

Urban Shrinkage: The Canadian Perspective

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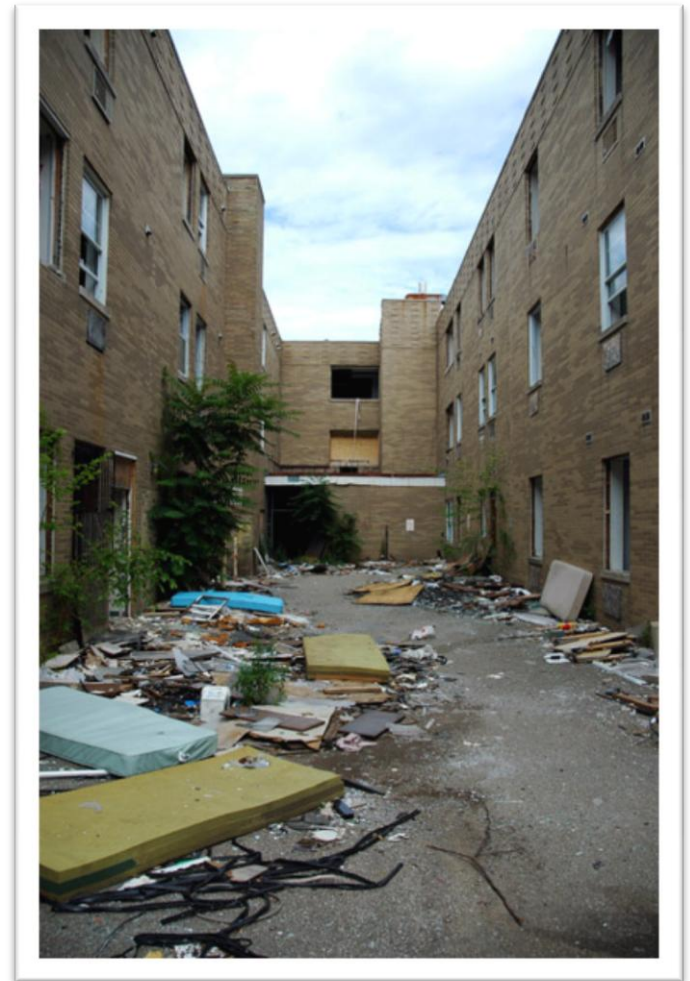
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Summary

- Introduction
- Fertility Rates & Ageing Population
- Immigration
- Prevalence of Shrinking
- Elliot Lake
- Roots of shrinkage
- Research-based recommendations
- Hall & Hall
- Ongoing & Future Research



Abandoned Nursing Home, Flint MI Source: Warkentin

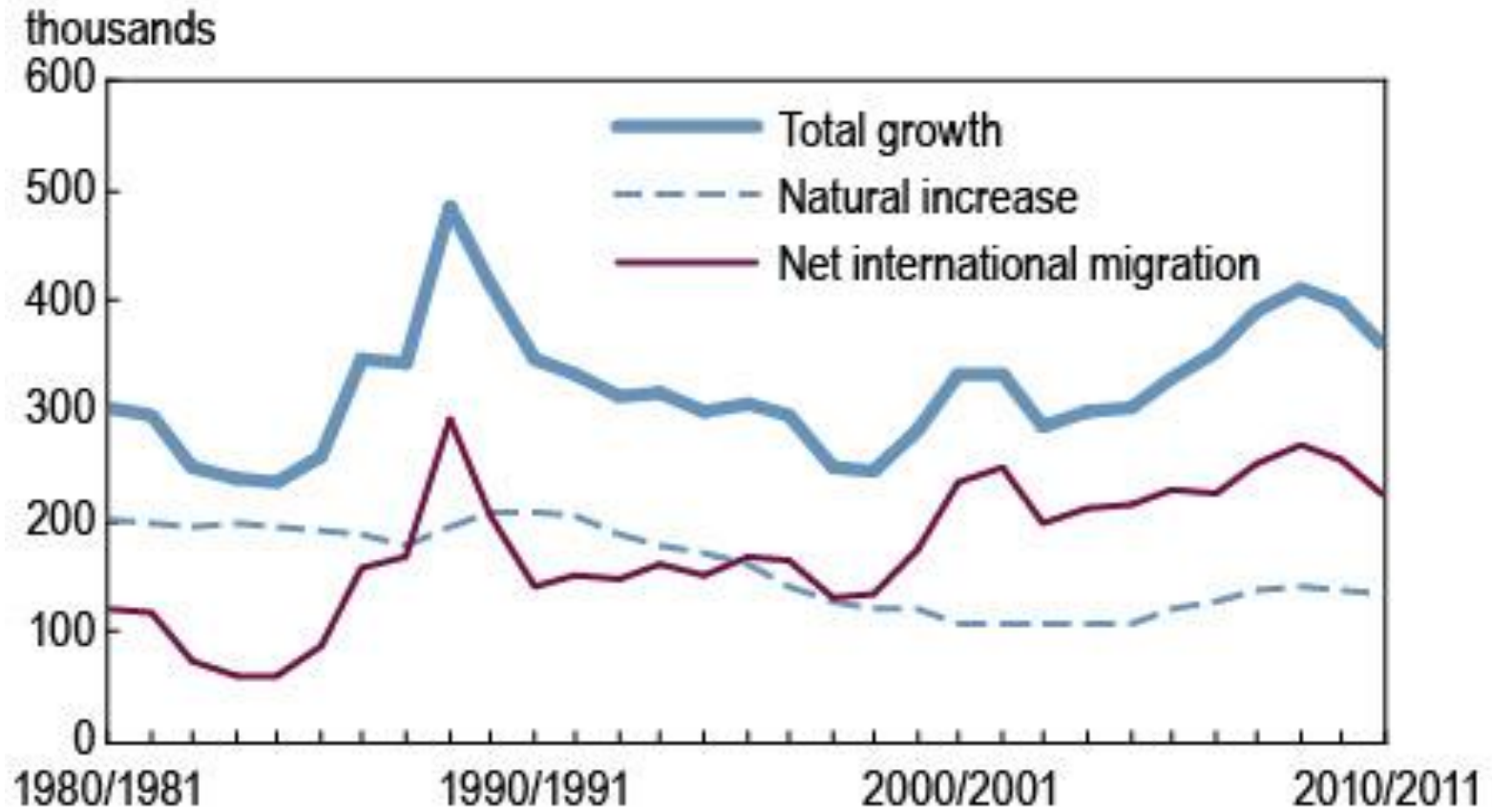
Introduction

Year	Global Population	% Live in Cities
1800	1 billion	2%
2000	6.5 billion	50%
2050	8.5 billion	75%

From 1950-2000, the number of shrinking cities increased by 330%.

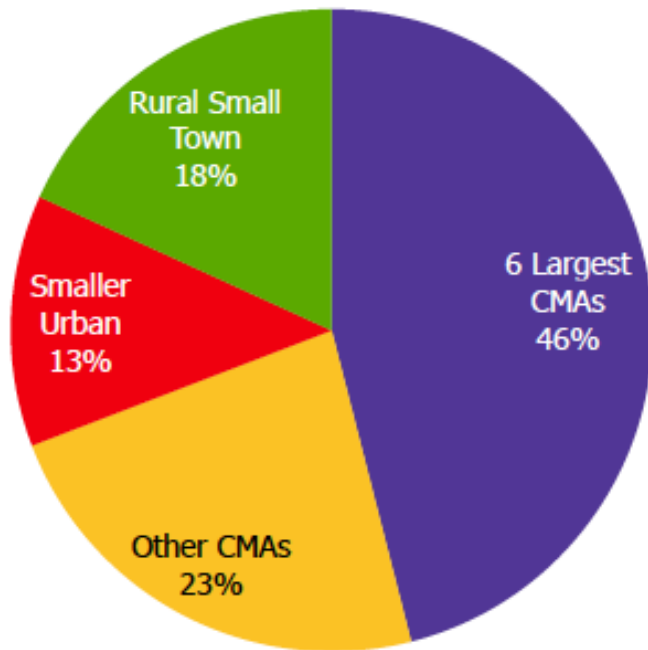
- 1 in 4 cities worldwide
- 40% of European cities
- Canada vulnerable due to:
 - High level of urbanization
 - Large hinterland
 - Many communities economically dependent on extraction or harvesting of natural resources

Canadian Context

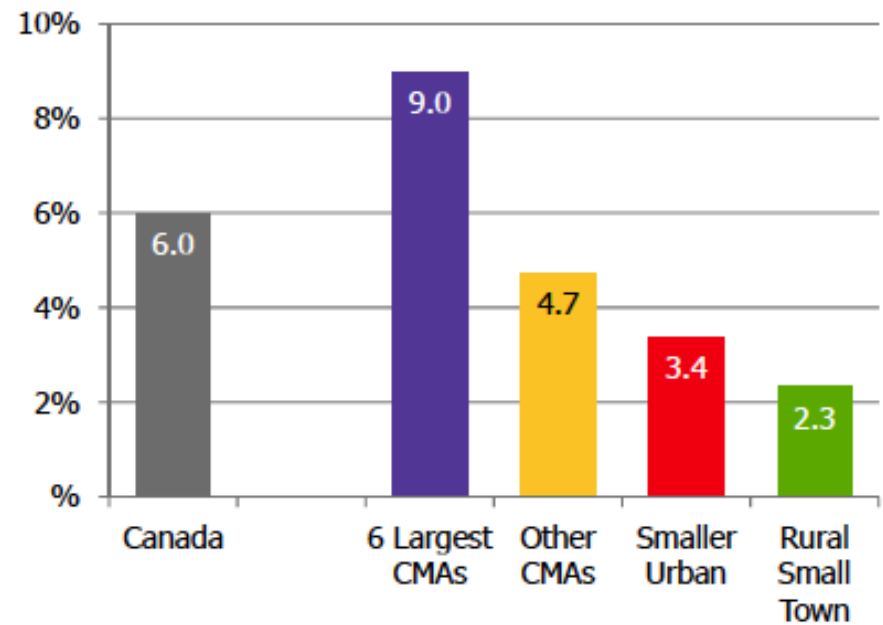


Canadian Context [cont.]

Canada 2011 Population – 34,528,000



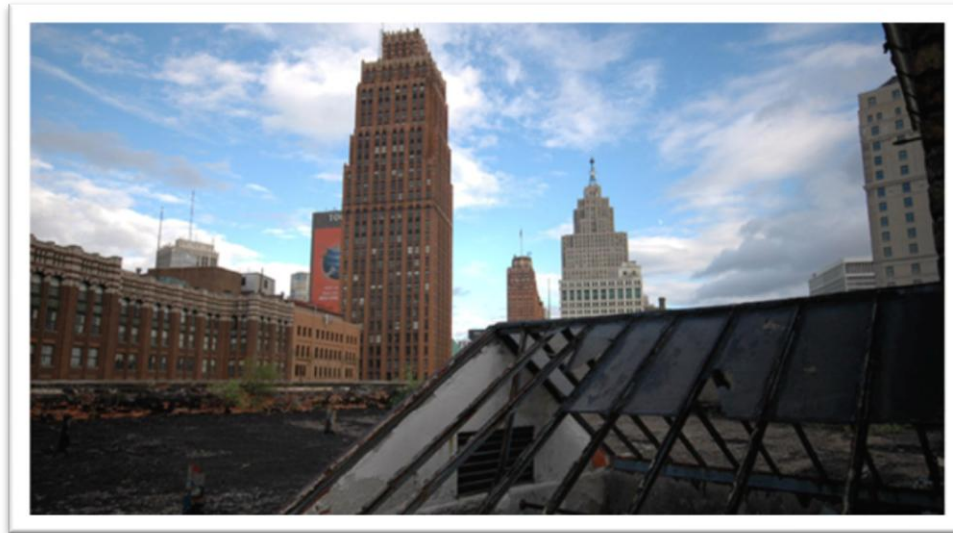
% Growth 2006-2011



Source: Statistics Canada, Population Estimates

What is a ‘Shrinking City’?

“a densely populated urban area with a minimum population of 10,000 residents that has faced population losses in large parts for more than two years and is undergoing economic transformations with some symptoms of a structural crisis.”
(SCiRN 2007; Wiechmann 2008; Pallagst et al. 2009)



Downtown Detroit, MI Source: Warkentin

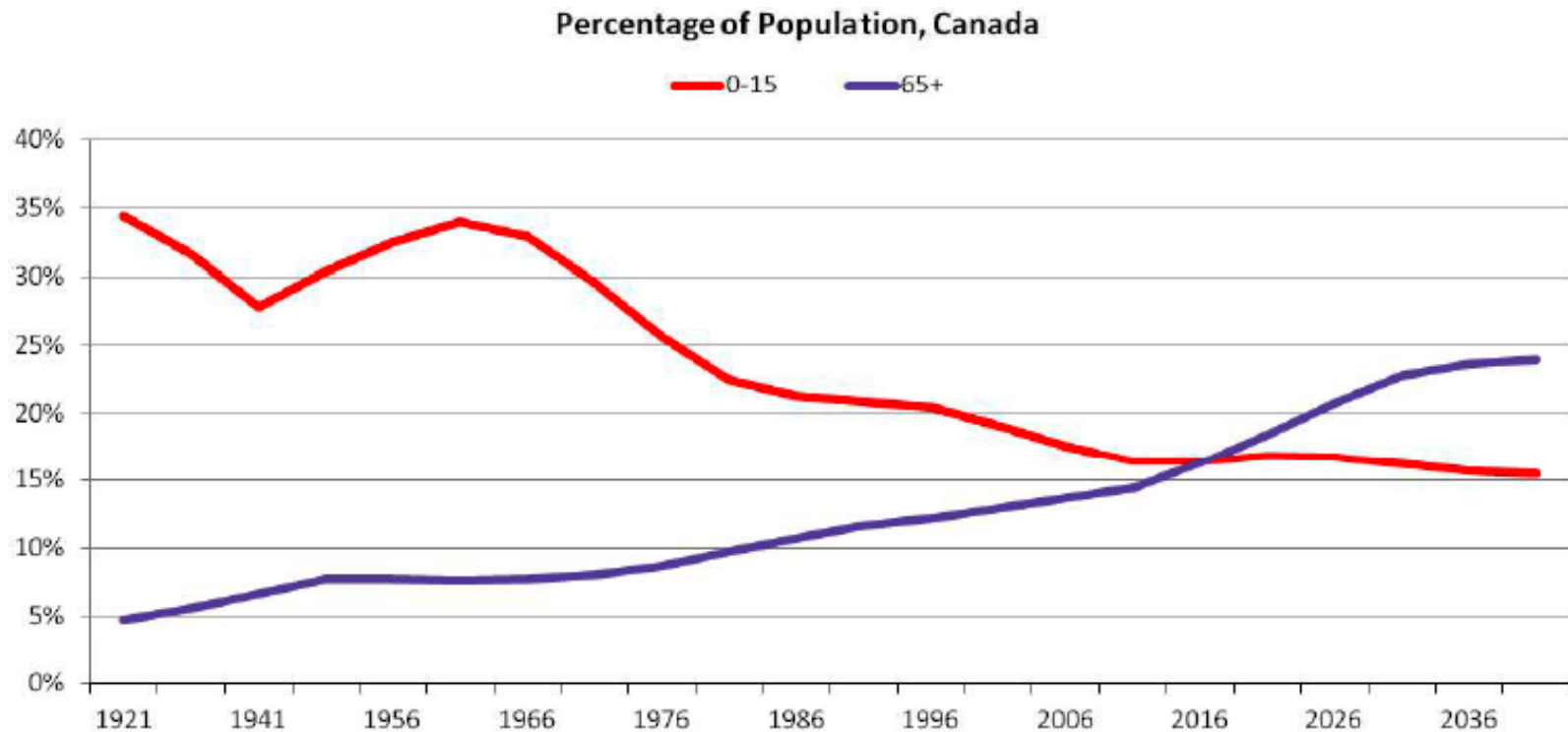
What causes urban shrinkage?

- Political Transformation
- Destruction
- Economic Restructuring
- Suburbanization
- Demographic Change



Fertility Rates & Ageing Population

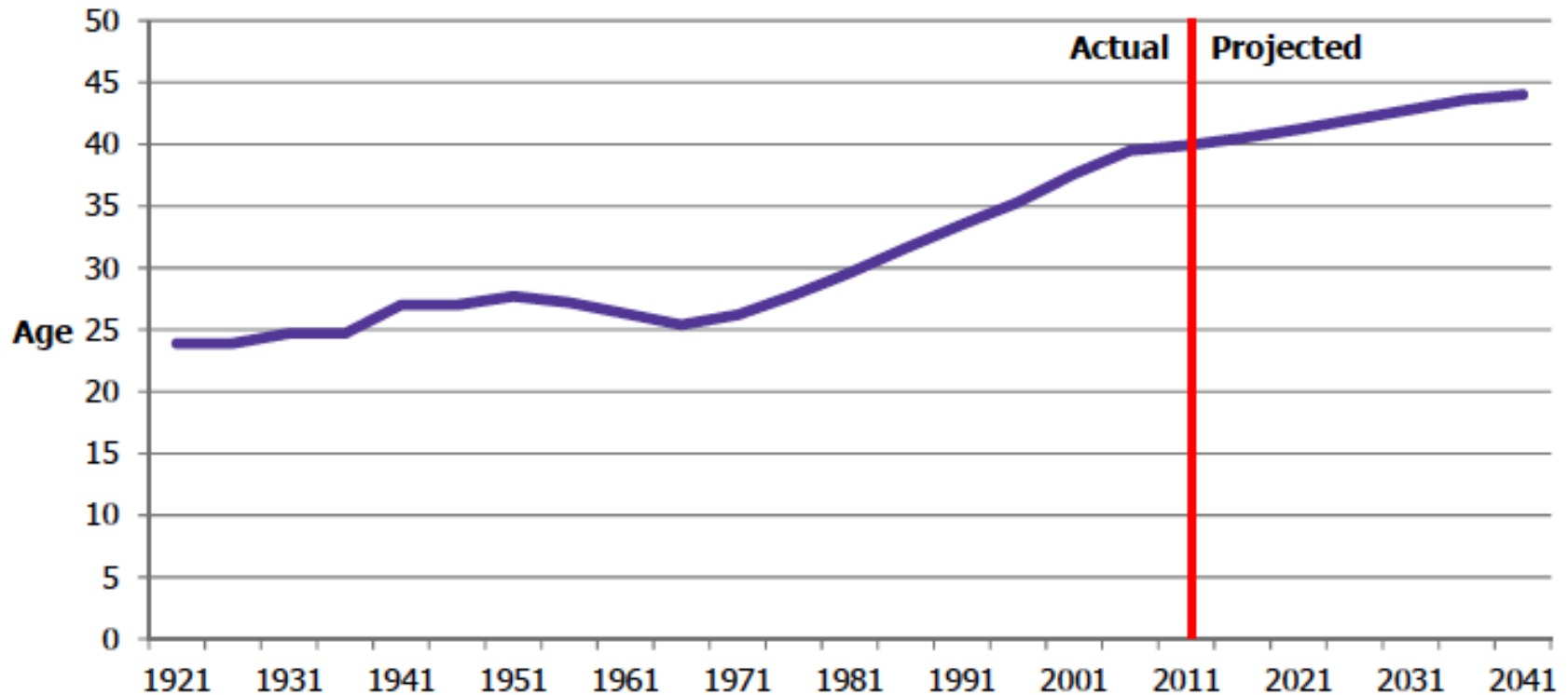
- 1851: 7 births per woman
- 2009: 1.67 births per woman



Source: Statistics Canada, Population Projections

Ageing Population [cont.]

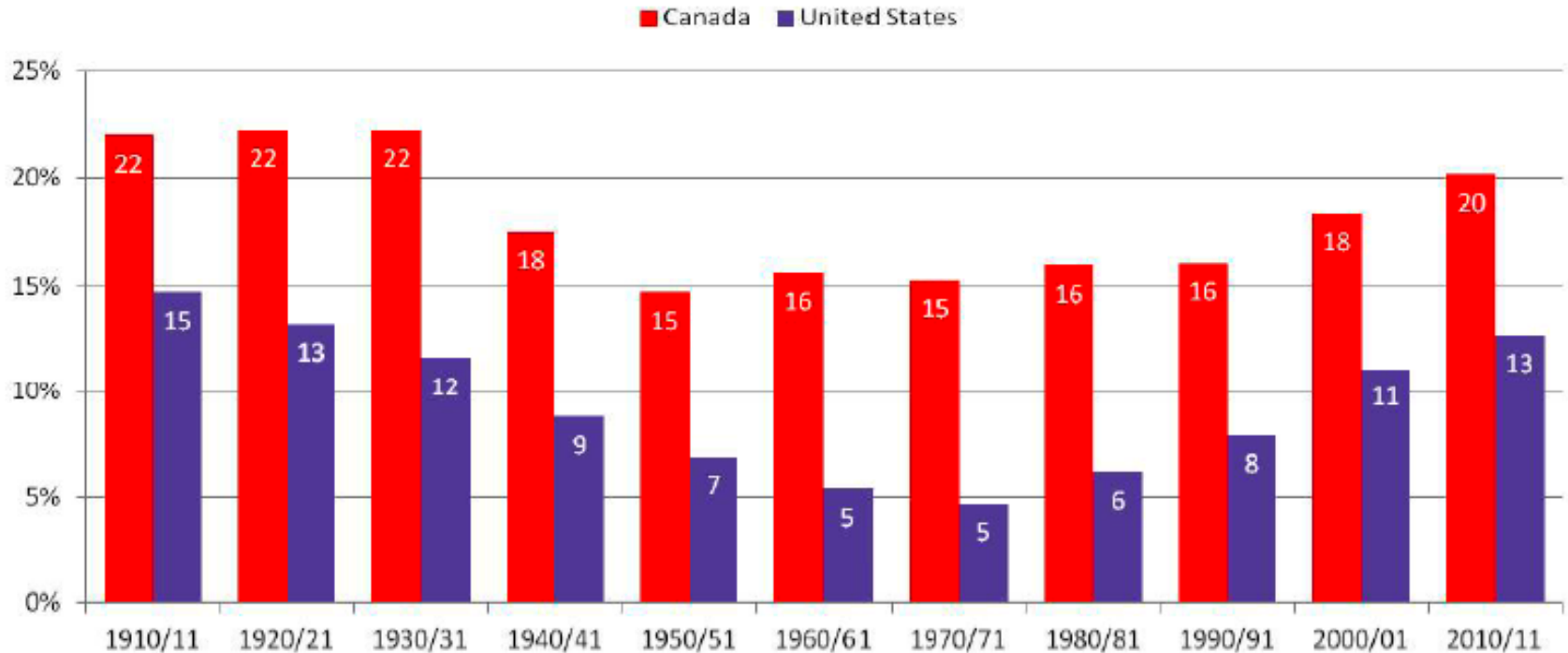
Median Age of Canada's Population



Source: Statistics Canada

Immigration

Foreign Born as a Percentage of the Total Population



Net International Migration as a % of Population

United States 2000-2010 3.2%

Canada 2001-2011 6.5%

Prevalence of Shrinking

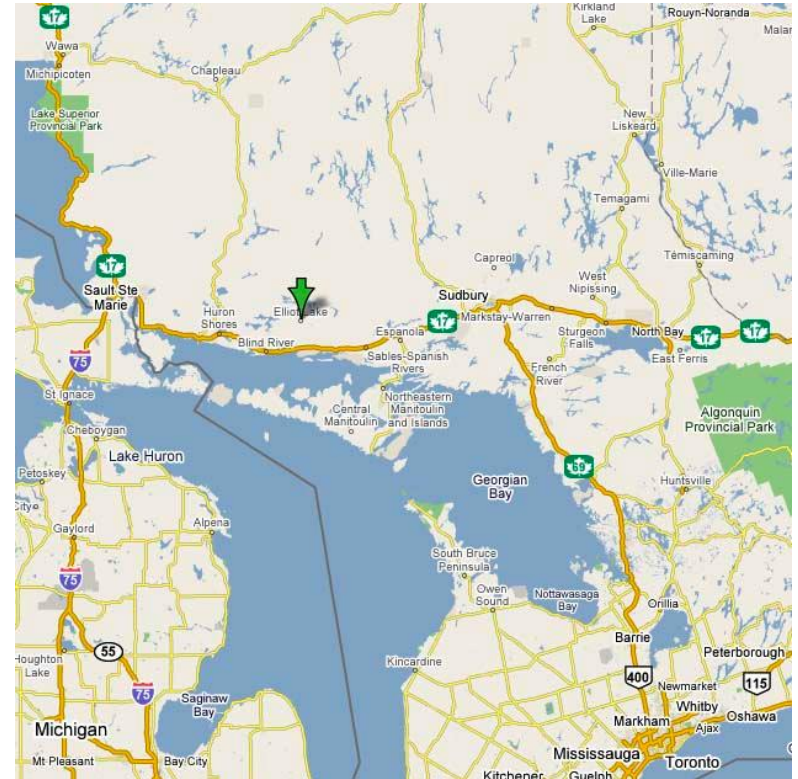
Percent Population Change	Number of CA and CMAs			
	2006-2011	2001-2006	1996-2001	1991-1996
<0 (Shrink)	28	39	63	31
0-3.2 (No/Slow Growth)	38	30	39	33
>3.2 (Growth)	89	75	37	66

Source: Statistics Canada

- 2006-2011: 18%
- 2001-2006: 25%
- 1996-2001: 45%

Elliot Lake

- Established as planned community for uranium mining industry
- Peak population: 26,000 (1959)
- Low: 6,600 (1966)
- Retirement Living Program
 - Low rents and all maintenance requirements taken care of
 - Stabilized community with population of 11,500



Roots of Shrinkage

- Globalization and structural economic shifts
- Growth of service sector
- Concentration of knowledge-based jobs in large metropolitan areas
- Decline of the resource and manufacturing sectors



Abandoned house, Ontario. Source: Patrick LaRoque

Crisis of hinterland development

- Leadbeater (2009)
 - Increase in productivity in resource industries
 - Massive increases in concentration of both domestic and international capital
 - Major shifts in state policy resulting in cutbacks in employment and social problems
 - Environmental limits on production and consumption
 - Increased political resistance regarding sovereignty and land claims from Aboriginal peoples

Research-based Recommendations

Schatz (2010) concluded that planners can must follow principles of “good planning” – which include:

- Leaving behind the assumption of growth;
- Using processes that are strategic, with an emphasis on citizen participation;
- Adopting a balanced approach in addressing the physical, economic, environmental and social needs of the community; and
- Changing the role they play in the community (pg. 316)

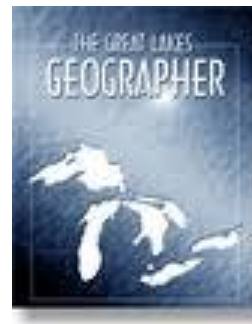
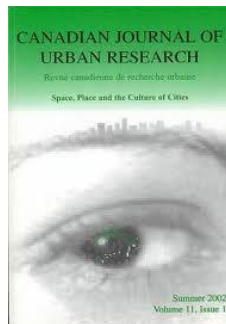
Recommendations [cont.]

In response to the crisis of hinterland development, Leadbeater concluded:

- Lowering the capacity of transnational corporations to externalize their social costs;
- Becoming more stringent with policy regarding corporate tax breaks
- A redistribution of power toward communities and labour to address the “subordinate power relations of communities to resource corporations”

Hall & Hall (2008)

- 11 years of 8 Canadian planning journals
- Growth overwhelmingly presented as expected and normal, even in cases of decline
- Pressing need for research
 - Both shrinking, no growth and slow-growth
 - To assist policy-makers, planners and communities in planning for decline and to “tell the story of these places in such a way that allows them to create alternative visions of possible development trajectories” (pg. 14)
- Literature on Canadian urban shrinkage repeats and reinforces the assumption that quantitative growth is the only acceptable response to decline



Research Questions

- What planning strategies to maintain or improve the quality of life of remaining residents are being realized successfully in shrinking cities?
- How can smaller shrinking cities adapt successful planning strategies used by their larger counterparts?
- Can the literature on growth and growth modelling be adapted to the shrinking context? If so, how?

Thank You

Questions?