

The Role of the Higher Education Sector in Regional Economic Development: A Preliminary Atlantic Canadian Perspective

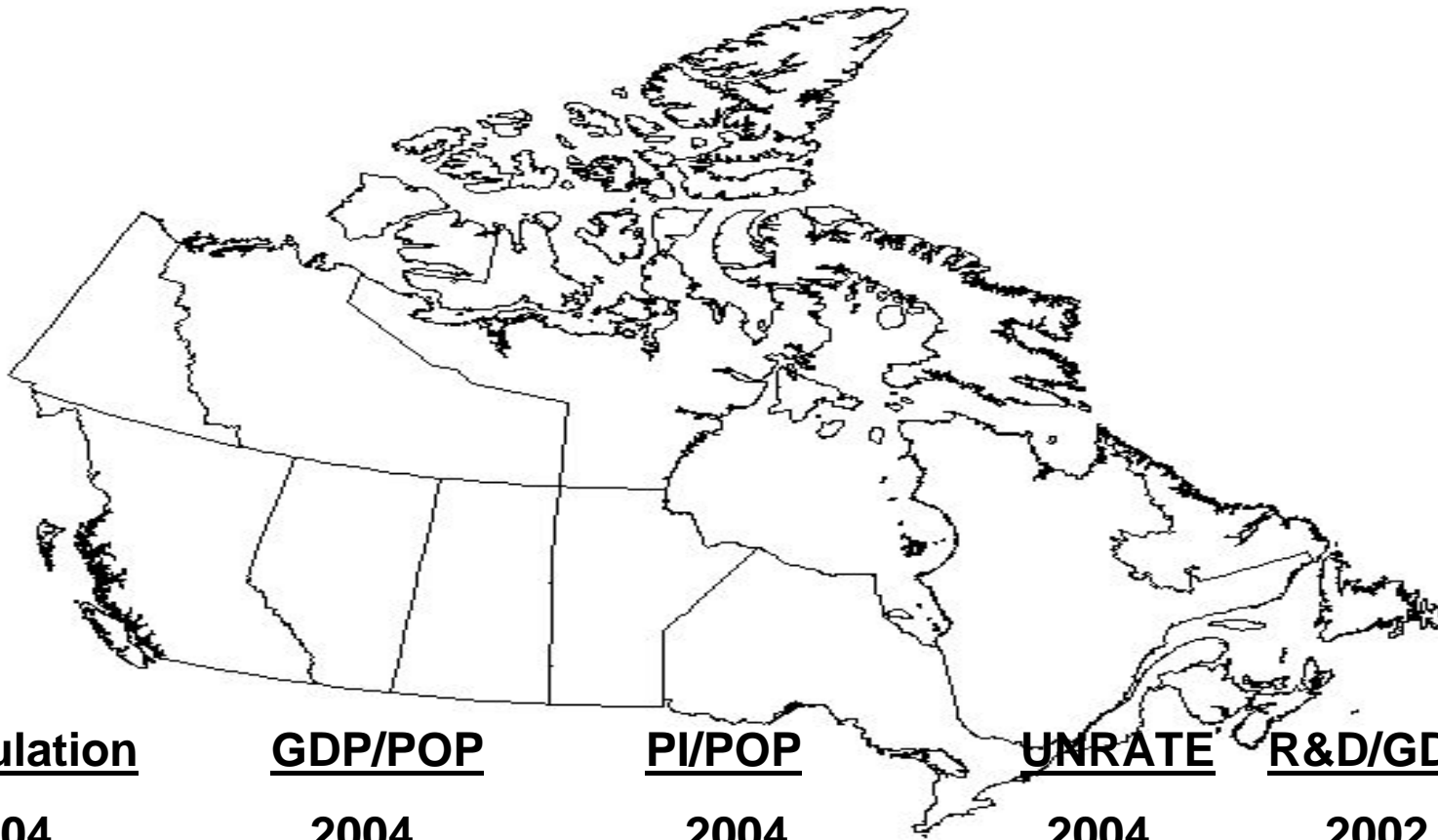
A Presentation to the OECD's International Seminar on
The Role of Higher Education Institutions in
Regional Development

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Map Of Canada



<u>Population</u>	<u>GDP/POP</u>	<u>PI/POP</u>	<u>UNRATE</u>	<u>R&D/GDP</u>
2004	2004	2004	2004	2002
Canada 32 M	\$40,480	\$30,130	7.2%	1.9%
NL 520,000	\$37,840 (94%)	\$24,670 (82%)	15.6%	0.9%
PEI 140,000	\$28,990 (72%)	\$24,880 (83%)	11.3%	0.8%
NS 940,000	\$32,060 (79%)	\$27,092 (90%)	8.8%	1.4%
NB 750,000	\$31,120 (77%)	\$25,700 (85%)	9.8%	0.9%

Constitutional Issues

- Unlike other countries, education is constitutionally the responsibility of the provincial governments
 - No national department of education
 - Federal government's role is through indirect funding via grants to the provinces and financial support for students
- Also the constitution commits both levels of government to furthering economic development to reduce disparities

Atlantic Canada's HES

	Colleges	Universities
F.T. Enrolment	25,000	75,200
P.T. Enrolment	60,000	15,500
Campuses	50	17
Faculty & Staff	4,000	NA
Income Impact	\$1.75 billion	NA
Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applied research focus • consultations to enhance role in productivity & competitiveness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$200 m in R&D funding through AIF, SSHERC, NSERC, CIHR • regional econ. impact study • tech trans initiatives

Issues – Concerns & Strengths

- R&D intensity low (particularly in business sector)
- Collaboration between HES & industry not as high as could be
- Fewer researchers & relatively low levels of R&D affect productivity & absorptive capacity of region
- Effective recognition by researchers that collaborating with industry is a legitimate function of HES
- Enhance economic opportunities to retain graduates in the region
- HES in peripheral region even more important
- Federal initiative in HES (new millennium scholarships, Canada Research Chairs, etc)
- Recent initiatives by HES to enhance role in local economic development
- Having a good network of university researchers who are some of Canada's leading thinkers on regional development represents a strong link between HES and regional development within Atlantic Canada