

Theme and Variations: Metropolitan Governance in Canada

By: Zack Taylor

Canada's metropolitan areas are home to more than 70 percent of the country's population. This paper identifies various models in use across Canada to govern these large urban areas, and outlines five themes and trends for policymakers and researchers to consider.

Read the full report: bit.ly/ThemeVariations

IMFG

Institute on Municipal
Finance & Governance

NO "CANADIAN MODEL"

There is considerable variation in metropolitan governance from one province to the next.

MIX AND MATCH

In many metropolitan areas, we see not a single model but a combination of one or more.

BOTTOM-UP APPROACHES

Voluntary partnerships have limited potential to address major issues, but can be transitional stages toward compulsory bodies with specific mandates.

INCENTIVES MATTER

Effective metropolitan governance requires supportive institutional and fiscal incentives. Without them, municipalities are less likely to work together toward common objectives.

TRUST MATTERS

Building intermunicipal trust is essential, and can be achieved through the accumulation of small successes and with provincial incentives.