## Season's Greetings from CPRN!

**December 22, 2000 –** Only in Canada would 40 people struggle through the first big snowstorm of the year to get to Ottawa to talk about the quality of life! But that workshop last week was the last highlight of a year with many of them. These 40 experts and citizens came to help us mull over the results of 40 deliberative dialogues that took place across the country in the month of October. We asked people from all walks of life what matters for quality of life. Their answers will help us develop a set of national quality of life indicators to track our progress as a society.

This has been a busy year for us here at CPRN, and a fruitful one. We began the year with the tremendous success of the Family Network's *What Is the Best Policy Mix for Canada's Young Children?* We know from the feedback that this work has had an impact. And it has been extremely gratifying to all of us to see the progress made during the year on the National Children's Agenda. More work remains to be done, and the Family Network has a number of further initiatives underway to add to the body of research on policies for Canadian children.

Our Work Network is winding up its multi-year Human Resources in Government Project, and Graham Lowe's final report, *Employer of Choice? Workplace Innovation in Government* will be published in January. Publications throughout the past year have highlighted innovative public sector work sites, the labour relations legacy of the 90s, and public/private sector wage comparisons. All of them help point to the kinds of policies needed if the public sector workplace is to meet the competitive challenges that lie ahead.
The past decade has been a turbulent one for public employees and their managers, but our research suggests there is plenty of reason for optimism. Innovative approaches to the workplace are in progress, approaches which will help governments become employers of choice.

And perhaps one of our biggest undertakings, the Health Network's *Toward a New Perspective on Health Policy* project, is also coming to an end. Sholom Glouberman's final report will be published early in 2001. It wraps up and builds on the numerous papers that have marked this conceptual analysis of health policy in Canada and abroad. The work of Sholom and his colleagues underlines the vital importance of a healthy social and physical environment to favourable health outcomes and provides a new framework for health policy in the future.

…/2

.

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

I have said nothing of the other activities in each of the Networks; the work on citizenship, social policy governance and social cohesion in the Family Network; work on changing employment relationships, employment quality and productivity, and learning and skills in the Work Network; and the development of a new niche for the Health Network, one that stresses system-wide governance and the role of the voluntary sector.

Suffice it to say, we will be as busy as ever in the year to come!

What has made the past year especially rewarding has been the participation of so many of you in our various endeavours. It is always a pleasure to meet you, exchange ideas and learn from you. We are extremely grateful for the input of those who attend our roundtables, take part in the steering committees for each project, and those who support our work both financially and with advice and moral support. I look forward to expanding and deepening those relationships in future.

May I take this opportunity to wish you, your families and your loved ones a peaceful and enjoyable holiday season. E-networks will be back in January.

Happy New Year!

Judith Maxwell

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