A Christmas Pot-pourri of Presentations from CPRN

Friday, December 17, 2004 – CPRN's people are an active bunch and it's sometimes hard to stay abreast of all their doings. Today, we bring you up to date on some recent presentations.

A Time for Community Building

"Place" matters more today than ever before. This is true, despite globalization and the advent of technologies that appear to make location insignificant.

That modern paradox is the starting point for ***Community Building: Seizing the Opportunity***, a presentation to the Sudbury Social Planning Council in November by Neil Bradford, CPRN Research Fellow in Cities and Communities and Professor of Political Science, Huron University College, University of Western Ontario.

Bradford shows how the five main ingredients of economic success today converge on cities: people (80% of Canadians live in urban areas); investment; ideas; policy, and; security. *Place quality* is the key to getting the greatest benefit from these five "flows".

Canada is a latecomer to the new urban policy paradigm and our cities are in danger of falling behind competitively. Bradford draws on experience elsewhere to build the case for a new approach to community building in Canada. That approach values social innovation as much as economic innovation, fosters multi-level/multi-sectoral collaboration and decentralized authority, and relies on local community intermediaries to drive the process.

To access or download a Powerpoint version of his remarks, click here.

A Social Architecture for a "Post-neoliberal" Moment

Neo-liberal social policy stresses the role of the market, the family and the community, while attempting to shrink the contribution of the state. It hasn't worked. Families and communities are under high stress and markets have failed to solve such challenges as the persistence of the working poor, or the lack of affordable housing and child care.

In ***Components of a Social Architecture for the New Century***, a presentation she made to a McGill University/Social Development Canada conference in Montreal, Jane Jenson, CPRN Research Associate and Canada Research Chair in Citizenship and Governance at the Université de Montréal, argues that Canada is now entering a "post-neoliberal" (PNL) era. And that calls for rebalancing the roles of market, state, family and community. A PNL approach recognizes that social policy is a productive factor, that economic development depends on social development.

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Enormous changes in the workplace, family, demography and values demand a new social architecture that will generate human capital, supplement the incomes of those who can't earn enough to meet family needs, and a system of care that fits the today's economic and family situations. Jenson considers some of the policy options to meet those requirements.

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

The Governance Challenge

In ***Our Social Foundations: The Governance Challenge***, a presentation to the 2004 APEX Symposium in Ottawa, Judith Maxwell, President of CPRN, reiterates the evidence of major social changes – in family structures, in patterns of work and income, and in the shape and importance of our communities - changes not reflected adequately in our social policy responses. But, Maxwell says, the changes, themselves, are not the biggest challenge. The biggest challenge is developing new governance approaches to deal with them effectively.

"Canada will have to mobilize the energy of all governments, business, and community organizations…and learn how to do effective multi-level government." This will involve rebalancing the responsibilities of the public and private sectors, and measures to enable the local delivery of integrated services. In turn, this requires engaging citizens in the process and strengthening the capacity of communities to play their part.

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

Planning Tomorrow's Health Care Work Force

Beginning with Alberta, some 15 years ago, numerous bodies, from the Conference of Deputy Ministers of Health in 1991, down to the Romanow Commission in 2002, have presented the logic of national health human resources (HHR) planning. Yet, despite new federal funding for the purpose and a national consensus for action, federal-provincial cooperation has thus far failed to deliver coordinated HHR planning.

Scan of Health Human Resource Policy Initiatives, a presentation by Lisa Maslove, Researcher with CPRN's Health Network, to the Health Human Resources Modelers Project Advisory Committee (HRSDC), draws on recent efforts by CPRN's Health Network to catalogue just what *is* being done in each province and territory across the country. Her presentation reviews activity related to physicians, nurses and pharmacists in three areas:

- Education and training initiatives;
- Recruitment and retention and work place initiatives;
- Capacity to do national level health human resource planning.

Maslove finds, among other things, that planning and modeling for work force planning is now "de rigueur," though approaches vary across the country. She also finds little coordination of training and little evidence that curriculum takes account of new delivery models. There is no national physician strategy for health human resources, unlike in the case of nurses. And there isn't the data to support discussion of shortages of pharmacists.

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

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