Two New Additions to CPRN's Website Library

March 30, 2001

1. The February edition of *"Horizons"*, the newsletter of the federal government's Policy Research Initiative, focuses on the challenge of social inclusion, of maintaining access to the essentials of citizenship - to literacy, education, employment, income, health care, security, political and social life and support in adversity, amongst other things.

   Of particular interest is the relationship between inclusion/exclusion and social cohesion - the degree to which members of a society believe they are engaged in a common project, motivated by shared values, in which they feel they play a part and from which they derive a feeling of belonging.

   While these terms are au courant in policy circles, their analytical definition is still a matter of debate and some controversy. Identifying the links between inclusion/exclusion and social cohesion, not to mention other phenomena, like global economic integration, new technologies, the growing virtual economy, and Canada's increasingly diverse cultural make-up, remains a research challenge.

   In a featured column in the February issue of *"Horizons"*, the Director of CPRN's Family Network, Jane Jenson, discusses different diagnoses of social exclusion and their policy implications and points to research needed to assess their relative effectiveness.

   She underlines the important distinction between diagnoses that focus on the margins and how to include those who have been marginalized, and a diagnosis that defines the problem of exclusion as one of "the failure to achieve equality in the civil, political and social rights of citizenship" and suggests a more equal distribution of economic power and political and social resources within the majority is the answer.

   Visit the Policy Research Initiative Web site for more information.

2. Following on the interest shown in the Family Network's recent discussion paper, "Housing Affordability: A Childrens' Issue" by Merrill Cooper, Jane Jenson prepared an Op-Ed article for the March 26th edition of the *Toronto Star*.

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