

Changing Patterns of Governance in Metropolitan Regions: Australian and Canadian Perspectives

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IMFG convened a panel of experts to examine emerging trends in regional governance in Canada and Australia. Two timely case studies were highlighted – the dissolution of Peel Region in Canada (which was eventually reversed) and changes in governance in the city of Greater Western Sydney in Australia (where the state government later centralized control). This paper summarizes the presentations from the event and concludes that current approaches to metropolitan governance in both countries are falling short of what is needed.

Read the full report: <https://bit.ly/3Yd8FUJ>

Key findings:

Governments need to understand the magnitude of the challenges facing metropolitan regions and prepare for unexpected change and disruption.

Successful metropolitan governance depends on achieving a balance between the roles and decision-making authority of provincial/state governments and municipalities as well as the engagement of communities and key stakeholders.

Federal governments have an important role to play, in terms of both their constitutional responsibilities that impact metropolitan governance and their financial capacity to assist.

Effective cooperation between municipalities in carrying out key functions is crucial but requires guidance and continuing support by provincial/state and federal governments.

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