Changing Boundaries of Citizenship

April 12, 2001 – The numerous political movements speaking in the name of "citizens" and demanding recognition and access to political influence are one reason the notion of "citizenship" is once more in vogue. Just as important are the challenges for the state posed by their increasingly diverse populations, and the impact of major economic and social restructuring, often in response to global forces. All test the capacity of traditional political and social institutions to ensure an effective democracy. In short, they raise issues about the barriers to and boundaries of citizenship.

In a new paper, Jane Jenson, Director of CPRN's Family Network, and Martin Papillon, of York University's Department of Political Science, identify issues and debates around the notion of citizenship and suggest an approach to make sense of the current restructuring of citizenship regimes in Canada and elsewhere. "The Changing Boundaries of Citizenship: A Review and a Research Agenda" is one of four papers in "Modernizing Governance: A Preliminary Exploration", published by the Canadian Centre for Management Development.

Jenson and Papillon see citizenship as "a dynamic relation between three complimentary dimensions: rights and responsibilities, access, and belonging". The "boundaries of citizenship" they refer to are those that define two relationships; between the individual and the state, and among individuals that share a relationship with a state.

The paper explores four challenges to the current understanding of citizenship; the challenge of diversity, the challenge of locating citizenship, the challenge of social citizenship and the challenge of participation. They conclude by proposing areas for further research.

You can access or download the complete paper by clicking here.

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