

Main Features of Functioning and Development of Small Towns in Canada

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Abstract: The article describes the levels of territorial division of the country, peculiarities of the today's status of small cities in Canada, their characteristics, functioning and strategic programs of development. In any small city of Canada, as well as in all Western countries, the main idea of the city's development is sustainability, i.e. satisfying the needs of the current generation with regard to the needs of the future generations, solving problems of social, economical and ecological sides of the society's life. There are considered the types of small cities, the urban and regional planning of Canada in different periods.

Key words: Small cities of Canada • Sustainable development • Territorial division • Small industrial cities • Mono-cities • Service-towns • Supply-towns • Strategic programs of small cities development

INTRODUCTION

Currently, Canada and the USA are among seven most developed countries, US economy has the highest GDP in the world, Canada is unusual among developed countries because of the importance of their commodity sector, in which timber and oil industries are the most important one. In addition, Canada is one of the world's largest suppliers of agricultural products. Despite all these indicators, development of small towns in the USA and Canada as well as in Russia, faces a number of problems, which are becoming more difficult in terms of increasing capitalism and market economy.

In the west world the construction industry has reached a new stage in its development: now town-planners must be competent managers, economists, marketers and managers. Spatial planning the USA and Canada is very different from domestic examples-in these countries the general plan-not just a statement of fact, blind placement of linear / non-linear objects on the ground, fixing sanitary protection zones and establishing the procedure for land use. All urban planning practices abroad are a look into the future, most of the projects-offers for rationalizing the space-use, its humanization and adaptation to modern needs.

Development of small towns is a very controversial issue. On the one hand, support of unattractive business

areas is economically burdensome for the state government. On the other hand-the problem is "alive", because the dilemma "be or not to be" for a city will determine thousands of fates of small town residents, stir migration flows, will be decisive for entire generations.

Development of small towns in Canada as well as in other countries is going due to historical, geographical, political, economic and social aspects. For an objective assessment of current situation it is necessary to submit an administrative division of Canada, its role in world politics.

Canada is one of the biggest countries in the world, occupying almost the entire northern half of North America and adjacent islands, including Vancouver in the west of the mainland, Novaya Zemlya-in the east and the Canadian Arctic Archipelago-in the north.

Canada's population is about 34.5 million people and according to this indicator Canada ranks 37th in the world. Most of population lives in a narrow strip along the US border width of 160 km and a length of 6000 km. Population growth equally promotes immigration and natural population growth. Life expectancy in Canada-74.9 years for men and 81.4 years for women. This is one of the highest rates in the world.

There are two main systems of territorial division in Canada: administrative and census. In different parts of Canada there are from one (Yukon) to four (Quebec)

administrative levels division. Determining the levels of territorial division of the country helps us to understand what cities we can relate to small:

- Level 1-10 provinces and three territories;
- Level 2-Regional-all Canadian provinces and territories are divided into regions / areas (fr. Régions);
- Level 3- Districts (county level)-the most common;
- Level 4-Municipal-municipalities, cities, towns, villages, parishes, cantons, counties and districts [3].

The main direction of migration within Canada is the outflow of young people from rural areas and small towns to big cities, as well as the mass exodus of skilled labor (engineers, nurses, designers, etc.) and college graduates to work in the United States. Toronto certainly is the most powerful magnet for migration in the country. Due to the rapid growth of the oil and gas industry and mass building in Alberta and British Columbia, there is a strong tendency for moving young population from Central Canada, prairie and the Atlantic provinces in Western Canada. Also continuing exodus from Quebec to other provinces in the English-speaking population is the result of many years separatist sentiment and unwilling, feeling population as second-class citizens.

Migration of the population has the most adverse impact on the lives of small towns. Provincial capitals, concentrating around a plurality of small cities and counties become centers of monocentric agglomerations. In 1969 federal government created three municipal associations for the unified management of agglomerations of Montreal, Ontario and Quebec, largely reproducing the characteristics of urban associations in France [1].

Characteristics of Small Cities in Canada: According to current ratings, TOP- 10 small cities in Canada are:

Canmore, Alberta: (town in the south-west of the province of Alberta (Canada), with a permanent population of 12,317 people (according to the municipal census of 2008). Another 5567 people, representing 31.6% of the total population, are seasonal workers. Total population of the city-17 672 people. Municipal status of a small city received in 1965. Area-68.9 km²).

Milton, Ontario: (city in Southern Ontario, is part of the Greater Toronto Area. Located 40 km from Toronto on Highway 401. To 2006 population of town was 53,939 people, including 41,430 people consider their native

language-English, 945 people-French. Founded in 1907. Area-366.61 km²).

North Vancouver, British Columbia: (city, part of Greater Vancouver (British Columbia, Canada). Separated from Vancouver Burrard Bay, on the north shore which is located. Population 48,000 people. Founded-1907. Area-11.83 km²).

Boucherville, Quebec: (city in the Canadian province of Quebec, district Monterezhi, Longueuil area. Population-39,062 people. Among them native French-to 93.6%, English-2 %. Founded in 1667.

Stratford, Ontario: (City on the Avon River in Perth County in Southern (South-West) Ontario. Founded in 1859. Population-30,461 people. Area-21.92 km²).

Halton Hills, Ontario: (population-55 289chel. Area-276.26 km², including the City-39.52 km², rural-236.74 km². Founded in 1974 through the merger of Georgetown, Acton, Esquesing village and a small part of Oakville lying north of highway 401).

Newmarket, Ontario: (City-part of the industrial area, called the “Golden Horseshoe “ (English Golden Horseshoe). Founded in 1880. Area-38.33 km². Population-79,978 people).

Lacombe, Alberta: (It is located north of Red Deer, the nearest large town and to the south of Edmonton-the capital of the province of Alberta. Founded-1896. Area-20.89 km². Population-11,707 people).

Strathcona County, Alberta: (a municipality in the central part of the province, area is both urban and rural land. Isolated as a municipality in 1943. Area-1,180.56 km². Population-92.490 people. Located not far from the provincial capital Edmonton. Population will increase up to 200 000 people. But opponents of such growths cause their positions concern for the preservation of agricultural land, as growth of Edmonton destroyed a agricultural territories).

St. Albert, Alberta: (Date of foundation-1904. Area-48.27 km². Population-61.466 people. Town is located in the province of Alberta, north- west of Edmonton Sturgeon River. Currently is the second largest city in Edmonton Capital Region. St.Albert first received city status in 1904 and has been linked to the Northern Railway in 1906) (Tables 1 and 2) [11].

Table 1: Ranking of Canada's small towns

TOP-10 best towns of Canada for business development	TOP-10 best towns of Canada for upbringing children
10. Grand Praire, Alberta	10. Lacombe, Alberta
9. Canmore, Alberta	9. Gatineau, Quebec
8. Burlington, Ontario	8. Repentigny, Quebec
7. Lethbridge, Alberta	7. Terrebonne, Quebec
6. Regina, Saskatchewan	6. Boucherville, Quebec
5. Edmonton, Alberta	5. Levis, Quebec
4. Calgary, Alberta	4. Strathcona County, Alberta
3. St. Albert, Alberta	3. St. Albert, Alberta
2. Red Deer, Alberta	2. Blainville, Quebec
1. Strathcona County, Alberta	1. Calgary, Quebec

Table 2: Ranking of Canada's small towns according to population

TOP -10 best towns of Canada (according to population)	Square, m ²	Rank in Canada's country-wide ranking of best cities
10. Lacombe, Alberta (11 707 people)	20.89	8
9. Canmore, Alberta (12 317 people)	68,9	24
8. Stratford, Ontario (30 461 people)	21.92	-
7. Boucherville, Quebec (39 062 people)	22,32	18
6. North Vancouver, British Columbia (48 000 people)	11,83	21
5. Milton, Ontario (53 939 people)	366,61	22
4. Halton Hills, Ontario (55 289 people)	276,26	13
3. St. Albert, Alberta (61 466 people)	48.27	2
2. Newmarket, Ontario (79 978 people)	38.33	10
1. Strathcona County, Alberta (92 490 people)	1,180.56	4



Pic. 1: Location of small Canadian cities.

As we can see from the summary table above all the small towns in Canada, despite its small population, are included in different ratings of the country, where they occupy one of the leading positions (Table 1).

It is worth say that every small town in Canada has its online resource, where all strategic development programmes and important trends are placed for urban population and not only for municipal authorities.

In all small towns in Canada the basic idea of development is sustainability.

Sustainability means satisfying needs of current generation with care for future generations. In the town of Canmore, this means that as a community we need to think about social, economic and environmental aspects of life in society [6].

There are 4 main areas in the concept of sustainability:

- Active citizenship position
- Economy
- Environment
- Social strategies [1].

In general, Canmore is a prosperous city. The example of its development can show the overall situation within small towns of Canada. Despite the migration process, each of these cities finds its niche in the economic and social development of the region. Thus, the inhabitants of the city have developed a kind of Canmore Charter for its further development. It marked provisions such as:

- Joint decision-making according to the city-development;
- Establishing the limits of urban growth boundaries;
- The interaction between the municipal authorities and residents;
- A program of affordable housing,
- Development of transport infrastructure (including conditions for Nordic walking-jogging, bike lanes) [9].

In 2010 a strategy of sustainable development of economy and tourism was adopted, taking into account changes in different areas, such as:

- Tourism-increasing of tourist activity, projects of cultural events;
- Health and promoting healthy lifestyles
- Transient population-economic benefits from the use of seasonal work;
- Knowledge, education, arts and culture-use of local human resources, expertise of qualified professionals;
- Small business-development of small business at home
- Economic development, including the scope of services related to the provision of tourist services;
- Infrastructure.

Urgent Problems and Trends in the Development of Small Cities of Canada:

City (big city)-is the highest status of organized urban municipalities existing in Canadian province of Alberta. This status corresponds to the status of the Russian city. Municipality in Alberta can obtain the status of a large city if its population reaches 10,000 people.

City (a small city, town)-usual status of organized urban municipalities existing in Alberta. This roughly corresponds to the status of the Russian towns. Municipality in Alberta receives the status of a small city, when its population reaches 1,000 people [6].

Ways of small towns development in Canada and their solutions are important for our country due to a similar climate of Russia and Canada, the multinational population, their close integration, intensive migration processes occurring in both countries.

One of the urgent questions for Canada is formation of settlement system in the north of the country. Recognized option is to create a central base of the city, social service functions to concentrate the entire settlement system and surround it by a network of satellite towns with a minimum set of service sector (small club, medical center, primary school, etc). Temporary campuses are widespread in Canada's North, they consist of tens and hundreds of caravans and trailers. In remote and inaccessible areas such mobile camps are used as prefabricated homes delivered by helicopters.

A classic example of such system is resettlement project development of Medicandian corridor proposed by committee R.Romero. There are plans to create a network of regional centers-cities with population of 250,000 people, each city will be closely connected with villages in its neighbourhood. Easy to see that such ideas are largely based on the Soviet experience and formation of clusters and their respective settlement systems during the development of resources in Lower Angara, Taimyr, Middle Ob Tyumen North, North-East.

Major problems of small towns in Canada are widely reported by the Canadian media and affected both economic and social, as well as architectural and urban aspects. Basically, most of the articles focus on the challenges of sustainable development of small towns, their competitiveness compared to large metropolitan areas.

Separately should be mentioned agricultural areas with a large number of small towns. Previously they served as bases thanks to retail deliveries of its farms production to larger industrial cities. Now, in the era of walking distance supermarkets, agricultural company towns are threatened with extinction.

On the other hand, small industrial company towns, especially in the center of Quebec, Ontario, also become unclaimed, because they are based on powerful business-giants, whose service is not profitable today.

Besides fighting for its viability, population of small towns continuously ages-young people leave the major centers of provinces and metropolises. Indicated that Canada goes to the path of large urban centers development-monocentric agglomerations. Would suffice about 7-9 urban centers with strong economy, concentrating the most important resources. But there is another view on this situation. Some Canadian researchers believe that trends in modern technology could revolutionize, give a second life to small towns. Settlement system in small towns has its advantages and this idea should be defended by the new governmental level, created inside a small town (administrative subordination of small towns should be reconsidered, they should have their own independent leaders).

Experience of Stratford (Ontario) proves that the title of the capital of Shakespeare Festival is not enough for full development. Revenues from tourism companies do not cover the costs of lost profits from trade spare car-parts, etc. Then business community of Stratford took the decision to establish the campus (branch) of the University of Waterloo, specializing in digital technologies and global economy. Now the city's motto is-" creativity and innovation ", the authorities involved in politics to attract companies with a creative approach. To do this, modern infrastructure appeared in the city, including wireless internet access network with more than 300 places of localization.

At a conference on the development of rural towns in Kingston, Ontario, was offered fighting with megacities by technologies enhancing decentralization. For example, new placements of energy sources, using of geothermal energy for small-scale nuclear technology, will reduce price of energy resources and stop their import. Development of 3D- printing, computerized organization of small-scale production will help companies outside the main turnover produce quality products both for its needs and for export.

Many older Canadians would like to receive a pension while living in small towns-if they could find a decent health care. Modern digital medical technologies enable us to provide professional assistance, even in remote areas, offering high standards of service. The gradual spread of the Internet in remote communities can fill a gap in the cultural development of small centers. The rise in popularity of distance education means that anyone can learn in prestigious educational institutions, while remaining in the city.

The only solution of discussions, according to Canadian experts, is preservation of human potential, but not a pursuit for powerful industrial enterprises. While promoting entrepreneurship in small towns, lower prices, compared with capital, will make life in them more attractive. Through the involvement and education of greater number of entrepreneurs, small towns of Canada can save themselves from oblivion and become new " donors " for world economy.

Small Industrial Towns of Canada-resource Towns:

Raw (industrial) towns, or "new cities"-are small, isolated settlements built around industrial enterprises, raw-development or powerful transport hubs-mining towns, cities in areas where mills, railroad town, fishing villages are situated. Examples include Grand Falls-Windsor, Nfld (paper industry); Glace Bay, NS (coal mining); Black's Harbour, NB (packing fish); Murdochville, Quebec (copper); Elliot Lake, Ontario (uranium); Copper Cliff, Ontario (nickel); Snow Lake, Man (copper, zinc); Drayton Valley, Alta (oil); Kitimat, BC (aluminum) and Tumbler Ridge, British Columbia (coal) [7].

These cities are very common in Canada, their total population is about 1 million people.

Model of economic development in Canada for a long time relied on the resource sector. Growth Canadian cities, ultimately depended on the magnitude of final product. Commodity city occupy an important niche in the process. The extraction of natural resources under government control in recent decades has helped to improve the quality of life in these small towns with the most unsustainable development.

In some aspects, Canadian cities remind of similar industrial cities around the world, founded and existing due to the extraction, processing and transportation resources (minerals, forests, hydropower). Small industrial cities serve large industrial enterprise, not while controlling its own economic development. The economic base is controlled by corporate boards that determine nature and extent of urban settlements depending on required workforce.

For treatment produced raw material often goes abroad, the majority of small industrial cities excluded from the chain of economic benefits from the final product. Thus, development of cities is directly dependent on boom and bust in economy, availability of resources and demand for them, which creates a feeling of insecurity among population, instability-especially urgent problems for mining towns, which have exhausted their resource potential.

Small industrial cities are also characterized by a simplified system of occupational structure. Middle class-quite weak, usually consists of small group of managers, businessmen and professionals who are focused on employment in other, larger cities. Working-class people often migrate between industrial cities searching for work.

There are several factors hindering development of diversified economy, generating more diverse working class: 1) isolation from major markets, 2) relatively high wages in the primary sector and 3) high cost of mining sites developing. One of the results is that bulk of them are men, since women have no jobs [4].

Another result is that most industrial cities are limited in their development, only few of them have population over 10,000 people. And if young industrial cities look like new suburbs of large cities, older exist as cities with poor infrastructure, dilapidated buildings and industrial landscapes, which need reorganization and remodeling.

The main differences between Canada and Russia small industrial cities development are due to national factors.

Population of many industrial towns of the province of Quebec consists of settlers from the nearby fishing, forest and agricultural areas. In contrast, labor forces of Ontario and Western Canada are immigrants from other cities and countries. Thus, "new cities", creating "from scratch", mainly in solitary places have no connection with place, its history and traditions.

The second important difference is in control system of such cities: some of them are governed by the same company or autonomous government, other cities are influenced by decisions of several companies or residents of the community itself.

Thus Formed Two Types of Towns:

- Service-towns (service-Sudbury, Ontario) or supply-towns (supply)-quickly evolve and grow,
- Monotown (eg Témiscaming, Quebec)-small, well-established community, closely associated with particular industry.

Chronologically, formation of cities reflects the approach to urban and regional planning in Canada in different periods. During the period of Confederation there have been passed three stages of formation of industrial cities: 1867-1920-"Private" urban planning, individual structural points of the city (Cobalt, Ontario), 1920-39-holistic urbanism (Kapuskasing, Ontario), 1945-

new generation of the city-with more complex and advanced planning structure, integrated approach to design and construction (Kitimat).

Despite recent concept of urban planning, the main problems of industrial cities still remain.

Many of these cities have limited shelf life and prospects for further growth beyond the original function is not implemented. Industrial towns die with closing of production (Pine Point, Schefferville, Quebec). Hundreds of Canadian communities have disappeared in such way. In other cases, industry simply outdates. But in both cases future of cities and their population remains uncertain in long-term development [8].

CONCLUSION

Thus, at present stage solving the problem of small towns development is equally acute for Russia and other developed countries.

As a result of this work may be noted that small-town Canada in its development is very similar to the northern belt cities of our country, special similarity observed in monocities. Closely associated with raw material industries, such cities are on the brink of a crisis in exhaustion of raw materials development, closing plants. Revitalization of areas in industrial cities, their returning to life still remains a challenge worldwide. In Canada these cities are trying to be restructured, developing their infrastructure and tourism. The results of these changes show that there is no universal method of reviving dying cities: each chooses its own path according to the economic, political, social development, geographical location, ethnic diversion, historical and cultural heritage.

Basic idea for small towns development is promotion of sustainable territorial development (their relationship with larger centers while maintaining the autonomy and self-sufficiency, help small businesses, infrastructure, environment). Architectural and planning approaches are based not only on theory of urban design, but more on sociological, political and economical aspects, in which architectural component is a link of multifunctional network. Zoning Basics are tightly controlled by legal framework provinces. So administrative division determines specific development of cities. In particular, the scheme of settlement in Canada (populated border areas, sparsely populated northern areas) promote formation of large cities and monocentric agglomerations, gradually took over nearby small towns. Such growths kill economic viability of small towns, suppress their independence.

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