

Respected Canadian Think Tank Awarded Carleton University's Prestigious 2003 Kroeger College Award in Public Discourse

OTTAWA, Jan. 7 /CNW/ - Dr. Eileen Saunders, Director of Carleton University's Arthur Kroeger College of Public Affairs is pleased to announce that Canadian Policy Research Networks (CPRN) is this year's winner of the Kroeger College Award for Public Discourse.

"We would like to congratulate the Canadian Policy Research Networks for the leadership they have demonstrated in engaging Canadians in national public discussion about complex and critical issues we face as a nation," says Dr. Saunders.

As a world leader in the field of public affairs and management, Carleton University's Arthur Kroeger College established an Awards Program to recognize the achievements of other Canadian leaders.

The Kroeger College Award for Public Discourse, which is sponsored by The Gabor Group, is one of five awards that are handed out by the Arthur Kroeger College of Public Affairs each year. This award is intended to recognize excellence in contributing to the quality of public debate in Canada.

The award was made on the unanimous recommendation of an independent jury chaired by Ed Broadbent, former leader of the NDP. "By its imaginative involvement of Canadians in direct discussions of complex issues, CPRN has become a leader in facilitating citizen participation in the formulation of public policy," said Mr. Broadbent.

CPRN, one of Canada's most respected think tanks, is an independent, non-profit organization that was established eight years ago to create knowledge and lead public debate on key social and economic issues of importance to the well-being of Canadians. In the past, CPRN has involved more than 1,100 people in roundtables, workshops, or advisory committee meetings. It is funded by 61 diverse sources including federal and provincial governments, foundations, and corporations. This diversity ensures that no single voice dominates its research.

The Awards selection committee noted two exceptional projects conducted by CPRN in the past year. In September, Quality of Life in Canada: A Citizen's Report Card provided 40 different indicators of Canada's quality of life from a citizens' perspective. Last June, CPRN released the results of a Citizens' Dialogue on the Future of Health Care in Canada, a report on a series of intensive day-long discussions that applied Canadian values to the difficult trade-offs in sustaining Canada's health care system in the 21st century.

The President of CPRN, Judith Maxwell, says she is delighted at the award. "What these two projects have demonstrated is that citizens can have a legitimate voice on public policy issues. Given time and a neutral space, representative groups of Canadians can identify common ground and then work together on some of the difficult areas where values are in conflict. I have great admiration for Canadians' capacity to engage in frank but respectful dialogue, and CPRN is delighted to share this award with them."

This month, the Arthur Kroeger College in Public Affairs will announce two other awards in Policy Leadership, and Ethics. The College already announced that WestJet is the 2003 recipient of the Kroeger College Award in Management and the Pathways to Education Program of the Regent Park Community Health Centre won the Award for Citizenship and Community Affairs. All five awards will be presented at an Awards Dinner scheduled for February 11, 2003 at the Chateau Laurier. The dinner is sponsored by the Canadian Pacific Railway. The keynote speaker at the dinner will be Lewis Lapham, Editor of Harper's Magazine.

The Awards Program is supported by organizations that share Carleton University's commitment to recognizing integrity, innovation, excellence, and achievement in the field of public affairs. Sponsors include: Microsoft Canada, Monsanto Canada, The Gabor Group, EDS Canada Inc., and the Investor Education Fund.

Kroeger College will also hold its third annual Leadership Forum on February 11. This Forum, which is sponsored by GlaxoSmithKline, will bring together leaders from business, government, labour, and the non profit sector. Together, they will explore issues and challenges concerning the current state of Canadian democracy. Speakers include Stéphane Dion, Preston Manning, Ed Broadbent, and Richard Simeon.

Media can attend the Leadership Forum and/or Awards Dinner by calling 520-2600 ext. 7851. For additional information, please refer to the Kroeger College web site at www.carleton.ca/akcollege.