Putting Caregiving on the Agenda

September 5, 2003 – This has been a year of provincial elections. By the middle of October, six of ten provinces will have gone to the polls to choose a new government. The latest are Ontario and P.E.I.

With all this politicking going on, you might expect some reasoned discussion about retuning our social policies to accord with the way Canadians live their lives in the 21st century. Alas, this opportunity to deepen the debate over the respective responsibilities of government, the market, individuals, their families and communities has been pretty much wasted to date.

In a paper released earlier this week, CPRN's President, Judith Maxwell, makes the case for realigning social programs to take into account what she calls "The Great Social Transformation" of the past three decades. Social policies based on assumptions about society dating from before that "Transformation" are not meeting the needs of today's Canadians. She calls for a serious discussion about what should take their place and who should be responsible.

In a presentation for CBC Radio's *Commentary* this week, Mrs. Maxwell focuses on one prime area for change – our treatment of caregiving and caregivers.

You can access or download a copy of her commentary, ***Caregiving – What's it Worth?***, by clicking here.

And, if you haven't already seen it, her full paper, ***The Great Social Transformation: Implications for the Social Role of Government in Ontario***, can be accessed by clicking here.

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