Globalization and Canada's "Social Architecture"

Thursday, July 25, 2002 – The capacity of Canada and Canadians to respond positively to globalization was the subject of a recent roundtable hosted by the Applied Research Branch at Human Resources Development Canada.

The goal of the meeting was to move away from casting globalization's impact in terms of a crisis, but to see it, rather, as an opportunity to re-imagine Canada's social union and its concept of shared citizenship.

Discussions took place in two main panels:

- Governing in a globalized environment, and
- Social Policy Planning for the Knowledge-based Economy and Society.

Jane Jenson, Director of CPRN's Family Network gave the Keynote Address at the roundtable. In her presentation, ***Globalization, Governance and Social Policy: Is There a New Architecture for Shared Citizenship***, Jenson considers the possibility that a new paradigm or citizenship regime is already being built, despite disagreement over its contents. She examines the implications of globalization for Canada's post-1945 social architecture – forms of social organization, forms of solidarities, incentive structures and social knowledge.

Jenson compares the new emphasis on "social investment" and human capital with the preceding, "social rights" citizenship regime. She points to the policy challenges under the new regime and to the kinds of data that are needed before policy-makers will be able to act with confidence in that new environment.

You can access or download a Powerpoint version of her presentation by clicking here.

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