

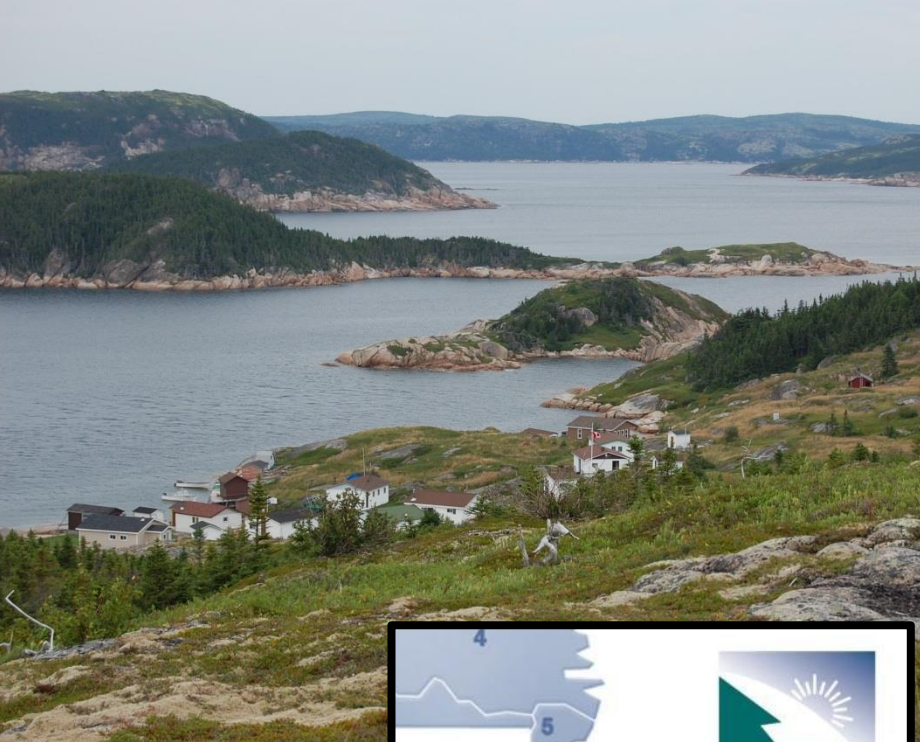
Connecting the dots: local government infrastructure and water

Sarah-Patricia Breen
Sarah Minnes

Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation Conference
Thunder Bay
October 2013

Key Points

1. Canada has an infrastructure deficit
 - Includes water infrastructure
 - Particular challenge to rural regions
2. Water cuts across jurisdictions
 - Human health
 - Environmental services
 - Economic development
3. Current approach to drinking water infrastructure is undesirable
 - “There has got to be a better way to do this”



Kittiwake

Kootenays



Snapshot: Kootenays

<i>Key provincial ministries</i>	Health (Interior Health Authority) Community, Sport, and Cultural Development Environment (Water Stewardship Division) Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations BC Hydro
<i>Local government</i>	Municipality Regional Districts
<i>Key policies</i>	Drinking Water Protection Act Water Act Environmental Management Act
<i>Key programs</i>	Gas Tax Fund Columbia Basin Trust Water Smart
<i>Public system snapshot</i>	~53 systems Range of treatment technology Distribution deterioration overshadowed by treatment 7 systems on water advisory
<i>Issues</i>	Capacity (money, people, time), culture, asset management, governance, integration, place and context

Snapshot: Kitiwake

<i>Key provincial ministries</i>	Department of the Environment and Conservation Department of Municipal Affairs Department of Health and Community Services Department of Natural Resources Department of Service NL
<i>Local government</i>	Municipal governments Local services districts
<i>Key policies</i>	Water Resources Act Environmental Protection Act Policy for Drinking Water Quality Monitoring and Reporting for Public Water Supplies Municipalities Act
<i>Key programs</i>	The Multi- Barrier Strategic Action Plan Federal-Provincial-Municipal Infrastructure Canada program Operator Education, Training, and Certification program
<i>Public system snapshot</i>	41 public water systems Both distribution and treatment are of concern Range of treatment technology 15 systems on water advisory
<i>Issues</i>	Persistence of BWA's, required infrastructure upgrades, over chlorination, source water concerns

Summary - Current Issues

1. Physical infrastructure

- Distribution and treatment systems
- Change in situation

2. Operations

- Fire fighting

3. Approach

- **Overlapping and conflicting jurisdictions**
- **Intent vs. execution**
- **Path dependence**
- **Lack of ...**

A (new) regional approach?

- Why focus on the regional level?
- What is New Regionalism?
- Why use a development theory to deal with water infrastructure?

Key Elements - part 1



Governance



Integration



**Placed -
Based**



**Innovation
and
Knowledge
Flows**



**Rural - Urban
Relationships**



Key Elements - part 2



**Sustainable
Infrastructure**



Resilience

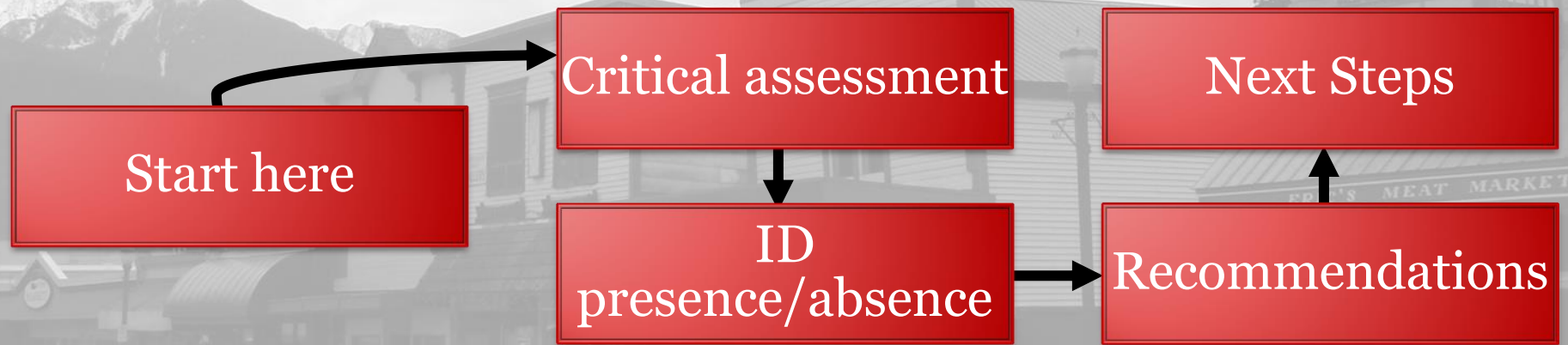


**Best Existing
Watershed
Approaches**



What will the approach look like?

- “... large numbers of independent governments (voluntarily) cooperating through multiple, overlapping webs of inter-local agreements.” *Savitch & Vogel, 2000. Pg. 164.*



Conclusions

- Need for change
- Infrastructure deficit as an opportunity
- Application of existing knowledge

Next Steps

- 3) Refinement
- 4) Focus groups
- 5) Analysis
- 6) Refinement
- 7) Feasibility
- 8) Analysis
- 9) Results and recommendations

Thank you Questions?



Contact information:

Sarah-Patricia Breen swbreen@sfu.ca

Sarah Minnes sminnes@grenfell.mun.ca

**Canadian Regional
Development**
A Critical Review of Theory,
Practice, and Potentials



**Développement régionale
canadienne**
Un examen critique du théorie, de
pratique et des potentiels



Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en
sciences humaines du Canada

Canada