Health, Housing and Governance: More Presentations from CPRN

Governing Together – The Federal Role

Friday, January 7, 2005 – In ***For a Common Purpose: The Role of the Federal Government***, a presentation to a meeting of federal deputy ministers at the Canada School of Public Service in Ottawa, Judith Maxwell, CPRN's President, uses the recent Health Agreement between federal and provincial/territorial leaders as an example of the kind of collaboration Canadians expect of their governments.

Redesigning our social architecture demands new modes of governance to achieve common purposes. Maxwell favours "framework agreements" that combine provincial flexibility with accountability in terms of national objectives.

Going forward, Maxwell suggests Canada could learn from the European Union's *Open-Method of Coordination* (OMC), which has been successful in helping 15 sovereign governments define and pursue a common purpose. She sees Canada's experience with ministerial councils as a good basis for further innovation. The federal government has the national role and the convening power to lead planning for the future.

To access or download a copy of her presentation, click here.

Health Care Reform

In ***Key and Current Health Policy Issues in Canada***, a presentation to students in the Masters program in nursing at the University of Ottawa, Lisa Maslove, Researcher with CPRN's Health Network, traces recent health reform history.

In all, she reviews two national and five provincial reports assessing reform needs, along with three federal-provincial accords, culminating in the accord signed last fall in Ottawa. She draws on these and a variety of other sources – stakeholders views, research, media reports – to compile a list of common themes for health reform. She highlights three in particular: health human resources (HHR), "privatization" and what is meant by it, and waiting.

She examines proposals to expand areas of public financing in areas like home care, long-term care and drug coverage, as well as suggestions for expanding private sector delivery. She expresses doubt that large scale expansion of the latter can be justified in terms of improved outcomes.

To access or download a copy of her presentation, click here.

…/2

Affordable Housing

In ***Why Housing Affordability Matters And For Whom***, a presentation to the Board of Directors of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, CPRN's President, Judith Maxwell reviews the links between quality housing and positive child and family outcomes, the importance of neighbourhoods and supportive communities, and independent living for elders and people with disabilities. She traces the impact of a high cost housing market on low and modest income households and the failures in both the market and public policies for housing and income support of the past decade.

Maxwell describes how social change alters the fit between housing and social policy, and how a lack of supportive policies for low wage workers, early childhood education, the needs of new immigrants, and people with special needs, amongst others, has exacerbated the housing crisis. She describes a policy mix to address current social needs, and particularly that for decent housing and she calls on First Ministers to launch a new initiative on housing.

To access or download a copy of her presentation, click here.

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