Government and Citizen Engagement On-line:

August 25, 2000 – "The Internet is like a library, a news wire, a deliberation room and a voting booth, all meshed together in a dynamic process at the tip of the citizen's fingers." So says Elizabeth Richard, in *Lessons from the Network Model of On-line Engagement of Citizens*, a paper she delivered to the LENTIC Colloquium in Brussels, May 18-19, 2000.

Richard is the former Director of Corporate and Public Affairs at CPRN and now the Director of Branch Strategies and Initiatives at Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC).

In this paper, she examines the impact of "the network model," implicit in the Internet, on the traditional structure of government organizations. "The predominantly vertical public service structure is challenged in this environment where lateral and diagonal connections are heralded," she says.

The paper describes the results of a project initiated in 1996 by PWGSC for the G-7 Governments On-line and Democracy initiative. CPRN was a partner in the project. It builds on the outcome of a number of workshops and a roundtable involving a cross-section of federal public servants who came together to discuss the impact of the emerging network environment on their relationships with citizens.

Richard reviews the network model and then shows how it can be used effectively in interaction between government and citizens.

You can read the paper by clicking here.

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Courtesy Announcement for the Policy Research Secretariat

CANADIAN POLICY RESEARCH AWARDS

Suzanne Peters Citizen Engagement Award

Citizen Engagement is about enriching the relationship between government and citizens. It involves a mutual learning process and ultimately leads to more effective policy development. Suzanne Peters (1948-1999) was a pioneering advocate and practitioner of engaging citizens in Canadian public policy research. Her legacy includes the groundbreaking study, Exploring Canadian Values and an ongoing national public dialogue project, The Society We Want. This annual award has been created in her memory. It celebrates those who are helping advance research that will enable Canadians to have a greater voice in shaping future public policy.

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Eligibility

The Suzanne Peters Citizen Engagement Award is open to individuals and groups, including, but not limited to, those in the public, private, voluntary, academic, not-for-profit and non-governmental sectors.

Criteria

Nominees' / applicants' work should:

- Advance research that contributes to the overall awareness, knowledge and understanding of citizen engagement principles and practices; or
- Create opportunities for Canadians to: identify, deliberate and reflect on important issues; work collectively to find common ground; and, communicate their views and values to decision makers; or
- Champion citizen engagement as an important part of the policy development process.

Submissions will be reviewed by a committee consisting of representatives of Canadian research centres, universities, non-governmental organizations and the federal government.

The winner will be honoured at the Awards Dinner in Ottawa on November 30, 2000 as part of the annual National Policy Research Conference.

Additional information and nomination/application forms are available at our web site at www.policyresearch.gc.ca

Phone: (613) 947-1956
e-mail: awards.prix@prs-srp.gc.ca

Submissions must be received no later than Friday, September 15, 2000.

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