Comparing Health Care Reform Efforts: Here and Abroad

Friday, February 13, 2004 – Since 2002, CPRN's Health Network has participated in the International Network for Health Policy and Reform. Sponsored by the Bertelsmann Foundation in Germany, this is a network of health policy researchers from 16 countries brought together to help German policy-makers understand how the journey from policy idea to implementation plays out in other countries facing similar health care challenges.

The International Network for Health Policy and Reform aims to distinguish itself from other comparative research on health care systems by emphasizing the formal and informal interactions between governments, providers, patients, insurers, the private sector, the scientific community and other stakeholders in health care reform.

The Network's Web site (www.healthpolicymonitor.org), includes individual country reports and is frequently updated with articles and event listings. It also features a repository of background data on the partner countries. The Network has plans to expand the number of countries participating.

Also of interest, is the periodical, ***Health Policy Developments***, a publication of the Bertelsmann Foundation that analyzes health policy trends across developed countries. It is based on semi-annual reports from each country (to which CPRN contributes) tracking the progress of specific domestic policy ideas as they make their way (or not) to realization. *Issue #1* covers the four themes of funding and reimbursement, quality improvement and quality control, integrated care, and population health. Current policy proposals in the 16 member countries are used to illustrate some of the common approaches and barriers to reform. There is also a special section on coverage gaps in the U.S.

To access a copy of ***Health Policy Developments***, ***Issue #1***, click here (http://www.healthpolicymonitor.org/en/Policy_Survey/Half-Yearly_Reports.html).

CPRN Board Members Honoured

Alan Shaw will be a 2004 recipient of the Public Policy Forum's Testimonial Award at the 17th Annual Testimonial Dinner in April. The dinner honours "outstanding Canadians …who, while distinguishing themselves in various walks of professional life, have left an indelible mark on the calibre of public policy and public management."

Courtney Pratt, recently appointed President and CEO of Stelco Inc., will be an Honouree at the Learning Partnership's Annual Tribute Dinner in May. The Learning Partnership is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing together business, education, government, labour, policy makers and the community to develop partnerships that strengthen public education in Canada.

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