

« THE ROLE OF SUBNATIONAL GOVERNMENTS IN THE GOVERNANCE OF NORTH AMERICA »

In an article entitled *The Role of Subnational Governments in the Governance of North America*, Professor Earl H. Fry, a renowned scholar and long time Canadianist takes a close look at how regional governments in North America (provinces, states, territories, counties and cities) have reacted to international trade agreements between Canada, United States and Mexico.

Professor Fry begins by stating that, at a very early stage, local governments influenced international trade and that they should be seen as major players and be included in negotiations. The particular circumstances in North America where all three nations, part of the trade agreements, share their authority to govern with other level of governments, force each federal government to cooperate with all provinces, territories, states, counties and cities to ensure a smooth implementation of these trade agreements and allow populations to adapt to these new economic conditions. Professor Fry takes as example the number of economic trade missions and the numerous business delegations set up by regional governments, along with offices set up abroad for commercial purposes. Canada appears as a leader in that regard due to the number of measures taken and the budgets allowed. Dr. Fry continues by stating that federal governments must consult further with regional governments in the future to ensure the success of free trade agreements. He concludes with a warning that a refusal to negotiate in good faith with lower levels of governments may well exacerbate tensions within countries as well as between nations.

This article is part of a series titled *Mapping the New North American Reality* published by the “[Institute for Research on Public Policy](#)” (IRPP) within the research program *Canada’s Options In North America*. This project was sponsored by the PanAmerican Partnership for Business Education, an alliance of four North American business schools of which HEC (École des hautes études commerciales) in Montreal is part of, and the IRPP. This article is also used as a base tool in a training module suggested by the [Portal for North America](#), which proposes also a whole series of tools designed for university teachers to help them bring integration issues and processes into courses in a variety of disciplines. To download the complete text of Mr. Fry’s article, [click here](#).

Professor Earl H. Fry teaches political science and is Director of Brigham University's Washington Seminar Program. He also served as a Fulbright lecturer at Sorbonne and director of International Education and Canadian Studies, State University of New York at Plattsburgh. From 1991 to 1993, Mr. Fry was President of the Association for Canadian Studies in the United States (ACSUS).