

# Challenges to an Inclusive Citizenship: Reconnecting the Economic and Political

Jane Jenson

Director of the Family Network  
Canadian Policy Research Networks  
presentation to the

ADM Forum

Ottawa

25 April 2001



# What is citizenship?

- it is always about inclusion / exclusion
  - boundaries of those “in” and those “out”
- giving content to citizenship is a state activity
  - citizens make claims
  - BUT**
  - states make citizens

# What is the content of citizenship ?

## Three dimensions

- rights and responsibilities
  - participation
  - contribution
  - security
- access
- belonging

Citizenship is about both the economic and the social, as framed by political choices about:

- boundaries between public and private
- between market and state provision



# Citizenship regimes

- Because these boundaries are moveable, citizenship changes over time
  - the result are different  
**citizenship regimes**
- The current challenge :  
How to put together a **stable and inclusive regime**, given the new times - economic, social, ideological  
such that the economic and social will again mesh?

# The citizenship regime - 1940s - 1970s

- Relationship of the economic and social :
  - demand management
  - support for infrastructure
  - limited but key universal programmes
  - social “safety net”
- Rights and responsibilities
  - to participate in labour market, unless “unavailable”
  - contributions through market activity and family activity

# The citizenship regime - 1940s - 1970s

- Access to social benefits
  - EITHER as a universal right
  - OR because one had “fallen out” of the labour market, or the traditional family
- Belonging
  - the effort to create a single, pan-Canadian identity, under the leadership - and sometimes compulsion - of Ottawa

# The citizenship regime - 1940s - 1970s

- social spending was
  - EITHER universal - health, family allowances, education
  - OR to provide a substitute for the absence of market income
- Who put this in place?
  - the “mandarins” of the 1940s-50s
  - the burgeoning public services of the 11 governments in the 1960s and 1970s

# The current challenges?

To re-imagine an inclusive and workable citizenship for the new times

- labour markets which do not provide stable or sufficient incomes
- new family forms
- a global economy which makes demand management unworkable and regulation difficult
- How **will** the economic and social mesh?
- How **should** the economic and social mesh?



# Questions for a new citizenship regime

- What do we **want** participation to mean?
  - Is work a “punishment” or a right?
  - What kinds of support provide foster inclusive citizenship? Which types encourage exclusion?
  - How can we make support (solidarity) a responsibility of citizenship as well as right?
  - How can we ensure that people are able to make their citizenship contributions to the next generation - caring for children and intergenerational equity?

# Questions for a new citizenship regime

- Do we have the capacity in the public service to play the leading role in **innovating**
  - so as to identify the new ways that the economic and social will mesh
- Do we have the institutions to “see” the interconnections?
- Do we have the people to “imagine” the whole, as the mandarins and the innovators of the 1940s and 1960s did ?