

NetworkNews

In this issue

Canada's Cities	1
Globalization, Social Cohesion and Citizenship	2
Campaign News	3
Informal Learning	4
Demographic Determinism	4
Public Involvement in Policy	5
President's Commentary	6
People	7
On theNet and in The Media	7
Sponsor Corner	8
Honours for CPRN People	8

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CPRN is a national not-for-profit research institute whose mission is to create knowledge and lead public debate on social and economic issues important to the well-being of Canadians, in order to help build a more just, prosperous and caring society.

Canada's Cities: Key To Healthy Economy, Society, Environment

The quality of Canada's cities is of "pivotal" importance to our economic success in the global economy and to the strength of our society.

"Ensuring cities have the resources to perform their crucial role in national economic innovation, social cohesion and environmental sustainability, has to be a priority," says Neil Bradford, author of a major new paper on cities from CPRN.

Bradford's report, *Why Cities Matter: Policy Research Perspectives for Canada*, is a review of the literature and experience in Canada and abroad concerning the conditions that turn cities into engines of economic growth and social well-being. It takes stock of our current knowledge and ideas about cities and clarifies major issues and debates about how they work, and how they might work better.

While globalization is becoming well understood, localization has yet to be identified as the powerful transitional force it has become in our communities. This report is an important contribution to a much needed national debate.

– Glen Murray, Mayor of Winnipeg



Canada is one of the world's most urbanized countries, with nearly 80% of its citizens living in cities. The fact that the seven largest metropolitan areas generate 45% of Canada's GNP speaks to the economic importance of our cities.

"The knowledge-intensive services that characterize the new global economy," says Bradford, "thrive in dense, localized labour markets, rich in human capital and personal interactions. It's the kind of environment only cities can offer." But the economic success of cities is not assured. Knowledge workers and the companies they work for are footloose. They seek urban areas that offer an environment that breeds innovation, but also one that promises a high quality of life.



In that regard, cities are also places where the risks of social exclusion are greatest.

Canada's poor are increasingly concentrated in, and within, cities. While the population in metropolitan areas grew by almost 7% between 1990 and 1995, the number of poor in the same areas grew almost 34%. The concentration of the poor in specific neighbourhoods gives rise to what Bradford calls the challenge of "managing cities of difference".

"There is an important link here between the economic success of a city and its success at breaking down barriers to citizen participation," Bradford argues. "Cities that make progress on both fronts at once have the highest quality of life and the innovative ideas and social networks that power the new economy."

Although cities are crucial to the country's economic competitiveness and social stability, they are poorly equipped to meet the challenges. And the down-loading of additional responsibilities from higher order governments during the nineties (usually without proportionate resources) has strained their capacities further.

In the past 5 years, federal and provincial government revenues increased 33.2 and 26.1% respectively. Local government revenues increased only 7.7%. Transfer payments from federal and provincial governments contribute only 18.7% of total municipal revenues, compared to 27% in U.S. cities and 31% in European cities. Canadian cities are more dependent on property taxes, a limited and less than ideal revenue source.

Bradford recommends more predictable fiscal tools for cities, commensurate with their increasingly important responsibilities. He also calls for enhanced local input in public policy-making, backed up by "multi-level collaboration across political scales" to replace the one-sided, and "place insensitive", decisions of higher order governments of the past.

"Our national interest in effective policies to ensure a strong economy, sustainable society and vibrant democracy demands nothing less."

The Importance of Informal Learning

Nearly all Canadian adults are involved in intentional informal learning activities. This is learning we see as significant and undertake on our own, without externally imposed criteria or an authorized instructor.

We spend, on average, 15 hours a week in such activities, according to data in a new research paper published by CPRN. This compares with an average of 4 hours a week spent in organized education courses. The fact that employed Canadians spend an average of 6 hours a week in job-related informal learning suggests the economic impact of this type of learning.

Despite the evidence, David Livingstone, author of *Work and Learning in the Information Age: A Profile of Canadians*, published by CPRN's Work Network, maintains that the importance of informal learning is largely unrecognized in Canada. Livingstone's conclusions are based on an analysis of results from the first national survey of informal learning practices in this country – the NALL (New Approaches to Lifelong Learning) survey in 1998.

Why does inadequate appreciation of informal learning matter?

Livingstone suggests that one of the reasons as many as one in five Canadian workers feels their skills are not fully used in their work is the failure of employers to take full advantage of informal learning and experience. Giving workers greater discretion in the workplace could change that, he maintains. He also argues that educational institutions could improve access to further education by marginalized groups if their prior informal learning were recognized. Curriculum designers could also adjust curricula to take account of informal learning.

Livingstone's main conclusion is that what workers learn informally on and off the job is a resource of great potential to both the workplace and the community. "The important point here," he says, "is that we need to find out how relevant this general and informal knowledge is, rather than continue to ignore it."

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Campaign News: Two New Champions for CPRN

“We could not have asked for a better start to CPRN’s *Fresh Ideas Campaign* than to have Purdy Crawford agree to be our Honourary Chair,” said Courtney Pratt, President and CEO of Toronto Hydro Corporation and Chair of the Campaign. Purdy is recognized across Canada for his business acumen and his dedication to the community. “He understands the impact that CPRN is having on policy in this country and is willing to publicly support us.”

Purdy Crawford is presently Counsel at the law firm Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt, Chair of AT&T Canada and Chancellor Emeritus of Mount Allison. Purdy retired as CEO of Imasco in 1995 and continued as non-executive Chairman until February 2000. Purdy has raised funds for many charities in Canada, including Centraide’s early childhood development

program, 1,2,3 GO!, and for several universities.



From left to right: Courtney Pratt, President and CEO of Toronto Hydro Corporation and Chair of the Fresh Ideas Campaign, Judith Maxwell, President of CPRN and Purdy Crawford, Counsel at the law firm Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt and Honourary Chair of the Fresh Ideas Campaign.

Asked why he agreed to be the Honourary Chair of CPRN’s fundraising campaign, Mr. Crawford replied, “I am very interested in public policy issues and I like the CPRN model. With Judy Maxwell’s outstanding leadership and my experience in fundraising, I am pleased to be Honourary Chair.”

Another icon of Canadian business, Paul Desmarais, Jr, Chair and Co-CEO of

Power Corporation of Canada, an annual supporter of CPRN since 1996, hosted a dinner for CPRN recently for thirty-six community and corporate leaders in Montreal. It was a wonderful evening in which Judith Maxwell, Founder and President of CPRN, had an opportunity to share with this group of leading Canadians some of the fresh ideas CPRN is creating for Canadians and their future.

Asked why he thinks CPRN is important to Canada, Paul Desmarais Jr., replied, “CPRN is a leader in helping to shape the Canada we want for our children. Canada’s future depends on organizations like CPRN and I am very pleased to be associated with such a thoughtful organization.”

The Montreal dinner is the first of several events planned across the country as the *Fresh Ideas Campaign* gears up for a formal launch in the coming year. The Campaign got a kick start recently with 100% participation from CPRN’s Board of Directors, Campaign Committee and senior staff.

The *Fresh Ideas Campaign* is raising funds to increase CPRN’s research capabilities and allow it to advance the national dialogue about who we are as Canadians and about what works in the unique Canada context. If you are interested in learning more about the Campaign, please contact Pamela Miles, Vice President, Development at (613) 567-7472 or pmiles@cprn.org.



From left to right: Paul Desmarais Jr., Chairman and Co-CEO, Power Corporation of Canada with Judith Maxwell, President of CPRN, Arthur Kroeger, Chair of CPRN and Stephen Jarislawsky, Chair, Jarislawsky Fraser Limited, chatting before the dinner outside the Power Corporation of Canada offices in Montreal.



Demographic Determinism: A Poor Basis for Policy on Aging

There is nothing inevitable about a “normal” age of retirement. Retirement is a socially constructed institution. Nevertheless, policies for Canada’s aging population continue to assume that working life ends at age 65.

This is an example of what Victor Marshall calls our “institutionalized life course”. Marshall, Director of the Institute on Aging at the University of North Carolina, is the author, with Margaret Mueller, of a new research paper, from CPRN.

In *Rethinking Social Policy for an Aging Workforce and Society: Insights from the Life Course Perspective*, Marshall and Mueller advocate a “life course perspective” which examines how social structure and history shape human lives over time, and how individuals actually experience their life course.

From the age of industrialization down to the era of the welfare state, public policy has been based on specific notions of childhood, adulthood and old age. The effect of policies on education, marriage, parenthood, and employment, based on those notions, has been to institutionalize a standard life course, one that is increasingly out of touch with today’s changing social reality.

This institutionalized life course in Canada today divides life into three: childhood education, adulthood involving work, and old age as a period of leisure. This vision fails to take account of the modern complexities of pre-career and pre-retirement transitions, not to mention the idea of life-long learning. Add to these, the changing nature of important family transitions – singlehood, marriage, child rearing, the empty nest – and the picture is more complex still. Other layers of complexity stem from the impact of human relationships, or “linked lives”, and from a person’s race or gender.

So what does all this mean for the current “Chicken Little” view of the consequences of our aging Baby Boom? Does the rapid aging of our population represent a crisis?

Marshall and Mueller would argue that a crisis is anything but inevitable. A life course perspective suggests one answer is to recognize the capacity and interest of aging workers in maintaining an economic role beyond the age of 65. Another is to recognize the responsibility of public and private sectors for cultivating a different attitude to aging, one that allows for its economic potential, as well as for a more sensitive interface between work and family life.



Globalization, Social Cohesion and Citizenship

As Canada opens up to the global economy it faces new challenges, not simply on the economic front, but also in terms of its social solidarity. Our commitment to diversity and our ability to manage the conflicts it necessarily entails can be vulnerable in the new context. The stress is also evident in the processes by which we define what it means to be Canadian.

Jane Jenson, Director of CPRN’s Family Network, and Senior Canada Research Chair in Citizenship and Governance at the Université de Montréal, recently made a presentation on this topic to a roundtable for Members of Parliament.

In *Globalization, Social Cohesion and Citizenship: The Challenges*, Jenson reviews the concepts of social cohesion (a process, not an end in itself) and citizenship (a status and a relationship with boundaries and content determined by state activity). She goes on to examine the current challenges to citizenship and, in particular, the challenge of diversity.

She elaborates on what she calls “Canada’s diversity model” – a repertoire based on the notion that unity and diversity are not mutually exclusive. The model comprises a range of policies and practices and relies on democratic institutions to make choices among competing values. Its success requires balance and a strong public sphere that can include and integrate minorities in its deliberations.

She concludes with a number of questions designed to assess how well our institutions meet the requirements of a well-functioning diversity model.

Engaging Canadians in Making Policy: More Needs to Be Done

Canada's political parties, MPs and, indeed, Parliament itself, aren't as effective as they might be in involving Canadians in their deliberations. Public consultation by the public service remains one-sided.

"This should be a concern at a time when trust in government is declining and demands for involvement are increasing," says Susan Phillips, lead author of a new research paper from CPRN.

"Significant reform is needed to engage citizens more effectively."

In *Mapping the Links: Citizen Involvement in Policy Processes*, Phillips, who teaches at the School of Public Policy and Administration at Carleton University, and her co-author, Michael Orsini, of the Department of Political Science, Glendon College, York University, take a systematic look at citizen involvement in policy making and ask why, in spite of favourable rhetoric, so little progress has been made.

In search of the answer, the authors explore the links between various dimensions of citizen involvement, stages of the policy process and the workings of three key groups – Parliament, the public service, and non-government actors.

Citizen involvement in policy-making has many goals – the opportunity for citizens to make policy demands, the opportunity for governments to obtain social knowledge, and the opportunity for community development, for example.

"What we see," says Phillips, "is that progress on these fronts is very uneven."



Phillips and Orsini find traditional institutions wanting:

- MPs (and MLAs) collect useful knowledge, but have little influence on policy
- Parliamentary committees are adversarial, lack resources, rely mainly on expert opinion and have limited impact
- Political parties are exclusionary and limit political discourse
- The public service relies too much on one-way communication
- Civil society organizations often have limited resources to participate fully and many are limited in their advocacy activities by government regulations.

"What is needed is a combination of reforms to these institutions, the creation of new institutions devoted to citizen involvement, a genuine cultural shift in attitude, and investment in civil society," Phillips says.

The authors recommend:

- Giving political parties a role between elections by strengthening their internal policy capacity, and providing more opportunities for members to participate
- Opening up channels of influence for MPs (and MLAs)
- Greater resources and independence for parliamentary committees
- A more inclusive, deliberative, transparent public consultation process by the public service, which is better connected to policy decision-making
- Support for stronger democratic processes in community organizations and investment in community capacity building
- Encouraging the media to make promotion of public deliberation part of a journalist's role.

Equally important, the authors call for a culture shift to recognize the true value of involving individual Canadians in policy processes.

"Citizen involvement has to be viewed not only as a means of information gathering, but as a way to expand the boundaries of citizenship in a diverse society, enhance citizenship skills, and invest in community capacity building," they conclude.



THE MAGIC OF DIALOGUE

One of the joys of my work at CPRN is the people I meet from all walks of life. This past winter, I had a special experience with citizens from all corners of the country.

In partnership with the Romanow Commission, we organized 12 day-long dialogue sessions across Canada to discuss the Future of Health Care in Canada. Each group involved about 40 people, randomly selected to be representative of the Canadian population. The groups included old and young, rich and poor, highly literate and less so. They reflected the ethnic and racial diversity of Canada. (The only people who were excluded were those who work in the health care system, and those whose language skills in either English or French were too weak to be able to participate effectively.)

When they arrived early Saturday morning, these citizens were strangers to us and to each other. By the end of the day, they had established a remarkable sense of solidarity. These Canadians knew a lot about health care from their own experience and from the media. They eagerly absorbed the four scenarios, with their pros and cons, presented in the Dialogue Workbook. But they (and we) got a big surprise.

Based on what they had seen in the media, these citizens expected a day of conflict. There were some very contentious issues, but what they found was a common base of values about health care. As these common values emerged again and again, each of the 12 groups formed a sense of community – the sense that we are all in this together, which I call solidarity.

Citizens did struggle over whether Canada needs a parallel private

system where people can pay for their own care. But even those who argued passionately in favour were quite clear about the need for a robust public system. Where people differed was on whether the private system would undermine the quality of publicly funded care by taking the best doctors and equipment. After weighing the pros and cons seriously, the groups rejected the parallel private system.

Citizens were scathing in their critique of the way the system is managed today. They decried the lack of transparency about where the money goes, and the lack of accountability for performance. But they were just as tough on themselves – for the way they, as patients and consumers, waste and abuse health care services. They realized that they too need to be accountable for how and how much they use the health care system.

What happened was that citizens participated as citizens – as patients, consumers, taxpayers, and members of the community. In doing so, they could see the health care system from a pragmatic perspective. As consumers, they had a long wish list. But, as they began to see themselves as owners and stakeholders of health care, they fully engaged in problem solving in order to preserve Medicare.

But their vision for Medicare is not the status quo. These citizens embraced change, change for the purpose of making Medicare sustainable.

They redefined their own responsibility to make appropriate use of scarce health care resources, and they established the pre-conditions for paying more taxes to support the system: They want to see a) greater efficiency in the delivery care and the management of the system, and b) greater accountability for performance on the part of providers, managers, and government.

It was a privilege to witness the magic of this dialogue, and I commend the report to you. You can find it at www.healthcarecommission.ca or www.cprn.org early in July.



People

Mary Pat MacKinnon is the new Director of Public Involvement. Mary Pat comes to us from the Canadian Cooperative Association/Credit Union Central of Canada, where she was Director of Government Affairs and Policy and managed a large portfolio of government affairs and policy research projects.

The appointment of Mary Pat signals an important turning point in the development of CPRN. After six years of experimentation, the Public Involvement Program has reached the stage where it needs a full-time Director, and where it can be considered CPRN's "fourth network." Mary Pat has a mandate to develop a strategic vision for the Program and to lead it forward.

Mary Pat will be replacing **Karen Jackson** who completed her Interchange Assignment with CPRN on April 19th, and returned to a position at the Department of Human Resource Development. Karen's last task at CPRN was that of Research Director for the Citizens' Dialogue on the Future of Health Care in Canada on behalf of the Romanow Commission.



From left to right: Louise Coupal Jauvin, Mary Pat MacKinnon, Tanisha Stratton and Pauline Bourque.

We also welcome **Pauline Bourque**, Administrative Assistant to the President's Office. Pauline has been with Nav Canada as an Administrative Assistant since early 2000 and has over 10 years of executive/administrative experience. She replaces **Louise Coupal Jauvin** who is now Administrative Assistant to the Directors of Public Affairs and Public Involvement. Congratulations Louise!

And we say hello to **Tanisha Stratton**, who joined the Communications/Information System team for the summer to help out on a variety of tasks. Tanisha is returning to Canada after spending a year at Erasmus University in Rotterdam on an exchange from her studies at Carleton where she is pursuing a degree in Public Affairs and Policy Management with a specialty in communications and information technology policy.

On the Net and In the Media

Visitors to www.cprn.org downloaded more than 365,000 copies of CPRN publications in the past 12 months. The most popular download since November of 2000 is **Work-Life Balance in the New Millenium** by Linda Duxbury and Chris Higgins (16,199 copies). Each network now has several publications that have "sold" more than 4,000 copies, a very healthy number. To top off this good news, our new site on workplace indicators, www.jobquality.ca, has had more than 32,000 visitors since its inception last September.

The past three months also saw a good number of media mentions. Judith Maxwell's talk at an Ottawa constituency forum on health care in March was covered by **CJOH TV** and **CHRO TV**. She spoke with the **Hamilton Spectator** concerning work-life balance. Her presentation on innovation to a Statistics Canada

economics conference produced stories in the **Toronto Star**, **Penticton Herald**, and the **Kelowna Daily Courier**. She also appeared on **CPAC** on the subject of public involvement in policy-making.

The **Halifax Chronicle-Herald** and the **Halifax Mail-Star** covered Board member Allan Shaw's induction into the Nova Scotia Business Hall of Fame.

In the Family Network, Jane Jenson's op-ed piece on Canada's diversity model ran in the **Toronto Star**. Jane also spoke with **Le Devoir** on the relevance of Jean Marie Le Pen's success in France to Canada. A joint project of **CourtTV Canada**, CPRN and the National Strategy on Community Safety and Crime Prevention has produced a series of short television pieces documenting innovative crime prevention projects across the country aimed at vulnerable youth. A story on the project ran in **Canadian New**

Media, while the shorts are running on **Canadian Learning Televisions**, **CourtTV Canada**, **CP/24**, and may also be seen on **MuchMusic**. Finally, Susan Phillips' discussion paper on public involvement in policy-making got good coverage in the **Ottawa Citizen**, **Globe and Mail**, **Montreal Gazette**, **Sudbury Star**, **Hamilton Spectator**, **Moncton Times & Transcript**, **Edmonton Journal**, **North Bay Nugget**, **Welland-Port Colborne Tribune** and the **Edmonton Sun** and on **CKNW Radio** in Vancouver.

In the Work Network, **Canadian University Press** interviewed Grant Schellenberg about cuts to student employment supports. The **Weekly Work Report** of the Centre for Industrial Relations featured David Livingstone's discussion paper on informal learning, and a new section of **CBC.ca** called, "The Way We Work" features an article by Research Associate, Graham Lowe.



Sponsor Corner



The Laidlaw Foundation was established with an endowment by Mr. Robert A. Laidlaw in 1949 to benefit charitable, educational, and cultural organizations in Ontario. The Foundation now distributes around \$2.7 million in grants annually, in Ontario and across Canada. Resources are allocated to experimental and research projects, studies, and other activities that enhance the quality of life for disadvantaged children, youth and families, that enrich the country's intellectual and cultural resources, and that preserve our natural heritage for future generations.

With the well-being of children and youth central to the Foundation's

mission, Laidlaw was a major partner in the Family Network's research program, *The Best Policy Mix for Canada's Children*. This program published 10 reports which are used and acknowledged by several provincial governments when developing their own children's policies and programs. *The Laidlaw Foundation* is also a funder of CPRN's work on *Learning through Recreation; Towards a Common Citizenship: Canada's social and economic choices; and Urban Priorities, Social Sustainability and the Role of the Federal Government*.

Visit Laidlaw at www.laidlawfdn.org

Honours for CPRN People

We are proud to announce the following special achievements by CPRNers.

Jim Dinning, Executive Vice-President, Sustainable Development and External Relations, for TransAlta, and CPRN's newest Board member, received an Honourary Doctorate of Law from the University of Calgary on May 9, 2002.

Jim is a former minister of community and occupational health, minister of education and provincial treasurer in the Alberta government. In the latter role, he is widely credited with putting the province's finances in order. He left politics for TransAlta in 1997, and has since served as the chair of the Calgary Health Region, leading the drive for a new children's hospital.

A University of Calgary announcement of the award says, "Mr. Dinning has an impeccable and impressive record of public service to the benefit of

Alberta.....he is considered an outstanding community member with a vision that will benefit the Calgary community for years to come."

Congratulations Jim!



Judith Hamel, Research Assistant to the Director of the Family Network, has been awarded the prestigious, Bourse de maîtrise en science by the FCAR (Fonds de recherche sur la société et la culture) of Quebec. The scholarship, in the amount of \$15,000 will help Ms. Hamel pursue her M.Sc. in economics at the Université de Montréal. She plans to specialize in econometrics and the economics of development.

Congratulations Judith!

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