- Rights, payment facilities, cohabitation of a wide variety of land-use
- Planning control... chaos, pollution, noisy, bottlenecks, no laissez-faire approach
- Administrative arrangements...municipal affairs, housing programmes, public sector, urban management
- Bigger and required more infrastructure
- Public demands, interventions, huge budget cuts, limited tax revenues in municipalities...local administrative

## Environment

- Cities must respect their natural environment
- Severely degraded environment in cities – dangers to health
- Ignoring environmental damages
- Environmental awareness
- Pollution, emissions ( Montreal protocol CFC...)
- Consumerist lifestyle....MillEcoAssess
- Climate change
- EnviImpactAsses