Literacy - Is Canada Doing Enough?

December 4, 2001 – How does Canada stack up against other countries of the industrialized world in terms of literacy? How well prepared are Canadian students in their mid-teens for tomorrow's economy?

The answers lie in the results of the first ***Programme for International Student Assessment*** (PISA) survey of the literacy skills of 15-year-olds in the 32 countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), released today by the OECD. (Provincial breakdowns of the results will be released by Statistics Canada, Human Resources Development Canada and the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC) in Toronto at 11:30 a.m.)

To help make sense of the PISA results and to stimulate public discussion, CPRN convened an ***Expert Panel on Student Achievement Goals*** on behalf of Statistics Canada. Panel members provided the broader context within which the results should be interpreted.

The panel's observations on literacy and its implications for the kind of society and economy we want to create in Canada are available in a background paper, ***Raising the Literacy Bar***, prepared by Dr. Graham Lowe, Director of CPRN's Work Network. You can access the paper at 11:30 am on the CPRN Web site (www.cprn.org).

Graham Lowe and Judith Maxwell, President of CPRN, are available for comment on the PISA results and their importance to Canada.

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