



CPRN to Conduct Youth Dialogue for Newfoundland and Labrador

Young people in Newfoundland and Labrador will be engaged in a province-wide dialogue conducted by Canadian Policy Research Networks in support of making the province their place of choice to live and work, Premier Danny Williams announced June 5.

“We need to move quickly and decisively in the development of a comprehensive Youth Retention and Attraction Strategy

to encourage young people to stay in our province,” said Premier Williams.

“Newfoundland and Labrador has always been a preferred place to live and work, and now improved economics and increasing opportunities have made staying in our province a viable option for our young people.”

The study features a series of 12 deliberative dialogues with young people, randomly selected, aged 18 to 30. In September, dialogues will be held in 10 centres within the province and in two centres elsewhere in Canada where young people from the province have moved. They will be followed by a provincial youth summit in November that brings together 160 participants in the dialogues and 40 community and business leaders. In addition, CPRN will host an online social networking page to foster discussion and gather input from a broader range of young people.

“This project belongs to the young people of Newfoundland and Labrador,” says Sharon Manson Singer, CPRN President. “Engaging young people and getting their perspectives and ideas to define the kind of province they want to live in is fundamental to achieving the purpose of the government’s Youth Retention and Attraction Strategy and reversing out-migration.”

Newfoundland and Labrador historically has experienced youth out-migration from its towns and villages as many leave to seek jobs and build a life elsewhere in Canada. The study will engage young people in a policy-making process that supports building their future and that presents a clear picture of their aspirations and their vision of the province they want to live in, says Manson Singer.



Newfoundland and Labrador Premier Danny Williams and CPRN President Sharon Manson Singer at the announcement of the province’s Youth Engagement Project to be conducted by CPRN.

“The trade-offs and hard choices that young people are prepared to make and expect their government to make for the future of the province will be presented along with potential policy approaches and issues to address in developing and implementing an action plan for the strategy. A report will be made to the government in late winter 2009.

The project will also contribute to the development of skills and a leadership cadre amongst young people in Newfoundland

and Labrador. A 19-member Youth Advisory Panel, with representation from all regions of the province, various age groups, education levels and gender mix has been established. It will provide ongoing advice on project design and the development of dialogue tools including workbooks. About 20 young people will be trained as facilitators and recorders for the regional dialogues.





Premier Danny Williams (far left), Sharon Manson Singer (CPRN President) and Minister Shawn Skinner (far right) meet with members of the Newfoundland and Labrador Youth Advisory Panel in St. John's, Newfoundland, in June 2008.

CPRN Launches *Connecting with Canadians*

Connecting with Canadians, a new five-year public policy research and dialogue program that will engage Canadians to address key issues such as citizenship, diversity and skills barriers, has been launched by Canadian Policy Research Networks.

“*Connecting with Canadians* will respond to current issues, identify emerging challenges and find solutions to pressing problems based on the values and hopes of Canadians,” explains CPRN President Sharon Manson Singer. “We are confident the research we produce will be valuable to Canadians and their leaders by stimulating policy discussion and contributing to decision-making.”

A unique feature of *Connecting with Canadians* is its commitment to engaging young Canadians in policy issues, says Manson Singer. Young people will participate in the research and dialogue. “We want to leave our young leaders with a legacy of skills and interest in Canada’s public affairs.”

Connecting with Canadians draws on a framework of expectations and obligations; what Canadians say they expect from government, business and community organizations and what they believe, as citizens, we should give back to society. Together, this set of expectations and obligations represents a vision of the Canada that Canadians want.

CPRN identified, from its deliberative dialogues and research, five challenges to address in public policy research that are critical to achieving this vision: citizenship; diversity; productivity and skills; health and our aging population; and the environment. *Connecting with Canadians* will address these challenges to find innovative policy ideas to move Canada forward.



The policy challenges were discussed with leaders from across Canada and reviewed at CPRN’s Leadership Summit 2008 in Ottawa in February. Summit participants, community, business, government and young leaders confirmed their importance and identified key barriers and opportunities to address them.

CPRN has developed a program of research and dialogue initiatives for *Connecting with Canadians*. They include:

- A series of dialogues on citizenship to explore different aspects of what it means to be a Canadian in the 21st century, connected to research priorities identified below.
- A national dialogue on how to foster a sense of “belonging and getting along” among all residents of Canada while celebrating cultural differences in a diverse society.
- Research to address how to increase learning opportunities at all stages of life.
- Meeting the challenges of labour mobility: providing adequate public services in high growth areas while addressing the issues facing depopulated regions and communities.
- Integrating health care and social care from primary care to specialized service to acute care to chronic care to supports in the home.
- The environment – finding ways to increase individual and community greening.

For more information about the *Connecting with Canadians* research and dialogue program, visit www.cprn.org/test/doc.cfm?doc=1899&l=en.

CPRN is a national not-for-profit research institute whose mission is to create knowledge and lead public dialogue and debate on social and economic issues important to the well-being of Canadians, in order to help build a more just, prosperous and caring society.

Support *Connecting with Canadians*

CPRN needs your support to implement *Connecting with Canadians*. We are a non-profit, independent public policy research organization. Your tax-deductible donation will help CPRN to carry out this research and contribute to moving Canada forward. You can make a contribution by credit card through our website. An e-receipt will be sent to you. Or, send a cheque to CPRN, 214-151 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5H3.

Thank you!

CPRN JobQuality.ca Website Revamped

JobQuality.ca, CPRN's unique website that offers a one-stop, user-friendly source of information on the quality of jobs in Canada, has been redesigned.

"Job quality is an important part of Canadians' overall health, both physical and financial, and improving it is a win-win strategy," says Dr. Sharon Manson Singer, President of CPRN. "It makes jobs more satisfying for employees, while helping firms reduce turnover and boost productivity. These are key issues that will become increasingly important as our labour force grows more slowly."

Launched in 2001, JobQuality.ca features information on employment conditions and work environments that, when combined, make a good job. It includes interviews with labour market and human resource experts and news stories about job quality published in leading national and international newspapers. Data on job characteristics that are important to Canadians, relations between employees and supervisors, comparisons of job quality in Canada to other countries, work and life balance, and job satisfaction, are among those presented.

"The redesign makes the site easier to navigate and simplifies the delivery of information to visitors," says Richard Brisbois, CPRN Senior Researcher and Content Manager for JobQuality.ca. "In the coming months, we will update our job quality indicators and add new content including online surveys." There have been over 850,000 visitors to the site since its launch in September 2001.

The JobQuality.ca website has attracted a wide range of sponsors from both the private and the public sectors. Current sponsors include: Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry, Bell Canada Inc., and the Canadian Labour Congress.

Visit JobQuality.ca at www.jobquality.ca.

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Visits and Downloads Rise Sharply @ www.cprn.org

Visits to the CPRN website, www.cprn.org, along with downloads of CPRN research reports and information continue to grow in number. In 2007, more than 2.5 million decision-makers, policy researchers, students and Canadians from all walks of life visited the website, a 30% increase over 2006. Visitors made more than 1.9 million downloads, a 15% increase over 2006.

"The growth in the dissemination of our research through the Web is gratifying and advances CPRN's goal of informing public policy discussion and decision-making," says Ron Saunders, CPRN Vice-President, Research.

A June 2007 study, *Think Tanks: Policy Influence on the Web*, by Gregory Marchildon and Kathleen McNutt, Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Regina, identified the CPRN site as the most influential Canadian think tank on social policy on the Web, based on total links.

CPRN Top Reads 2007-08...

The following reports are the leading downloads so far in 2007-08:

21st Century Job Quality: Achieving What Canadians Want, September 2007 (54,038 downloads)

Lost in Translation: (Mis)Understanding Youth Engagement – Synthesis Report, October 2007 (39,353 downloads)

The Ethical Recruitment of Internationally Educated Health Professionals: Lessons from Abroad and Options for Canada, February 2007 (26,605 downloads)

Matching Methods with Policy Purpose: Two Case Examples of Public Engagement, March 2007 (24,294 downloads)

Trading Up – High School and Beyond: Five Illustrative Canadian Case Studies, May 2007 (23,037 downloads)

Pathways for Youth to the Labour Market: An Overview of High School Initiatives, April 2007 (22,004 downloads)

CPRN Website – Top Downloads

Here are the five top downloads from CPRN's website library of reports:

Too Many Left Behind: Canada's Adult Education and Training System, June 2006 (117,220 downloads)

Labour Force Ageing and Skill Shortages in Canada and Ontario, August 2004 (104,680 downloads)

Housing Is Good Social Policy, December 2004 (102,415 downloads)

Measuring the Quality of Post-secondary Education: Concepts, Current Practices and a Strategic Plan, April 2005 (101,584 downloads)

Accountability in Health Care and Legal Approaches, May 2004 (80,661 downloads)

CPRN » Home - Windows Internet

<http://www.cprn.org/>



Whither the Determinants of Health?

The 2004 First Ministers' Health Accord resulted in new funding investment for our health care system and, in particular, a focus on cutting wait times. Governments and health care providers continue to work hard at the planning, funding and delivery of health care services while costs and service pressures continue to rise throughout the country.

In this context, there is a growing body of thought that says we must do more than simply try to "manage the system." Rather, we need to focus efforts on addressing the social determinants of health. These include education, income, working conditions, housing and the social and physical environment that impact the health and lives of individuals and their communities.

Despite significant investments in health care, Canada is falling behind other nations in health outcomes. Senator Wilbert Keon, Chair of the Senate Sub-Committee on Health, argues that Canada must take a population health approach to managing health care in order to improve health outcomes for all.

Speaking to the May 2008 *Taming of the Queue V Conference*, Senator Keon noted that while Canada has increased spending on health care delivery, it is underinvesting in the social determinants of health. As a result, Canada does not rank highly compared to other developed countries on some important indicators of health, and we rank poorly on measures of health outcomes per dollar spent.

Aboriginal people continue to lag far behind the non-Aboriginal population in life expectancy, infant mortality, chronic disease and accidental death and accidents. Children, pregnant mothers, low-income Canadians, persons with disabilities, ethnocultural populations, and seniors are also at risk of poor health outcomes. Reversing this means going beyond health care delivery to acting on critical social factors.

Canadians expect access to health care services and to be able to make the choices that sustain and improve their health. Poor health costs affect all of us in reduced labour market productivity, additional health care costs and person years of life lost. For all we spend, we need to have better value for our health care dollars. This can be achieved if we make the determinants of health an integrated part of our policy-making, as well as the funding and management of health care.

Dr. Patrick Fafard, of the University of Ottawa and a CPRN Research Associate, concludes in his recent study *Evidence and Healthy Public Policy: Insights from Health and Political Sciences*:

"Policies and program choices have an effect on wealth, water and air quality, how we get around town, and levels of literacy and education.



In turn, each of these factors and many others has a major impact on the health of the population. In focusing on health determinants, the emphasis shifts from the planning, funding and delivery of healthcare services *per se* to a much wider range of economic, social, environmental and political forces that have an impact on the health of individuals and especially of broad populations."

The World Health Organization (WHO) will release its worldwide report on the social determinants of health in September. Canadians will have an opportunity to see how we rank globally. Mme. Monique Bégin, a member of the WHO Commission on the Social Determinants of Health and a former federal Minister of Health, recently spoke to the importance of social determinants. Mme. Bégin urged delegates to this year's Canadian Public Health Association annual conference to create a new social movement to urge our political leaders to move forward in creating a healthy society that recognizes the impact of the social determinants of health on individual and population health. Canadians will have another opportunity in December to evaluate our health rankings when the Senate Sub-Committee on Health releases its report.

Clearly, the determinants of health affect individual and community health and well-being. CPRN recognizes the importance of connecting the determinants of health to achieving better health outcomes. Our planned *Connecting with Canadians* research on health and aging will seek to develop new policy ideas that facilitate the integration of health care and supporting social services so that there are improved health outcomes and a better quality of life for Canadians. Similarly, our work in a number of areas such as healthy environment, improving access to learning opportunities and strengthening communities will identify ways to improve health outcomes through promoting individual and community well-being.

Sharon Manson Singer, Ph.D.
President

To read or download *Connecting with Canadians, Shaping Our Future*, go to www.cprn.org/doc.cfm?doc=1899&l=en.

To read or download Senator Keon's presentation, *Stemming the Disease Epidemic: A Population Health Approach*, go to www.cprn.org/doc.cfm?doc=1876&l=en.

Dr. Patrick Fafard's paper, *Evidence and Healthy Public Policy: Insights from Health and Political Sciences*, is available at www.cprn.org/doc.cfm?doc=1904&l=en.

