

December 4, 2001

Literacy - Is Canada Doing Enough?

Ottawa – How does Canada stack up against other countries of the industrialized world in terms of literacy? How well prepared are Canadian students in their mid-teens for tomorrow's economy?

The answers lie in the results of the first *Programme for International Student Assessment* (PISA) survey of the literacy skills of 15-year-olds in the 32 countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), released today by the OECD. (Provincial breakdowns of the results will be released by Statistics Canada, Human Resources Development Canada and the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC) in Toronto at 11:30 a.m.)

To help make sense of the PISA results and to stimulate public discussion, CPRN convened an *Expert Panel on Student Achievement Goals* on behalf of Statistics Canada. Panel members provided the broader context within which the results should be interpreted.

The panel's observations on literacy and its implications for the kind of society and economy we want to create in Canada are available in a background paper, *Raising the Literacy Bar*, prepared by Dr. Graham Lowe, Director of CPRN's Work Network. You can access the paper on the CPRN Web site at www.cprn.org

- 30 -

CPRN is a national not-for-profit research institute whose mission is to create knowledge and lead public debate on social and economic issues important to the well-being of Canadians, in order to help build a more just, prosperous and caring society.

For more information on the publication, please contact:

Peter Puxley, Director, Public Affairs, Tel: (613) 567-7500 ext. 2019 – E-mail: ppuxley@cprn.org

To download a free copy of the report visit our home page: <http://www.cprn.org>

A weekly e-mail service, *e-network*, provides short updates on research projects or corporate activities.

Visit www.e-network.ca to subscribe.