

The Canada's World Findings - Insights for Canadian Municipalities Working Globally

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Overview

- 1. Introduction to Canada's World**
- 2. Overall Findings**
- 3. What is Different?**
- 4. Insights for Canadian Municipalities**
- 5. Discussion Questions**



Purpose

Canada's World was created to bridge the gap between Canadians' perceptions and reality of Canada's role in the world.

The goal of Canada's World is to engage Canadian citizens in developing a new narrative for Canada's role in the world that reflects who we are now as a country, not who we were 50 years ago.

Historical Experience

Timeline of Canada's Role in the World

Values

Equality, Social justice
Environment/Sustainability
Democracy, Freedom, Good
Governance
Multiculturalism, Diversity
Peace, Stability, Security,
Safety

Interests

Economic Well-being
Peace, Stability, Security,
Safety
Environment/Sustainability
Equality, Social Justice
Sovereignty

Assets

Multiculturalism,
Diversity
Education, Knowledge
Natural Resources
Democracy, Freedom,
Good Governance
Economy, Wealth

The Process

Phase I: Research , Development and Design

Phase II: Launch – Poll, Dialogues, On-line and In-Person Outreach

Phase III: Analysis and First Draft of the New Narrative

Phase IV: National Dialogue and Release of Findings

Phase V: Advancing the Story

Role of Municipalities

- Collaborators included the City of Vancouver and the International Centre for Sustainable Cities (ICSC)
- Municipalities and Cities were recognized as important new actors on the international stage – “Power of Cities” – 1 of 9 dialogue themes
- dialogue session on global drug issues with City of Vancouver
- dialogue session with Whistler Forum and ICSC

New Direction

Coherence

Collaboration

Community



| | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| People | Education and Research |
| Military | Natural Resources |
| Aboriginal Peoples | Civil Society |
| Private Sector | Diplomacy |

What is different?

Less focus on traditional notions of Canada as ‘peacebuilder’ or ‘middle-power’ in favour of Canada as a Role Model – Leading by example

What we do at home matters

- Defines our global contributions
- Determines our capacity for influence
- Indicates policy coherence
- Provides credibility

What is different?

Recognition of Different Axis of Power

- Canada-US relations are important but US global position is declining – shift to a multi-polar world, rise of emerging powers
- Want Canada to be active in pursuing relationships with emerging powers without compromising relationship with US

What is different?

Less state-centric

- States do not control the same amount of traffic as they once did
- Multiplicity of actors in the international arena
- State is still critical but traditional state-centric perspectives will not address complexities of global problems

What is different?

Focus on Networks

- Greater emphasis on building collaborative skills
- Fragmented media/communication channels requires greater networking capacity
- Do not understand the 'silo' approaches to governance

What is different?

Focus on Green Economy

- Economy without recognition of the environment does not resonate particularly with younger audiences
- Want sustainable growth – i.e. Growth within ecological limits
- Climate change continues to be a leading concern

What is different?

Attachment to Diversity

- Younger audiences do not relate to the anxiety around dual citizenship
- More globally connected and globally minded
- Want a dialogue on the obligations and responsibilities of citizenship but consider global connectivity an asset

Municipalities

Green Economy

Municipalities are recognized for their value as economic engines in Canada. Municipalities should have a greater role in international negotiations and in advancing green economic development globally (e.g. public transportation, municipal service delivery systems, urban agriculture, climate change mitigation and adaptation, water conservation and treatment etc.)

Support cities in long-term sustainable planning.

Municipalities

Innovation

Municipalities have experiences in designing policies, taxation regimes and infrastructure to support innovation (e.g. community economic development, public transportation, communications, social economy, drug policy, emergency preparedness, idea generation etc). They also have the ability to convene groups to leverage support. These skills can be shared.

Municipalities

Equality and Human Development

Municipalities are centers for sustainable human development and human security. They are on the front line of addressing social problems and developing community-based solutions.

Municipalities could play a greater role internationally as idea entrepreneurs in addressing equality and being a voice for those who are marginalized.

Municipalities

Equality and Human Development

Municipalities can work directly with partners internationally to address global inequity and human security by sharing skills, human and financial resources, engaging citizens in international development efforts and advocating on behalf of communities in need.

Need to work towards greater policy coherence among all levels of government – municipal, provincial and territorial, federal and aboriginal.

Municipalities

Embracing Diversity

Cities are centres for multiculturalism and diversity. They settle, educate, train immigrants and refugees and they are the centre of migration for Aboriginal people leaving their reserve or labourers looking for work.

Municipalities can provide and facilitate support for humanitarian assistance and long-term sustainable development by:

Municipalities

Embracing Diversity

- Mobilizing their multicultural assets
- Harnessing diverse expertise, connections and networking through globally connected residents, local groups and businesses
- Promoting cross-cultural understanding – through arts, sports, culture
- Honouring relations with aboriginal peoples
- Advancing policies of diversity
- Promoting a dialogue about the obligations and responsibilities of citizenship

Municipalities

Promoting Good Governance

Municipalities have developed unique processes for decision-making and service delivery which can be shared (e.g. Community engagement in decision-making and planning, taxation, long-term sustainable planning, emergency preparedness, elections, regional cooperation, conservation, economic promotion and development, anti-corruption programs, street safety, etc).

Municipalities can also improve their governance through greater international networking and exchange

Future Directions

Your turn...

Are you surprised by these findings? Do they resonate? What's missing for you?

How do these findings inform the international work of municipalities?

What broad stroke directions do you think the FCM can take to advance the role of municipalities internationally?

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