Globalization, Social Cohesion and Citizenship

Friday, May 10, 2002 – As Canada opens up to the global economy it faces new challenges, not simply on the economic front, but also in terms of its social solidarity. Our commitment to diversity and our ability to manage the conflicts it necessarily entails can be vulnerable in the new context. The stress is also evident in the processes by which we define what it means to be Canadian.

Jane Jenson, Director of CPRN's Family Network, and Senior Canada Research Chair in Citizenship and Governance at the Université de Montréal, recently made a presentation on this topic to a roundtable for Members of Parliament.

In ***Globalization, Social Cohesion and Citizenship: The Challenges***, Jenson reviews the concepts of social cohesion (a process, not an end in itself) and citizenship (a status and a relationship with boundaries and content determined by state activity). She goes on to examine the current challenges to citizenship and, in particular, the challenge of diversity.

She elaborates on what she calls "Canada's diversity model" – a repertoire based on the notion that unity and diversity are not mutually exclusive. The model comprises a range of policies and practices and relies on democratic institutions to make choices among competing values. Its success requires balance and a strong public sphere that can include and integrate minorities in its deliberations.

She concludes with a number of questions designed to assess how well our institutions meet the requirements of a well-functioning diversity model.

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

Honours for CPRN People

We are proud to announce the following special achievements by CPRNers.

Jim Dinning, Executive Vice-President, Sustainable Development and External Relations, for Transalta, and CPRN's newest Board member, received an Honourary Doctorate of Law from the University of Calgary yesterday.

Jim is a former minister of community and occupational health, minister of education and provincial treasurer in the Alberta government. In the latter role, he is widely credited with putting the province's finances in order. He left politics for Transalta in 1997, and has since served as the chair of the Calgary Health Region,

leading the drive for a new children's hospital.

A University of Calgary announcement of the award says, "Mr Dinning has an impeccable and impressive record of public service to the benefit of Alberta…..he is considered an outstanding community member with a vision that will benefit the Calgary community for years to come."

Congratulations Jim!

Judith Hamel, Research Assistant to the Director of the Family Network, has been awarded the prestigious, Bourse de maîtrise en science by the FCAR (Fonds de recherche sur la société et la culture) of Québec. The scholarship, in the amount of $15,000 will help Ms. Hamel pursue her M.Sc. in economics at the Université de Montréal. She plans to specialize in econometrics and the economics of development.

Congratulations/Félicitations Judith!

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