

# Fresh Ideas Campaign

## CPRN Grows in Alberta

*Julian Nowicki, Deputy Minister of the Executive Council for the Alberta Government, hosted a lunch for 26 deputy and associate deputy ministers. (Left to right) Jim Dinning, CPRN's Alberta-based board member, Judith Maxwell, Julian Nowicki and Jay Ramotar, Deputy Minister of Transportation.*



'Friend-raising' is the best way to describe our visit to Alberta in November. With the help of several collaborators in Edmonton and Calgary, Judith Maxwell had a chance to discuss emerging public policy issues facing Canada with key corporate, community and government leaders.

Julian Nowicki, Deputy Minister of the Executive Council for the Alberta Government, hosted a lunch with 26 deputy and associate deputy ministers. Participants discussed the findings of CPRN's report *Citizens' Dialogue on Canada's Future: A 21st Century Social Contract* (April 2003), and the implications for Alberta as new players at the First Ministers' Table and new leadership on the 'Hill' in Ottawa.

A highlight of the trip was the 'dinner and dialogue' for 60 leading Edmontonians at the Royal Glenora Club, co-hosted by John and Maggie Mitchell and Jim Dinning. Drawing on the Citizens' Dialogue report, the guests were given the challenging task of discussing and then reporting back to the larger group how they might implement



*Several guests stayed on to chat after the dinner in Edmonton: (left to right) Maggie Mitchell, Judith Maxwell, Lynn Odynski, Heather Watt, Kathy Grieve and Dr. Jean Agrios.*

some of the ideas the citizens envisioned for the future of Canada. As several guests remarked, coming to an agreement is not easy when many of these issues, such as creating a working society with a living wage or reducing the democratic deficit, are not cut and dried.



What Judith calls "The Great Social Transformation" was the topic for discussion at a lunch hosted by Ann McCaig for a small group of influential Calgarians. Guests wrestled with the repercussions of the tremendous changes in the shape of our families, our work habits, our community life and in the role of markets and government since the post-war era. Many emphasized the

*The discussion at the lunch hosted by Ann McCaig for a small group of influential Calgarians will help Judith Maxwell provide direction for CPRN's research agenda. Pat (left) and Sherrold (right) Moore, two of the guests, with Judith Maxwell (centre).*



# Fresh Ideas Campaign

importance of education and ensuring that children have the best start in life. As Judith remarked, “reciprocity between young and older generations is fundamental to the well-being of citizens in the coming decades.”

A big “thank you” to Jim Dinning, our Alberta-based board member, who helped to orchestrate the trip. As a former Alberta minister and deputy minister, and now an executive vice president with TransAlta, he is a superb ambassador for CPRN. As Jim puts it “we need CPRN to be an active ‘provocateur’ in today’s public debates because they offer up ideas that can actually be implemented.”

Alberta has been a key part of CPRN’s research agenda over the years. We are thrilled to see our network continue to grow with the help of so many new friends. We look forward to achieving great things together in the years to come.

– Pamela Miles, Vice-President, Development, CPRN



Sixty leading Edmontonians attended the dinner hosted by John and Maggie Mitchell and Jim Dinning in November: (left to right) Jim Dinning, Maggie Mitchell, Judith Maxwell, John Mitchell, Lynn and Ron Odynski.

## Fresh Ideas Campaign Update

The *Fresh Ideas Campaign*, launched in June 2002, recently passed the million dollar milestone, with \$1.09 million raised to date. Our many corporate and community friends are helping guarantee that CPRN will continue to respond to emerging public policy issues facing Canada.

Our Campaign leadership, with **Courtney Pratt, President and CEO, Stelco Inc.** as Chair and **Purdy Crawford** as Honourary Chair, is superb. The Campaign committee includes **Jalynn Bennett, Jim Dinning, Arthur Kroeger, Hon. Margaret N. McCain, Mary Mogford** and **Michèle Thibodeau-DeGuire**.

Several of our most recent contributors, **Power Corporation of Canada, Home Depot Canada, Scotiabank** and **SNC-Lavalin**, have made multi-year commitments to the *President’s Innovation Fund*. The more than \$675,000 contributed to this fund will enable CPRN to move ahead on several innovative projects.

The **R. Howard Webster Foundation** recently announced an \$80,000 grant for the Work Network’s *Vulnerable Workers* series. The first paper in this series, *Defining Vulnerability in the Labour Market*, released in November 2003, received much fanfare in the media across Canada. Other funders for this series include **The Law Commission of Canada** and **The Atkinson Charitable Foundation**.

**TD Bank Financial Group** has designated their Campaign contribution to our new Cities and Communities Research Program. See our *Sponsor’s Corner* on page 11 for more details.

CPRN is most grateful for the support we are receiving through the *Fresh Ideas Campaign*. These contributions enrich the competition of ideas here in Canada – a hallmark of a healthy democracy.

For more information about the Campaign, please contact Pamela Miles, Vice-President, Development at (613) 567-7472 or [pmiles@cprn.org](mailto:pmiles@cprn.org)

