Sharing Responsibility for the Well-being of Canadians

Friday, January 14, 2005 – In Canada today, as we have said frequently, social policy is out of whack with the reality of the way we live our lives. Getting it right means correctly balancing responsibility for well-being among the key actors.

In a recent presentation to the New Century, New Risks Conference at McGill University in Montreal, Judith Maxwell addresses that challenge. Her starting point is the "well-being diamond", a useful CPRN construct that captures the relationship between the four sources of well-being – families, communities, markets and governments. To maximize their positive impact, their actions must reinforce, rather than conflict with one another. This is not the case today, and people are falling through the cracks. Maxwell describes this as a failure of governance.

She makes the case for rebalancing the diamond so all actors focus on the well-being of Canadians – for a change in governance and the introduction of new tools to that end. This will take three things, in particular:

- Holistic, place-based policies, responsive to local needs, driven by local actors and supported by senior governments.
- Renewed federalism - rediscovering the tools for federal/provincial cooperation.
- Parliamentary innovations to open up a public space for national and local conversations with citizens on important issues.

To access or download her presentation, ***Governing Social Development in the 21st Century***, click here.

Health Care Reform: Canada in International Context

Since 2002, CPRN's Health Network has participated in the *International Network for Health Policy and Reform*. Sponsored by the Bertelsmann Foundation, this network of health policy researchers from 17 industrialized countries facing similar health care challenges explores the journey from policy idea to implementation in each of them.

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The Network's Web site, includes more than 250 individual country reports, frequently updated, along with background data on the partner countries. CPRN's Health Network is the Canadian contributor. The latest series of country reports has just been posted to the site at www.healthpolicymonitor.org

Also of interest is ***Health Policy Developments***, a publication of the Bertelsmann Foundation that analyzes health policy trends across developed countries. Based on semi-annual reports from each country, it tracks the progress of specific domestic policy ideas. The most recent issue (Issue 2), *Focus on Health and Aging, Pharmaceutical Policy and Human Resources* is available at http://www.healthpolicymonitor.org/en/Policy_Survey/Half-Yearly_Reports.html

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