

BMR

BUREAU OF MUNICIPAL RESEARCH

Publications
Catalogue
1982

Municipalities are not simply providers of services. Today the issues at the municipal level are complex and numerous. The decisions to be made are intricate and the reasoning behind them must be comprehensive and well-founded.

Municipal administrators and politicians many times are pressured by immediate problems and are not able to step back and review issues fully or objectively.

It is in this area that the Bureau of Municipal Research has made its contribution since 1914. By conducting objective, independent and action oriented research, the Bureau presents information and analyses which assist the decision making process.

The Bureau is a private non-profit organization funded by memberships from individuals, business, unions, associations, municipalities and other levels of government.

This brochure outlines the major reports which have been completed by the Bureau over the last few years.

For more information on membership in the Bureau or to order any publication, please fill out the enclosed order form or write:

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Economy

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT: THE MUNICIPAL ROLE

How can municipalities attract industries? What information and criteria do firms use in making their location decisions? These two questions form the basis of this report which assesses the municipal role in attracting industries.
(projected Sept. 1982), \$5.00

SHOULD THE PROVINCE HELP SAVE ONTARIO'S DOWNTOWNS

Downtown revitalization has become an issue in many older communities as the development of suburban shopping malls continues. This report reviews the risks, problems and possibilities revitalization presents to municipalities, particularly in the context of the Ontario Downtown Revitalization Program.
25 pages, 1978, \$5.00

Education

COUNTY SCHOOLS: THE EFFECTS OF THE COUNTY SCHOOL TAKEOVER ON ONE ONTARIO TOWNSHIP

This report examines the impact of the consolidation of school districts into county units. Changes in the quality of education and accountability of the school board are examined.
22 pages, 1975, \$2.00

SCHOOL CLOSURES: ARE THEY THE SOLUTION?

This report focuses on the decision making process which should be used before a closure is decided upon and the factors to be considered in making this decision. Two case studies are used to illustrate the strengths and weaknesses of various methods currently used by school boards.
33 pages, 1980, \$5.00

SCHOOL VANDALISM: AN EMERGING CONCERN

How serious and significant is the problem of vandalism in the schools? Who is responsible for handling vandalism? Are existing policies and methods appropriate? These issues are addressed in this report.
27 pages, 1977, \$5.00

TEACHING LOCAL GOVERNMENT: A
RESPONSIBILITY OF THE EDUCATIONAL
SYSTEM

This report concludes that little if any local government is being taught in secondary schools. It makes suggestions for changing this situation including presenting a basic outline for teachers to use in developing their own local government course.
80 pages, 1978, \$5.00

Environment

THE POLITICS OF WASTE MANAGEMENT

Waste management programs and recycling in particular have received little attention from either local or provincial governments. This study assesses the activities that have been undertaken by government, citizens and industry to promote better waste management.

21 pages, 1975, \$2.00

WHAT CAN MUNICIPALITIES DO ABOUT
ENERGY?

Municipalities should play an important role in promoting the more efficient use of energy and the development of renewable energy supplies. This report documents the opportunities available to municipalities desiring to make an impact in these areas.

45 pages, 1978, \$5.00

Finances

MUNICIPAL SERVICES: WHO SHOULD PAY?

User charges have had only limited use at the municipal level. This is despite the fact that they are one of the few revenue sources open to municipalities besides property taxes. This report outlines why this is the case, the services where charges have been instituted, and the factors to consider when developing a user charge policy. Included is a survey of user charges in 17 municipalities.
51 pages, 1980, \$5.00

PROVIDING MUNICIPAL SERVICES - METHODS, COSTS AND TRADE-OFFS

Contracting out municipal services is assumed by many people to be a more efficient and effective means of service delivery. This report assesses the validity of these assumptions. It reviews the economic feasibility vis-a-vis in-house provision, the impact on the quality of the service, and the factors to consider when making a decision.
26 pages, 1981, \$5.00

THE ROLE OF THE MUNICIPAL AUDITOR IN ONTARIO

Reasons for the low profile of municipal auditors are reviewed and a recommendation is made for more active involvement of the auditor not only in financial matters but in such areas as "value for money" evaluations.
21 pages, 1976, \$2.00

Government

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN METRO TORONTO: CLIMATE FOR COOPERATION?

Citizen participation at the local level is examined and various vehicles for participation are evaluated. Questionnaires administered to citizens and politicians help to define attitudes toward participation and the impact it can have on local government.
68 pages, 1975, \$5.00

LOW VOTER TURNOUT IN MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS: NO EASY SOLUTIONS

A survey of citizens is used to determine why voter turnout in municipal elections is so low. Suggestions are presented for alleviating this situation.
11 pages, 1976, \$2.00

THE NEWS MEDIA AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The relationship between the news media and local government is examined in this report. It covers such issues as the extent to which the news media serves the public and influences decision makers on municipal issues.
56 pages, 1976, \$5.00

THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND THE RIGHT TO KNOW

This seminar summary addresses two issues: what is the relationship between local government and the media; and how accessible should information be to citizens?
24 pages, 1978, \$5.00

Housing

BE IT EVER SO HUMBLE: THE NEED FOR RENTAL HOUSING IN THE CITY OF TORONTO

This report documents rental housing needs in the City of Toronto, with particular emphasis on identifying those households who are most in need. It also provides a methodology for estimating the nature and scope of housing needs in other areas.
41 pages, 1977, \$5.00

A CASE FOR BACHELORETTES

Housing low income, single people is a problem in many urban areas. This report looks at illegal bachelorette housing which has developed in Toronto to serve this market. The planning, community and political aspects of this phenomenon are reviewed.
59 pages, 1982, \$5.00

REPORT OF THE LEISURE TIME PATTERNS OF APARTMENT DWELLERS IN THE CITY OF LONDON

Little research has been done on the leisure patterns of people in high rise apartments. This study focuses on the activities of these individuals and identifies the factors influencing the amount of activity they undertake.
11 pages, 1975, \$2.00

Human Services

THE BENEFITS AND COSTS OF RECREATION

This is an essential guide to understanding the function of recreation at the municipal level. It presents information and ideas on how to bridge the gap between the benefits of recreation on the one hand and the costs on the other.
23 pages, 1981, \$5.00

RESTRAINT WITHOUT HARDSHIP: HOW DO WE KNOW?

Municipal cutbacks have affected all areas including social services. This report looks at how cutbacks in social services have been accomplished and what their impact has been on the individuals involved.
17 pages, 1976, \$2.00

WORK-RELATED DAY CARE - HELPING TO CLOSE THE GAP

Employer assistance in the provision of day care has become an issue which many employers and employees are beginning to discuss. This report clearly outlines, for the first time, why some companies, unions and employees have become involved and what benefits they have obtained. A case study on an actual facility shows how need was assessed, how planning proceeded, and what the costs and subsidies were.
49 pages, 1981, \$5.00

Planning

CHANGING THE PLANNING ACT: RISKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

This report examines and evaluates key reforms of Ontario municipal planning legislation as proposed by the Planning Act Review Committee. The basic concerns centre around increasing responsibility and authority at the local level.

30 pages, 1977, \$5.00

DESIGN FOR DEVELOPMENT: WHERE ARE YOU?

This report draws attention to the gap between the objectives of the Ontario government to plan for regional development and the actual economic and land use trends in Ontario. Neither dispersal of economic growth nor containment of sprawl have been accomplished.

19 pages, 1977, \$2.00

FOOD FOR THE CITIES: DISAPPEARING FARMLAND AND PROVINCIAL LAND POLICY

This study contains two background papers and selected conference proceedings on the loss of agricultural land to development. It also reviews the success of the regional planning and development policies of Ontario in preserving farmland.

94 pages, 1977, \$5.00

IS METROPLAN A GAMBLE WORTH TAKING?

This report addresses the issue of whether decentralization can be accomplished as it is laid out in the preliminary Metro Toronto Official Plan documents.

11 pages, 1977, \$2.00

LEGISLATIVE ATTEMPTS TO CONTROL URBAN GROWTH

This report describes how and why Canadian municipalities have attempted to bring urban growth under control. Legislation, case studies and an extensive questionnaire are included which provide information from across the country.

83 pages, 1976, \$5.00

PET CONTROL IN URBAN ONTARIO: THE MUNICIPAL ROLE

This study describes how 29 municipalities handle their animal control responsibilities. The objectives, scope of the services, financial costs and results of the various programs are identified.

62 pages, 1976, \$5.00

SHOULD THE ISLAND BE AN AIRPORT?

This report analyzes the proposed uses for the Toronto Island Airport site - including its retention as an aviation facility.

126 pages, 1977, \$5.00

Productivity

COST SAVING INNOVATIONS IN CANADIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

This is the first of a two part report aimed at documenting cost saving innovations under way in Canadian municipalities. This serves as an introduction to the use of innovations at the local level and presents information on 160 innovations. 102 pages, 1979, \$5.00

COST SAVING INNOVATIONS IN CANADIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS: A MORE IN-DEPTH LOOK

This report, the second of a two part series, focuses on identifying factors which led to the success or failure of certain innovations at the municipal level. Case studies are conducted on five innovations to evaluate their effectiveness. 89 pages, 1980, \$5.00

PRODUCTIVITY AND QUALITY OF WORKING LIFE - TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN

Is it possible to improve the levels of productivity and the quality of working life given the pressure for restraint in public spending? This report answers this question by reviewing the approaches to these issues being taken by municipalities. It identifies the current needs and shortcomings and recommends a course of action for more effective results. 32 pages, 1979, \$5.00

Public Safety

FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES IN METRO TORONTO: IS UNIFICATION THE ANSWER?

This report assesses the relative quality of service in five fire departments and determines whether amalgamation would be the most effective way to provide the best level of service. The identification of key indicators to determine quality of service is an integral part of the study. 57 pages, 1975, \$5.00

IS POLICING THE PUBLIC'S BUSINESS

The process for monitoring police expenditures and operations is reviewed and suggestions are made for increasing fiscal control and accountability. 18 pages, 1976, \$2.00

Regional Government (Toronto)

DIRECTORY OF GOVERNMENTS IN METROPOLITAN TORONTO 1981 - 1982

This directory, published every two years, is the only one which lists politicians, administrators and special purpose bodies in Metro Toronto. It covers the Metro level of government as well as Toronto, East York, Etobicoke, North York, Scarborough and York. It is essential for anyone dealing with these governments.

58 pages, 1981, \$5.00

IN RESPONSE TO THE ROBARTS REPORT

This study evaluates the proposals of the Robarts Royal Commission on Metropolitan Toronto.

29 pages, 1977, \$5.00

METRO TORONTO UNDER REVIEW: WHAT ARE THE ISSUES?

Five papers are presented highlighting central questions which should be addressed in the review of Metro Toronto undertaken by the Robarts Commission.

80 pages, 1975, \$5.00

SHOULD THE METRO CHAIRMAN BE DIRECTLY ELECTED?

Direct election of the Metro Chairman has been a focus of debate for a number of years. This report examines the merits and drawbacks of direct election in the context of the role of a regional government chairman.

12 pages, 1975, \$2.00

Transportation

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING IN LONDON: CAN LONDON CATCH THE BUS?

Transportation planning and decision making in London, Ontario is too diffused to be effective. This is the conclusion presented in this report which recommends that a new plan be undertaken and transportation responsibilities be redefined.

55 pages, 1978, \$5.00

UNDERSTANDING METRO'S TRANSIT PROBLEMS

The ability of the Toronto Transit Commission to effectively plan for the future is examined in this report. The focus is on determining clear lines of responsibility and accountability for transit delivery.

25 pages, 1979, \$5.00

Trends

The Bureau also publishes short updates on various issues and trends. These cover a wide range of topics. A limited number of copies are available through the Bureau offices for a charge of \$1.00 each.

Topics include the following:

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS 1980
(December 1980)

MUNICIPAL WAGE SETTLEMENTS
(March 1981)

PREDICTING HOUSING DEMAND AT THE
MUNICIPAL LEVEL
(June 1981)

DO WE REALLY NEED 4,000 LOCAL
GOVERNMENTS IN ONTARIO?
(November 1981)

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