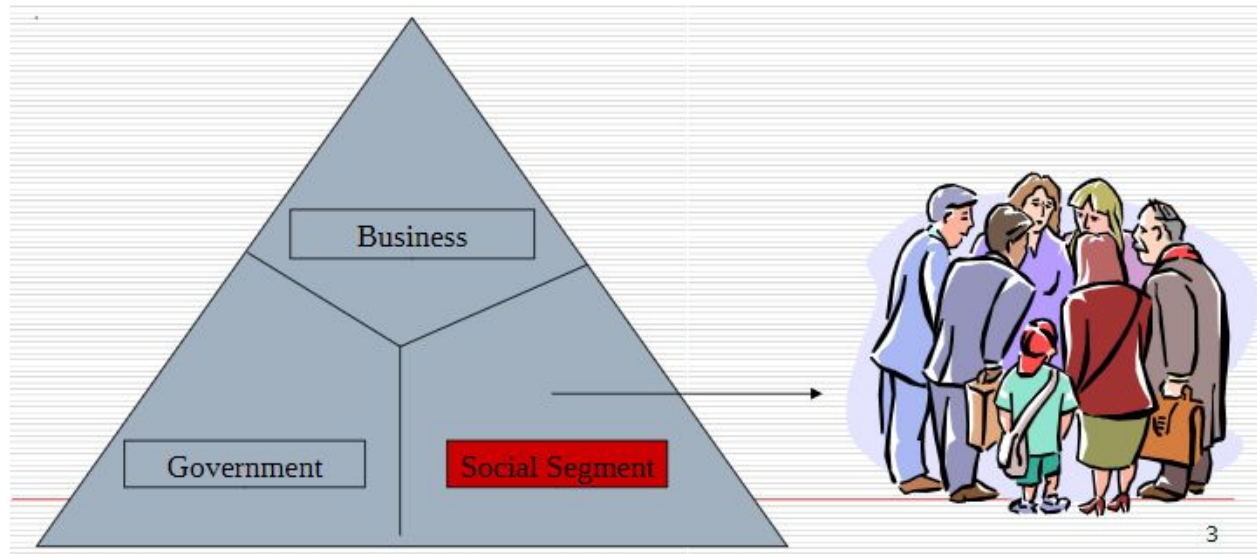


Civil Society: Key Terms

The community, volunteer sector, civic sector, civil society

- Community
- Reciprocity - exchange
- Trust and Collaboration
- Social arrangements
- Social capital - benefits of cooperation
- Civic engagement



What is 'civil society'?

- Also referred to as the 'third segment'
 - Nonprofit
 - Not-for-profit
 - Voluntary
 - Independent
 - "Community"
- *The totality of voluntary civic and social organizations and institutions*

"Community"

- "Locality" and "common interests"
- Shared characteristics, values, interests, goals that provokes a sense of belonging:
 - Closeness
 - Warmth
 - Protection
 - Engagement

“Communities”

- Can be occupational (physicians, accountants)
- Can occur within organizations
 - Professors
 - Accountants
 - Auditors
 - HR “community”
 - Finance “community”
 - Senior Management “community”
- Can be based on
 - Skills, gender, age, ethnicity, or some combination of these

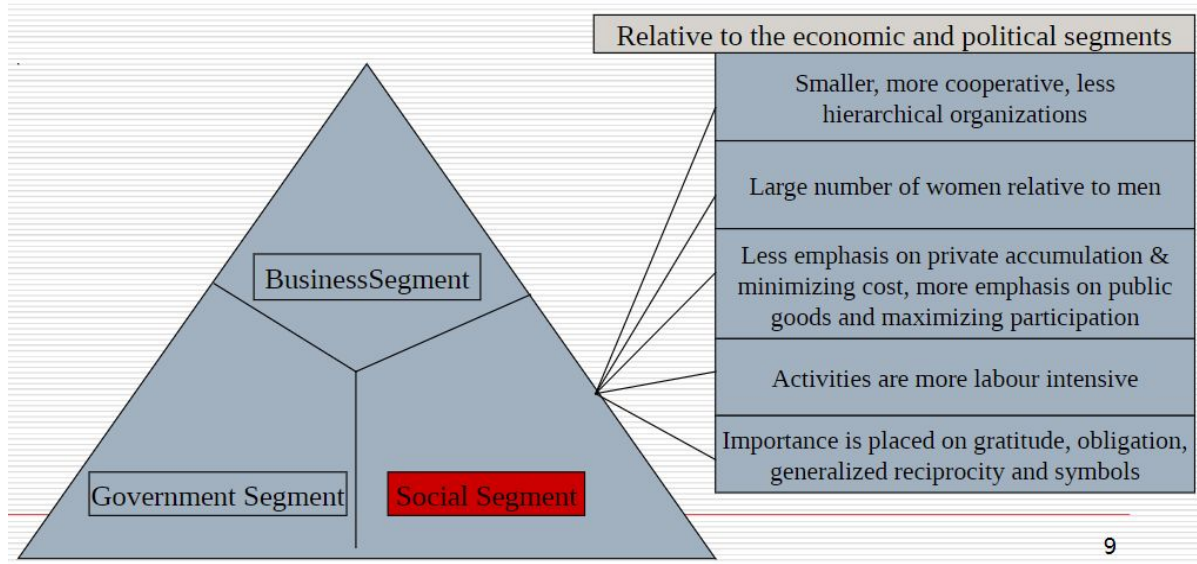
Civil Society (Social Segment) - Who is included?

- The community, but also:
 - United way
 - Foundations (Maytree, Atkinson)
 - Imagine Canada (formerly the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy)
 - Kids Help Phone
 - Caledon Institution
 - Planned Parenthood
 - Sun Youth
 - Charities

Civil Society (Social Segment) - What characterizes the segment?

- Activities mainly instituted through forms of reciprocal relationships or solidarity
- Based on “good neighborliness” and social trust
- Its value system is reciprocity-based:
 - Engagement
 - Commitment
 - Trust
 - Obligation
 - Cooperation
 - Collaboration

Civil Society (Social Segment)



The Contemporary Civil Society Segment

Now features:

- Involved communities
- NGOs / Interest Groups / Associations that are “issue-oriented”
- Knowledge groups / institutes / think tanks
 - Civic entrepreneurs linking community and economic development

The Dynamics of the Civil Society Segment

- The dynamics of this sector are somewhat different from the other two sectors:

In the economic segment, emerging issues are translated into opportunities for profit -- the **sorting mechanisms** are **supply and demand** **In the context of competition.**

In the political segment, the government must learn from the values and views of its citizens following which the **sorting mechanism** is **redistribution and coercion**

In the social segment, the art of **associating, rooted in civil society provides the third sorting mechanism** - and kicks in generally when the other two fail.

The third sector is a set of **social arrangements** that are continually evolving into **active networks** of non-market and non-state arrangements

Social Capital - Some Perspectives

- Social capital is generally defined as the **relationships, networks, and norms** that facilitate collective action
- Social Capital directs attention to the **relationships** that shape the realization of human capital's potential for the individual and collectively
- Social Capital is defined as **norms, networks, and other related forms of social connection**
- The central idea of social capital is that **networks** and the associated **norms of reciprocity** have value

Social Capital vs. Human Capital

- Social capital is **not** human capital. The differences can be expressed as follows:

	Human Capital	Social Capital
FOCUS	Individual Agent	Relationships
MEASURES	Duration of schooling Qualifications	Attitudes/Values Membership/participation/Trust
OUTCOMES	Direct: Income, productivity Indirect: health, civic activity	Social cohesion, economic achievement, more social capital

Some Simple Forms of Social Capital

- Highly formal forms:
 - Parent-teacher association, a national organization of any sort, a labour union (where each is formally organized with a chairperson, a president and membership dues)
- Highly informal forms:
 - A group of people gathering at a bar every Thursday evening
- Densely interlaced or comparatively invisible
 - A group of steelworkers who work together every day at the factory, go bowling together on Saturday, and the same Church every Sunday vs. the nodding acquaintance you have with the person you occasionally see waiting in line at the supermarket

Five Roles of Civil Society

- *Monitoring* through which policy is kept 'honest'
- *Advocacy* through which policy options can be supported or not supported
- *Innovator* through which different ways of doing things are developed and demonstrated
- *Service provider* through which a particular need is fulfilled
- *Capacity builder* through which support is provided to other civil society organizations

The Civil Society Segment - Likely Contributions

- Alternative service delivery models based on the inter-sectoral partnerships
- Employment generation and recognition
- Valuing and conceptualizing the importance of "community"
- Civic engagement

Civil Society - An important but complex segment with complex issues

1. Segment fragmentation

- >161,000 incorporated non-profit organizations plus thousands of unincorporated community groups:
 - Different issues
 - Different missions
 - Highly diversified and incongruent
 - Varying management capacity and ability
- Challenges due to fragmentation - for the smaller organization:
 - Being heard by government and industry
 - Getting on the government or business agenda
 - Partnering with government and business

2. Funding

- A finite amount of money to be shared amongst the fragmented third segment
- Changes in government policy intended to foster improved stewardship has had a negative impact on the third segment
- Project-based funding: model
 - Overhead costs not funded, but more reporting requirements
 - Funding targeted on specific issues that cause "mission drift"

3. Attracting and retaining volunteers and strong non-profit board members

- Age demographics:
 - By 2011 for every person aged 55-64 there will be only one person aged 15-24
 - More people available to do volunteer and charitable work, but also more demand for third segment services
- Changing volunteer paradigms
 - Employee volunteerism
 - Virtual volunteerism
 - Cross-national volunteering
 - VolunTourism

Reflection: Might “Civil Society” and/or “Community” be in decline?

- Putnam (2000):
 - People disengaged from “civic life”
 - Fewer voters, political activity, newspaper readership, participation in local associations - the result: a decline in social capital, community relations and social cohesion - a weakening of the “social glue” in society
 - The cause(s);
 - Changes in family structure
 - Suburban sprawl
 - Time pressure
 - Electronic entertainment
 - Technology

Bourdieu: Four Types of Personal Capital

- Each person in society will possess differing amounts of:
 - Social capital (who you know)
 - Economic capital (what you have)
 - Cultural capital (legitimate knowledge: what you know)
 - Symbolic capital (your status in the eyes of others)