Cluster Mapping Initiatives in Ontario

NORTH AMERICA ECONOMIC CONNECTIVITY CONFERENCE

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Developing cluster mapping tools

Ontario’s interest in cluster approach started in the 1990s:

- Funding industry studies
- Developing internal capabilities (GIS-enabled location quotient mapping)

Key policy objectives:

- Identifying tradable industries & clusters
-Benchmarking Ontario’s competitiveness
In the last decade, governments supported major cluster mapping projects:

- The Institute for Competitiveness and Prosperity’s Canadian Cluster Data project used Harvard’s ISC approach to map clusters.

- The Local Ideas project at the University of Toronto’s Innovation Policy Lab published profiles of 188 clusters in its Cluster Atlas of Canada.
Governments can play a direct role in cluster development

In Ontario, our current framework is the Partnerships for Jobs and Growth Act:

- On December 11, 2014, the Ontario Legislature passed the Partnerships for Jobs and Growth Act, 2014 to support the development of clusters. The Act was then proclaimed into force on April 1, 2015

- The Act establishes the legislative framework to work with key clusters in Ontario to develop and publish cluster plans

- The legislation states that the Minister may prepare plans with respect to the development of clusters, and if so, will publish draft cluster plans, consult on these, publish final plans, and conduct a five-year review of cluster plans and publish the results