Giving Children the Best Start Possible

Friday, October 31, 2003 – A startling one in four Canadian children under the age of six show signs of cognitive or behavioural problems.

You might assume these to be mainly children in low-income households, paying a price for inadequacy of resources and support to their families. You would be wrong.

"Vulnerable children" exist across the income spectrum. Most, in fact, live in families of modest to high income. They represent a critical failure of responsibility on the part of society – a failure to intervene early and adequately on behalf of all children.

On October 7, in a speech to the Vancouver Board of Trade, sponsored by Ray and Berndtson/Tanton Mitchell and the Human Early Learning Partnership, CPRN's President, Judith Maxwell, set out her prescription for giving our young people the best start in life.

In ***Children are Everybody's Business***, Maxwell underlines the benefits to society of giving children a strong start in life. She argues that these are too important to leave the burden of early childhood to families with only targeted support from government. She demonstrates that in addition to families and a more comprehensive commitment from governments, schools, employers and civil society institutions all have a contribution to make.

You can access or download her remarks by clicking here.

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