



Newfoundland and Labrador Regional Group

2009 Fall Symposium

KEYNOTE ABSTRACT

The Relationship between Government and the Third Sector: Improving a Good Thing

A key dilemma for the state is how to build civil society and reinforce the accountability and capacity of nonprofit and voluntary organizations without undermining their autonomy or vitality. For this presentation, the critical issue is how to understand the complexity of the state-sector relationship so that state support for the sector may be targeted in a way that is most beneficial to both parties in achieving their common objective of serving citizens better. By understanding the types of organizations and the variety of relationships they have with the state, we can offer more informed suggestions on improving the operations of the two sectors. This presentation is part of a SSHRC-funded project designed to develop a continuum for charting the means that governments use to animate the social economy ranging from enabling to enforcing.



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Kathy Brock is an associate professor in the School of Policy Studies and in the Department of Political Studies, Queen's University. She has published numerous books, monographs, academic articles and reports on Canadian politics, federalism, state-voluntary sector relations, citizen engagement, and Aboriginal issues. She has served as an advisor and author of the National Survey of Non-profit and Voluntary Organizations, an advisor to Transport Canada on Road Safety, a documentalist and occasional advisor of the Canadian Government/Voluntary Sector Initiative, a policy advisor to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Manitoba Government, a political advisor to Phil Fontaine then Grand Chief, Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, and a research director to the Manitoba Meech Lake Constitutional Task Force. She currently is associate editor of *Canadian Public Policy*, is a Queen's University Senator, and is a member of the Institute of Intergovernmental Relations Advisory Council (Queen's). She was the 2008 recipient of the national Pierre De Celles IPAC Award for Excellence in Teaching Public Administration and the 2009 Frank Knox Award for Teaching Excellence at Queen's.