From War to War: The State, The Economy and Social Spending

October 26, 2001 – Paul Martin is now admitting that he will have to bring down a federal budget before Christmas. The debate over what it should contain is already engaged.

The impact of the terrible events of September 11th now extends from the immediate victims and their families and loved ones to the social psyche of the industrialized world. Western economies, already suffering the effects of a slowdown, have been sent reeling as consumers retreat, orders collapse and workers are laid off. The downward cycle has been sharply accentuated.

At the same time, Canadians understandably feel much less secure today and more ready to contemplate measures that they might once have frowned upon to beef up both the public security apparatus and the military.

The overall effect of such shifts has been to put new pressures on public finances as revenues fall and new demands surface. In this environment, there is a risk that social spending, so vital in times of crisis, may suffer at precisely the time it is most called for.

The Director of CPRN's Family Network has written a commentary, published today in the Toronto Star, reminding us of the importance of social policy in wars past and, by implication, in today's context.

You can access or download a copy of her commentary by clicking here.

Other News

Karen Hughes, Professor of Women's Studies at the University of Alberta, a CPRN Research Fellow and author of the CPRN Discussion Paper, "Women and Corporate Directorships in Canada: Tends and Issues", has been awarded the Thérèse F.-Casgrain Fellowship to study the implications of self-employment and small business ownership for women. She will examine the impact of growing self-employment, especially among women, on gender equality in particular and economic equality in general.

The fellowship is administered by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council for the Thérèse F.-Casgrain Foundation. The Foundation was created in 1982 in memory of Senator Thérèse F.-Casgrain whose work in the area of social justice contributed greatly to the advancement of Canadian women. Dr. Hughes will carry out her research at the University of Alberta and here at CPRN. She plans to publish her findings in a discussion paper and a book.

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Further details are available at
http://www.sshrc.ca/english/resnews/pressreleases/casgrain_e.htm

Fraser Valentine, author most recently of the CPRN Discussion Paper, “Enabling Citizenship: Full Inclusion of Children with Disabilities and their Parents”, is the co-editor, along with David Cameron, of a new book, “Disability and Federalism: Comparing Different Approaches to Full Participation”. This collection of papers is published by McGill-Queen’s University Press for the Institute of Intergovernmental Relations, School of Policy Studies at Queen’s University.

For more information: http://qsilver.queensu.ca/iigr

And Jane Jenson, Director of CPRN’s Family Network, is a contributor to a new volume of essays on the history of child care advocacy in Canada. “Changing Child Care: Five Decades of Child Care Advocacy and Policy in Canada” is edited by Susan Prentice and published by Fernwood. Dr. Jenson’s paper is titled, “Family Policy, Child Care and Social Solidarity: The Case of Quebec”.

For more information: http://www.fernwoodbooks.ca/fam.html

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