

---

July 22, 1998

## **New CPRN Study on the Social Union Sets Context for Negotiations on a Framework Agreement**

**Ottawa** – The federal, provincial, and territorial governments must agree on how the interdependence between governments can be managed in a way that helps define the vision that Canadians have of caring for one another, says a study released today by Canadian Policy Research Networks (CPRN). This study comes just days before provincial Premiers are due to meet in Saskatchewan for the Annual Premiers' Conference to discuss the status of the negotiations with the federal government on a social union framework agreement.

This study reports on the results of a series of roundtable discussions held last year by CPRN with federal and provincial officials, academics, and experts from non governmental organizations. These roundtable discussions considered the definition of the social union, including its purpose, values and principles. They also looked at how outcomes in the social union could be measured, what new institutions are required to carry out the functions of the social union, and how citizens could become engaged in the construction of the social union.

"We need to have a framework for thinking through social policy renewal, and in particular, the linkages between the social union, the economic union, and social cohesion in Canada" said Kathy O'Hara, author of the study and a former Research Fellow at CPRN. "Moreover, we have to demonstrate that federalism can evolve by maximizing its capacity to respect both our commonality and our diversity in the interest of all Canadians."

According to Judith Maxwell, CPRN President, "the framework for building a social union should include ground rules for managing intergovernmental co-operation to address citizens' concerns that governments work together to deal with major social policy issues such as health, education, and our children's future. Development of such a framework is not an easy task, and governments should take the time, and consult with Canadians, to ensure they get it right."

- 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](mailto: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](http://www.e-network.ca) to subscribe.