

4. The role and significance of productivity and the diffusion of technology in domestic industries.
5. The significance of the urban structure.
6. The very difficult issues of the interrelationships between social policy and economic development policy.
7. The issues arising from oil and gas regimes, particularly in offshore situations.
8. Job search, labour market adjustment and migration.

Theories or Approaches to Economic Development

One of the theoretical issues concerns the extent to which economic development for regions is explained by an export staples approach (following the ideas of Innes and Mackintosh) or whether economic growth in Canadian regions is better explained by a more comprehensive theoretical approach. It will be recalled that under the export staple approach the demand for and the supply of export staples (together with the erection of appropriate infrastructure and linkages to other industries) are the key to development. Sometimes policy makers turn this theory around and, instead of asking how many jobs will the region's staple natural resource industries generate, they ask how many people can be supported by the region's natural resources (implicitly assuming that all the region's employment emanates directly or indirectly from the natural resource base). We find evidence to support the idea that natural resource industries generate jobs, but we also find that many jobs do not emanate directly from natural resources.