New Deal for Cities – An Election Issue Whose Time Has Come

Friday, June 18, 2004 – Something happened on the way to the Forum.

The state of Canada's cities, once mainly the concern of municipal leaders and urban activists, now firmly occupies centre stage in the public agenda. Think-tanks, like CPRN, an increasing number of academics, business leaders and commentators have carried the "place matters" ball down the field. In the current election campaign, almost all the prime ministerial hopefuls have put forward their proposals for a national urban strategy.

Why now? It isn't simply that more than 80% of the population lives in urban areas. It's because we have come to realize the importance of cities, *qua cities*, as the economic drivers of the knowledge economy, and that the quality of their physical and social environments is critical to their economic success. A sense of urgency is occasioned by the realization that Canada lags behind many of its international competitors in waking up to this fact.

This month's edition of CPRN's free e-bulletin, ***Urban Nexus***, a review of latest research on cities and communities, focuses on the emerging consensus about what a "New Deal for Canada's Cities" should look like.

Urban Nexus is prepared and written by Family Network Research Fellow in Cities and Communities, Neil Bradford, author of the landmark CPRN study, *Why Cities Matter: Policy Research Perspectives for Canada* (June 2002). Bradford teaches at Huron University College at the University of Western Ontario.

To make sure you don't miss the next issue, to be published on June 23rd, subscribe on-line by clicking here.

To view previous issues of ***Urban Nexus*** on the CPRN Web site, click here.

Jane Jenson

As we announced earlier this year, Jane Jenson, Director of the Family Network for the past 5 years, is stepping down. For those of you who wish to keep in touch with Jane, her new e-mail address is jane.jenson@umontreal.ca

Jane's successor, David Hay, takes over on July 5th.

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