Home is Where the Heart Is

Friday, April 12, 2002 – Home is where much of society's most important work gets done.

Over the centuries, the home has been at times central to economic activity, at other times peripheral, but its social support role has always been important. And, of course, the fit between the home's social and economic roles has not always been mutually reinforcing. Today might be a case in point.

At the start of the 21st century, when most men and women work for wages, when family structures have changed radically and when two-thirds of the population live in large cities, many of our policies and institutions have not yet changed to take account of these realities.

The result is, among other things, unsustainable expectations of modern families and increasing inequality in the ability of Canadians to thrive in a changing environment.

This is the starting point for an article by Judith Maxwell, entitled, ***"Home is Where the Heart Is"***, and published in the January-February-March 2002 Issue of ***Plan Canada*** (Canadian Institute of Planners).

CPRN's President traces recent changes in family structure, patterns of work, and in our cities and suggests that "our home lives and work lives have evolved so far from the post-war foundation (of current policies) that we need a new paradigm, a new set of premises to frame the responsibilities of family, market and state."

She shows how the worlds of family, work and city are naturally interwoven. The quality of the relationships among them determines the overall quality of our lives. Attention to those relationships is critical.

You can access her article by clicking here.

e-network e-network work e-network e-net