Quality of Life Indicators Ready for Testing

April 27, 2001 – The goal of CPRN's Quality of Life Indicators Project is to create a national set of indicators that reflect the range of issues that truly matter to Canadians. The indicators will provide a common language for an exchange between the public, private and voluntary sectors and help foster a more balanced debate on public priorities for social, economic, environmental and other dimensions of quality of life.

Last fall, CPRN hosted 40 dialogue sessions with both randomly and strategically selected citizens in 9 provinces, in urban and rural settings, and in French and English to uncover the citizens' perspective on quality of life. Later, in December, we held workshops with the project's steering committee, citizens' representatives and indicator experts to discuss the preliminary results of those dialogues, and the possible make-up of a prototype set of indicators.

With guidance from Statistics Canada, experts then chose a manageable set of indicators from those proposed by the workshops. Once citizen participants had had a chance to react, we settled on a final prototype set. It includes 40 indicators organized around nine themes; economy/employment; government; democracy; health; environment; education; social conditions; personal well-being, and; community.

You can download or examine the prototype, read an analysis of the results of the citizens' dialogues by Joseph Michalski, and a report by Miriam Wyman on the lessons learned during the course of this pioneering project by clicking on the following links;

1 - "Indicators of Quality of Life in Canada: A Citizens' Prototype – Summary of Results of Public Dialogue Sessions and Prototype of National Indicators"

2 - "Asking Citizens What Matters for Quality of Life in Canada – Results of CPRN's Public Dialogue Process, October 2000" by Joseph Michalski

3 - "Quality of Life: What Matters to Canadians – Lessons Learned" by Miriam Wyman

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