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Canadian Policy Research Network to close up shop next month

The Canadian Policy Research Networks said last week it will cease to exist next month after 15 years in the business because the government cut its funding. CPRN's president Dr. **Sharon Manson Singer** issued a press release and said the leading Canadian think tank has been recognized nationally and internationally "as a champion of citizen engagement and non-partisan socio-economic public policy research and analysis."

"This is a sad day for Canada," said Dr. Manson Singer. "Independent research is an essential component of good public policy-making. Canada cannot afford to lose this capacity which has been declining in recent years."

The Canadian Policy Research Networks, founded by **Judith Maxwell** in 1994, was commissioned to do the public consultations for the Romanow Report and has received the Kroeger Award in Public Discourse for "excellence in contributing to the quality of public debate in Canada." It's also produced hundreds of reports on aboriginal education, adult workers, literacy, financial literacy, vulnerable workers, social innovation and social housing policy.

The federal government cut its funding in 2006 and it has been funded by other stakeholders since. The think-tank will close on Dec. 23. It employs 22 full and part-time staff and has 16 research associates and fellows across the country.