The Internet, Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs), electronic service delivery, e-commerce, a global digital economy, and citizens demanding new ways of interacting with all orders of government have created a dynamic force that will profoundly influence how society is governed in the decades to come. As the electronic era unfolds, governments are struggling to respond to the evolving and changing needs and expectations of their citizens. Public servants, political leaders and scholars are all trying to make sense of this new world and its impact on the foundations of democracy.

Ill-defined terms like “e-governance,” “electronic service delivery,” and “e-democracy” have been applied to the construct of governance in an attempt to describe the changes that ICTs have unleashed. However, without a full understanding of what it means to add an “e” to any component of our institutions and processes of governance, and without a critical examination of other change agents, governments may continue to apply technological band-aids to a set of undiagnosed problems. Similarly, without a solid research and theoretical foundation in this area, practitioners and scholars lack an adequate knowledge base from which to inform practice.

In May 2003, this dilemma was set before scholars and practitioners from across Canada and the United Kingdom who met in Regina to examine “E-Governance for the 21st Century” in a two-day symposium, sponsored by the Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy, the Privy Council Office of the Government of Canada, the Government of Saskatchewan, Industry Canada, and the University of Regina. The twelve papers that were presented each examined a different aspect of a complex set of issues related to governance. The panel topics were E-government and the transformation of governance in the Knowledge Age; Information management: Facing the dual challenge of transparency and privacy; Citizen engagement and e-democracy; and, E-governance and the transformation of the public service.

The discussion that emerged from the panels was extensive and included exploration of new models of governance for the Knowledge Age, the impact on governance of eroding Information Management policy and practices, citizen engagement and access to information, citizen empowerment through information literacy, and the changing dynamics of the public service.

(Article continued on page 11)
Each year Canadians, Mexicans and Americans participate in an annual poll that attempts to gauge their attitude towards federalism in their countries. While the Annual *Publius* Survey on Attitudes Toward Federalism found that citizens in all three countries believe that their federal government has too much power, the attitudes of those surveyed in Saskatchewan are particularly interesting, not only for their view on the power that resides in Ottawa but on their general attitude towards the Government of Canada.

While 56 per cent of all Canadians believe that Ottawa has too much power, 73 per cent of those living in Saskatchewan believe that the federal government wields too much power. Similarly, 30 per cent of Canadians said that the federal government gives them the least of all levels of government for their money, but that number reached 57 per cent for Saskatchewan residents. The federal government also fared poorly when the pollsters asked Saskatchewan residents which level of government they trusted to deliver programs: only 9 per cent of those responding to the poll trusted the federal government to deliver programs important to them. Not surprisingly, the respondents in Saskatchewan believe that the local and provincial governments should have more power. Clearly, support for the federal government is particularly low in Saskatchewan.

The *Publius* Survey shows that many Canadians favour an increase in power for local and provincial governments, and they are becoming increasingly disconnected from the federal government in Ottawa. As you will read in the article by Ian Peach and John D. Whyte (page 8 & 9), these are challenging times for the Canadian federation, as the spirit of cooperation necessary to make the federation work appears to be sadly lacking. Throughout Canada in recent months, there has been a number of issues, such as SARS, Mad Cow, the Kyoto Accord, jurisdiction over the fishery resources, and health care, that have seen the provinces and Ottawa embroiled in bitter and acrimonious battles over compensation, jurisdiction and funding arrangements. Everywhere, it seems, the federation is under stress, and as part of its research agenda for the coming year, the Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy intends to engage scholars to better understand the nature of the problem and to see what mechanisms of intergovernmental relations can be put in place to make the federation work more effectively.

Of course, federalism is only one of the pressing current policy issues you will read about in this Newsletter. Auto insurance rates have been a hot topic across the land, and the issue of access to social and health services for Aboriginal persons with disabilities demonstrates a public policy gap worth addressing.

You will notice that this issue of the SIPP Newsletter has been expanded to reflect more of the policy work going on at the Institute. It is our intention in the coming issues to devote even more space to addressing current policy issues in Saskatchewan and across Canada. We hope you enjoy this new format.

www.uregina.ca/sipp
ARMCHAIR DISCUSSION SERIES
SIPP is pleased to present the following speakers and we extend an open invitation to the public-policy community:

Sept. 17, 2003: Dr. Garry Smith, Professor and Gambling Research Specialist, Alberta Gaming Research Institute, will present *Values, Vision and Virtue in Gambling Public Policy.*

Oct. 8, 2003: Beth Bilson, Professor, College of Law, University of Saskatchewan, will lead a discussion on pay equity.

Nov. 19, 2003: Dr. Phil Hansen, Professor, Department of Philosophy and Classics, University of Regina will discuss taxation and society.

SIPP STUDENT PUBLIC POLICY ESSAY CONTEST
The Institute will host a reception for our first Student Public Policy Essay Contest to recognize all submissions, and release the winning entry. The best paper was selected by our three distinguished judges: Beth Bilson (University of Saskatchewan), Allan Cahoon (Vice President, Research and International - University of Regina), and Vic Huard, (CEO of the United Way of Regina). In this, our first year, we received a number of submissions across several disciplines at the University of Regina. We look forward to recognizing the talents and insight of our up-and-coming policy professionals.

PUBLIC-POLICY SKILLS SEMINAR
We are pleased to welcome Dr. Paul Thomas for a seminar looking at issues of performance measurement, reporting and accountability, scheduled for Oct. 29, 2003. Dr. Thomas joins us from the University of Manitoba.

LUNCHEON LECTURE
SIPP is planning a special luncheon lecture in November with keynote speaker Dr. Tom Courchene, the Jarislowsky-Deutsch Professor of Economic and Financial Policy at Queen’s University. The event will be hosted by Mr. Harold MacKay and Dr. Raymond Blake.

RECOGNITION RECEPTION
In early September, Dr. Raymond Blake hosted a private reception honouring the work of SIPP’s founding director Duane Adams, and the work of our SIPP pioneers. The event paid tribute to the late Mr. Duane Adams and unveiled a set of plaques that showcase the names of Senior Fellows and our Board of Directors, both past and present.

STARTING THE YEAR WITH A BANG
The Institute recently held the first SIPP Social. The afternoon soiree welcomed our Senior Fellows for 2003-04: Mr. Ian Peach, (Government of Saskatchewan), Dr. Doug Durst (University of Regina), and Mr. Roy Romanow (former Premier of Saskatchewan). Each Fellow highlighted their upcoming research initiatives and interests. In addition, the event recognized the contributions of Dr. John R. Allan to SIPP (see page 4 for a special article on Dr. Allan).

THE SCHOLAR SERIES
SIPP anticipates two new additions to our Scholar Series publications. The 2002-03 Government of Saskatchewan Senior Fellow, Dr. E. Lynn Oliver, will present *Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Literacy: Bridging the Digital Divide in Rural Saskatchewan,* and University of Regina Senior Fellow Dr. Joyce Green will present *Cultural and Ethnic Fundamentalism: The Mixed Potential for Identity, Liberation, and Oppression.*

UPCOMING PUBLICATIONS
SIPP will be releasing a number of Public Policy Papers, exploring topics such as:
- Provincial Demographic Trends
- Essential Services in Saskatchewan
- Public Policy and Intergovernmental Relations

In addition, books on Saskatchewan Justice and E-Governance will be forthcoming shortly. SIPP will also release numerous Briefing Notes that respond to current issues of public policy, such as *The Art of the Possible: The Interpersonal Dimension of Policy Making in the Case of the Northern Development Accord,* to be released in September.

SIPP VOLUME EXPLORES MODERN LIFE IN RURAL CANADA
Following the national conference looking at the future of Rural Canada, SIPP released a collection of papers in a book entitled *The Trajectories of Rural Life: New Perspectives on Rural Canada,* edited by Dr. Raymond Blake and Dr. Andrew Nurse. The book is available from the Canadian Plains Research Centre: (306) 585-4758/59.

INITIAL PLANNING STARTED FOR SEVERAL PROJECTS
Also in the preliminary development stage is the 2004 President’s Leadership Program, a special project on Federalism, and another Symposium dedicated to Saskatchewan justice issues.

Please visit the SIPP website at www.uregina.ca/sipp for all the dates and details of our events and publications or contact us via e-mail at sipp@uregina.ca.
**Q: Which policy issue that you have been involved with has most excited you?**

**A:** There have been many exciting policy issues over the forty-five or so years that I have been actively engaged, in one way or another, with public policy. If I had to single out one issue, I believe it would be the indexation of the personal income tax in the mid-seventies. Because of its haphazard and uneven impact, inflation has been described as the most unfair tax of all, and it caused Canadians to have to pay millions of dollars of unlegislated tax increases each year. As an academic, I had long advocated indexation, but had not been able to make any progress on the issue. Then Mr. Stanfield, the Leader of the Opposition, made it a political issue, and, as Director of the Fiscal Policy Division in the Department of Finance, I was involved in briefing the Finance Minister, John Turner, on the issue. While there were several problems with the system of indexation that Mr. Stanfield had advocated, Mr. Turner was persuaded that indexation nonetheless had much to commend it, as were Simon Reisman and Bill Hood, the Deputy and Associate Deputy Ministers. The result was that the Minister did not kill the issue when he responded in the House to Mr. Stanfield’s proposal, and, a year later, it was the centre piece of Mr. Turner’s budget. Its introduction proved to be very controversial, particularly with some of the provinces that were quite distrustful of the federal analyses. The battle with Ontario officials was especially acrimonious and, rather uniquely, ended up with an exchange of articles written by officials and published in the *Canadian Tax Journal*. Since I am convinced that indexation contributed more to the fairness of the income tax than any other change since the tax was first enacted, it was a battle well worth fighting.

**Q: What was the most frustrating experience you were involved with during your career?**

**A:** That one is easy: it was the revenue guarantee that the federal government extended to the provinces at the time of the reforms that followed the Carter Royal Commission on Taxation. The changes made at the time were quite sweeping, and there was considerable uncertainty concerning their revenue consequences. To enlist provincial support, the federal government guaranteed that each province would receive at least as much income-tax revenue as it would have received in the absence of the reforms. The difficulty, of course, was in determining the yield of the former income-tax system once it no longer existed. To further complicate matters, the guarantee involved comparing the pre-reform and the reform systems, but the latter started to change with the first post-reform budget, and changed further with each budget thereafter. The exercise thus quickly evolved into comparing the yields of two hypothetical income-tax systems, and then persuading the provinces that
the differences between the resulting estimates were what they were really entitled to. I chaired the inter-governmental committee of officials that dealt with the issue, and I must confess that I was delighted when the guarantee finally expired. Without doubt, that was my most frustrating public-policy experience.

Q: What, in your opinion, is the most pressing policy issue for Saskatchewan in the coming decade?

A: That is more difficult, but if I am pressed for an answer, I think I would point to the several inter-related issues that arise from our provincial demographics. With the largest percentage of population under twenty and also the largest percentage over 64, Saskatchewan has the lowest percentage of its population in the prime labour-force participation years in between. Moreover, our labour force is the oldest in the country, and our rates of outward migration for university graduates and so-called knowledge workers are second only to those of Newfoundland. Add in the fact that we share with Manitoba the highest proportion of Aboriginal peoples, a group with a substantial educational deficit relative to the rest of the population and, for school-age children, a poverty rate in excess of fifty per cent, and it is evident that the next decade is going to be an extremely difficult one. The migration of young people from rural to urban areas, and the rapid aging of those who are left behind, further complicate the scene. All of these factors are going to place enormous pressure on the expenditure side of the budget — for such things as education, health care, and social services — while lowering our fiscal capacity relative to that of other provinces, most particularly to that of Alberta, the economic magnet next door. The challenges ahead are formidable, and more than enough to keep everyone at SIPP — not to mention the provincial government — fully occupied for some time to come.

Q: Who has had the greatest professional impact on your career in public service?

A: That is a difficult question to answer. There really have been a lot of people who have influenced me, and it is not easy to single any out. I would be remiss, however, if I did not mention the professors at McMaster University, under whom I studied political economy in the early fifties. They were a tremendously stimulating group who seemed to take it as axiomatic that one would have an interest in public affairs and, being privileged to attend university, a sense of obligation to contribute to society in some significant way. The tremendously high scholarly standards of Richard Musgrave, under whom I wrote my doctoral dissertation at Princeton, also had a very strong influence. And of course, there were Simon Reisman, Bill Hood and Tommy Shoyama in the Finance Department in Ottawa. Both their commitment to public service and the incredible work ethic that they shared had to inspire — and at times astound — all of us who had the good fortune to work with them.

Dr. John Allan joined SIPP in 1998 after completing a second term as Vice-President, Administration and Finance, at the University of Regina, a position he also held at the University of Windsor. He has been a member of the economics department at Queen’s University and McMaster University, and has held senior executive positions in the Department of Finance, Canada, in the areas of fiscal policy and tax policy. Dr. Allan’s area of specialization is public sector economics, with a particular interest in the economics of taxation and public finance. He received his undergraduate education in economics at McMaster University and obtained his doctorate in the same field at Princeton University.
Aboriginal Persons with Disabilities: A Public Policy Gap

Douglas Durst, Senior Policy Fellow

Aboriginal persons with disabilities are trapped in a public policy gap where accessing social and health related services are difficult and sometimes inaccessible.

The estimated First Nations population, both on and off reserve in Canada is 638,445 (Canada, 2001), and the population of persons identifying themselves as “Aboriginal” is well over 1 million individuals. Past research has shown that 31 per cent of Aboriginal people have reported a disability (NAND, 1994, p.33). Although Aboriginal people have genetic disabilities at about the same rate as the rest of Canada, they have a higher rate due to environment and trauma related disabilities. “The disparity between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal rates of disability corresponds to disparities in rates of injury, accident, violence, self-destructive or suicidal behaviour and illness (such as diabetes) that can result in permanent impairment” (RCAP, 1996, p.148). Therefore, there are approximately 184,000 First Nations persons and approximately 310,000 Aboriginal persons with a disability in Canada. The rate of disability among Aboriginal people is more than double (2.3 times) the national average (NAND, 1994, p.33).

The jurisdictional issues create serious problems for many Aboriginal persons. Which government and which department provides which service or program is a major access barrier. It is confusing and frustrating and many persons just give up.

The first step in resolving the policy/program gap involves the conflicting jurisdictional issues. Provincial and federal authorities and Reserve/Band leaders need to organize themselves to ensure that services are made accessible. The ping ponging of clients from one department/government to another must end. An intergovernmental review team such as a National Jurisdictional Review Panel could be established to complete a comprehensive review of the jurisdictional issues and propose a realistic system to adequately resolve this serious policy/program gap.

The health and social agencies purporting to serve persons with disabilities need to address the low participation rates of Aboriginal people. Their professional workers need cultural awareness training including an honest self-examination of their agencies’ policies and programs. They need to hire Aboriginal staff and include Aboriginal persons on their board of directors. Greater effort needs to be given to involving Aboriginal persons in the service delivery and its administration.

The First Nations leadership needs to take the problem seriously at the Reserve/Band and national level. There needs to be an improvement of the professionalization of services. There is a need for greater involvement and leadership among the Aboriginal leadership and this could be accomplished through education and awareness training.

Aboriginal people with disabilities are not living an independent lifestyle, and the numerous barriers that inhibit independent living are deeply entrenched within society (Durst & Bluechardt, 2001). A strong and effective voice is required to initiate change and improve the conditions for persons with disabilities. However, this will not occur until Aboriginal people with disabilities participate in the decision-making processes that ultimately impact on their lives.

The establishment of Advocacy Offices in each province would also offer a tangible source of support and assistance to Aboriginal persons with disabilities: Ombudsperson for Aboriginal Persons with Disabilities. An intergovernmental office could be established which must include the major stakeholders: First Nations, provincial and federal governments and Aboriginal persons with disabilities. This intergovernmental effort could establish the Advocate Offices for each province, with a director whose primary responsibility is to ensure that Aboriginal and First Nations persons with disabilities and their families receive the services and programs they are entitled to receive.

Effective and efficient policy development, both nationally and regionally, as well as program planning and service delivery, must be based upon empirical research completed under the rigours of accepted systematic inquiry. The relationship between social and policy research, and sound practice has too frequently been ignored.

There is a need for concrete and realistic steps to ameliorate the numerous barriers and gaps facing Aboriginal persons with disabilities, and their aspirations for full community participation and integration under their terms. Aboriginal people with disabilities are seeking an improved quality of life, a life with meaning and joy within the confines of their disabilities. They are entitled to benefits and services provided to mainstream Canadians, and much can be done within the existing systems.

A Comparison of Vehicle Insurance Rates: The Saskatchewan Advantage

Pavel Peykov, Policy Analyst and Janice Stokes, Senior Policy Analyst

The debate over auto insurance premiums has been one of the hottest public-policy issues across Canada recently. A growing number of politicians, bureaucrats, insurance experts, and economists are trying to find a solution to the problem of rising costs for drivers in different parts of the country. The situation is particularly acute in Atlantic Canada, where vehicle insurance premiums topped the electoral agenda by a significant margin over other policy issues. In New Brunswick, the Progressive Conservative Government of Bernard Lord barely managed to hold on to power with a majority of a single seat. In Nova Scotia, the Progressive Conservatives paid a higher political price and were returned with a minority government. The public anger over rising auto insurance rates has led the Atlantic Premiers to contemplate the establishment of a Crown corporation in an attempt to lower and stabilize auto insurance costs. High vehicle insurance premiums are also a contentious issue in Alberta, where the current Conservative government is up for re-election in the coming months.

Whether the private insurance systems that are in place in the three provinces mentioned above are solely to blame for rising premiums is difficult to determine. A number of relevant factors are built into the calculations of the probability of an accident in any given province and consequently into individual insurance rates. Such factors include age; gender; marital status; population and traffic density; quality of vehicles in operation; and quality of roads. The fact that North American society has grown to be more litigious over time has also increased auto insurance rates in tort systems.

In contrast, over the last few years, Saskatchewan has enjoyed some of the lowest and most stable auto insurance premium rates in Canada largely due to a public, cross-subsidized and no-fault system (see chart below). The same is true of Manitoba, which has a demographic profile and insurance system similar to Saskatchewan’s. Vehicle insurance rates in Quebec’s public system have traditionally been lower than those in Ontario, which has moved to a hybrid system due to rising insurance costs.

Since December 16, 2002, Saskatchewan has been offering drivers tort coverage with limited benefits for personal injury alongside the prevailing no-fault. It will be interesting to see if the basic tort and no-fault insurance rates in the province, identical at present, will diverge over time. Saskatchewan Government Insurance (SGI) has indicated that by August 1, 2003, only 3,311 persons had opted for tort coverage. SGI has also recently implemented the Safe Driver Recognition Program under which drivers with good driving records may receive discounts and lower their insurance costs even further. The ability of SGI to keep auto insurance premiums low points to an economic advantage to living and driving in Saskatchewan.

Comparative Insurance Rates
(Male, 22, clean record, 1992 Honda Civic, $2,000,000 liability coverage, $500 collision, and $300 comprehensive deductible)

Source: Consumers’ Association of Canada - BC Branch, July 2003

Note: In order to compare identical driver profiles, Saskatchewan rates include basic insurance through the Saskatchewan Auto Fund, plus auto extension insurance.
Meeting the Challenges of Managing Political Competition in the Federal State

The creation of the Canadian federation in 1867 was driven by the desire to construct a state that would be stable and durable. The existing colonies were not likely to continue for long as separate colonies, yet forcing them into a unitary state could have bred senses of oppression and, ultimately, political conflicts that would have proven fatal to the state. The federation was a structural accommodation, to be followed by many other formal and informal accommodations.

The challenges that confront us in finding adequate accommodations today may be greater than those we have had to confront at least since the 1930s. Events and decisions that are seemingly beyond our control are having a significant impact on our ability to govern ourselves. Changing social realities present new challenges to both social cohesion and to public confidence in the efficacy and legitimacy of the current structures of governance. It may be that the tensions within the federation are not the result of a lack of political will but rather of governments trying to manage realities they do not yet fully understand and responding to a sense of disempowerment that damages their confidence. Nonetheless, if we are to retain faith in federalism as a tool of social ordering, we need to seek out new conceptions of the federation and establish new tools to manage it that will be robust enough to allow the nation to survive these external stresses without devolving into destructive intergovernmental competition.

We are further challenged by trends in our formal constitutional development. Our constitutional jurisprudence has all but abandoned the classical federal ideal of a division of powers defining the separate spheres of jurisdiction of the two orders of government. This creates a strong imperative to find tools to mediate political competition and coordinate public-policy responses across orders of government, but also creates considerable scope for each order of government to frustrate the
achievement of the other’s political goals and to deny the legitimacy of the other, in an effort to seek supremacy over a contested area of public policy. A common response at the provincial level has been to call for “disentanglement”. This generally takes one of two forms – either a desire to disentangle market forces from the allegedly unresponsive, bureaucratic processes of the interventionist state or a desire to disentangle the more responsive provincial government from the distant and uncomprehending national government. Each of these forms effectively seeks to deny the efficacy, and thus the legitimacy, of a federal role in public policy.

On the other side of the conflict is a federal government that is confident in the legitimacy of an activist state, believes that it has a positive duty to citizens to be activist and fully expects to be rewarded by the electorate for doing so. It also has the capacity, whether through the federal spending power, its implicit environmental regulation power, or its market regulation power, to intervene in a wide range of public policy fields. In doing this, though, it risks defining the national interest too comprehensively and denying the legitimacy of provincial governments’ desire for political space to respond to differences that exist among the regions.

These contests for the supremacy of one order of government also fail to reflect Canadians’ sometimes conflicting political identities. Canadians have shown both an antipathy to weakening the capacity of the nation and to the tyranny that a unitary conception of national identity and national public policy can impose on the reality of regional and cultural distinctiveness. This suggests that there is value in searching for a truly federalist conception of modern Canada and inventing new mechanisms to mediate and accommodate the competition inherent in the federation, based on our experience of accommodating the regional and cultural distinctiveness of sub-national units within national politics.

**Finding Space for Emerging Communities in the Federal State**

Of equal concern should be the way in which our federalism discourse privileges federal and provincial communities in discussions of national politics. We are experienced at managing regional and cultural identities that exist in the nation when those identities correlate with provincial political communities (though our skills may nonetheless not be up to the challenges that face us today). Yet citizens are articulating a much wider range of identities that they believe should be given voice in national politics. As a consequence, we see the rise of Aboriginal communities, cities and territories as meaningful political communities, with a growing demand for the political and constitutional recognition of their right to self-determination, in a country that does not understand how to adapt its political and constitutional norms to allow these communities to be self-determining. As these communities, and others that may not yet have found expression as sub-national political communities, become increasingly powerful and articulate, the federation will be left with no choice but to adapt its norms and processes to give them a place in the federation or become increasingly irrelevant to the real lives of citizens.

**Deep Discontents and Conflicts Over Instruments**

These deep sources of discontent appear at the surface of federal-provincial relations as conflicts over control of the instruments for managing public policy. A particularly wide range of policy issues has become mired in intergovernmental conflict in recent years, including:

- equalization, intergovernmental transfers, and transfers to persons;
- the political, economic and social development of Aboriginal peoples;
- market regulation;
- environmental regulation;
- indemnification for natural disasters and other extraordinary provincial costs;
- preservation of Quebec’s cultural integrity, and that of other minority communities;
- resource management (especially in the face of the growth of global, rules-based trade);
- international relations;
- social policy and social inclusion;
- health care; and,
- municipal and community development policy to meet communities’ social, economic and cultural needs.

One could approach each of these issues as distinct and seek distinct mechanisms to better mediate the particular competing interests engaged by that issue without creating a new understanding of how a legitimate federation should operate. Indeed, there have been some promising mechanisms developed in some of these areas in the recent past which, if they were adopted in a spirit of cooperation, could aid in the management of the federation. Unfortunately, given the breadth of the issues and the depth of the conflict in many of these areas, the spirit of cooperation necessary to make even these few mechanisms function seems to be lacking. It may, therefore, be more productive to see what these issues tell us about deeper discontents over the legitimacy of the federation and seek, through this, a better understanding of what norms a more broadly legitimate Canadian federation should observe and what mechanisms of intergovernmental relations could be put in place to better reflect those norms.
The Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy is preparing an inventory of scholars in the province’s universities currently engaged in research on public policy. If you are engaged in public-policy research, we want to include you in the inventory.

The SIPP Policy Research Inventory Project (PRIP), as we are calling this initiative, is the first of its kind in the province, and it will serve as a way to identify the public policy community and make the community of policy researchers known to the organizations and individuals interested in engaging it. This current, reliable and user-friendly inventory will be an exceptional tool for anyone interested in public policy in Saskatchewan and, indeed, throughout Canada.

Through a web-based database, which takes approximately five minutes to complete, SIPP will gather and compile a handy and practical handbook that will provide a snapshot of Saskatchewan’s public policy researchers and their work. This handbook will then be distributed to key stakeholders such as government agencies, media outlets, and other institutes and universities. The information will be available on the SIPP website at the University of Regina.

Beyond media exposure, and perhaps more importantly, PRIP will be used by organizations and other researchers to identify partners for new and exciting projects. This inventory has the potential to increase networking and collaboration opportunities for all that participate.

SIPP hopes that researchers will take just a few minutes to participate in this project as it attempts to make Saskatchewan-based experts more accessible to people both inside and outside the province, who otherwise might miss the opportunity to engage our policy experts.

More information is available online or by contacting Andrea Geisbauer at (306) 585-5863 or via e-mail at andrea.geisbauer@uregina.ca

PRIP Webpage: www.uregina.ca/sipp/prip/pripmain.htm

The Life Cycle of Policy: Scholarships by Example

Lindsay Seidler was SIPP’s summer co-op student from the Faculty of Administration at the University of Regina. Here she comments on recent increases in tuition and the changes to scholarship and bursary programs at the University.

Following the recent tuition hike of 8.5 per cent, the University of Regina (UofR) announced they were boosting scholarship and bursary programs by $250,000. With tuition costs continually on the rise, students find it difficult to pay for schooling, and many resort to student loans and lines of credit to make ends meet.

In 2002-03, the UofR cut the UR Scholar Program, which was offered to the top graduating student in every Saskatchewan high school. The scholarship paid for the recipient’s tuition, provided that the student maintained a 75 per cent average. As a recipient of this award, I was disappointed when the UofR announced they were eliminating the program. Considering that when I was born in 1983, tuition rates per year in Saskatchewan were $15001 and today they are over $38002, a scholarship program that pays full tuition is an excellent incentive to attend the UofR.

The UofR replaced the UR Scholar Program with a new Academic Awards Program. Through this new Program some students may see reduced benefits, but more students across the province will receive financial support. Any student entering the UofR who meets the selection criteria can receive an Academic Award Scholarship. This is a better approach, as more students will benefit financially and more individuals may be encouraged to enroll at the UofR.

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Ultimately, the symposium offered participants the opportunity to collectively develop a view of the future of governance in Canada. As the discourse ensued, the “e” terminology diminished as participants found themselves embroiled in a discussion about the future of Canadian governance, electronic and otherwise.

The symposium resulted in three main outcomes: the publication of the Symposium’s papers by the Canadian Plains Research Centre; the launch of a research agenda; and the creation of the Regina Declaration in which symposium participants identified mechanisms they thought were essential to reconcile the promise of e-governance with the reality. The Declaration was produced by having each presenter, panel moderator and discussant who wished to contribute, submit items for a “must happen” and/or a “must not happen” list. Participants collaborated through e-mail following the symposium and achieved a remarkable degree of consensus. The Declaration was published in Volume 33, Issue number 2 of Optimum Online, The Journal of Public Management produced by the University of Ottawa. The declaration is available through the Journal’s web site, at: www.optimumonline.ca.

One historical analogy discussed during the symposium seemed to best express the e-governance challenge before us: societies are still grappling with the social, economic and public administration implications of Ford’s introduction of the automobile in 1903. A century later, we are still trying to plan better transportation systems, and manage the social and economic consequences of cars and trucks. If the introduction of the automobile at the beginning of the 20th century is analogous to what we are experiencing with ICTs in the 21st, then we are undoubtedly only at the beginning of an extended process of research, policy development, and social change. Accordingly, there is little chance that SIPP’s May 2003 Symposium on E-Governance will be the last.

Dr. Wardhaugh was gracious in his parting remarks, “I will be forever grateful to the Institute. Indeed, in many ways, I view my two years at SIPP as being the real launching pad to my career in academe. Not only was I surrounded by a wonderful and stimulating group of colleagues, but I was provided with the ideal working environment to research and write.” Everyone at the Institute wishes Dr. Wardhaugh the best of luck with his new position and we look forward to collaborating with him on initiatives in the future, including SIPP’s project exploring issues of federalism.
SIPP recently held the first of an annual event entitled The SIPP Social. This event allowed the Institute to officially welcome three new Fellows: Mr. Roy Romanow, Mr. Ian Peach and Dr. Doug Durst. During the event, each Fellow was given an opportunity to speak to their upcoming research agenda.

**MR. IAN PEACH:** Mr. Peach’s major research project is a study of what is variously called “horizontal management”, “cross-government strategic planning”, “joined-up government”, and “new governance”. He will study how different provinces and territories have addressed the challenges of organizing bureaucracies to more effectively respond to multifaceted public policy issues and better engage citizens in policy-making.

Beyond this, he is looking forward to the chance to think about a broad range of public policy and intergovernmental relations issues, “I hope to produce papers on the importance of interpersonal relations in conducting intergovernmental negotiations; the problem of northern Saskatchewan’s abandoned uranium mines; opportunities to build Aboriginal peoples’ leadership capacity and role in governance; and the implications of the Supreme Court of Canada’s *Corbiere* decision for the constitutionality of federal programs that only deliver services to on-reserve First Nations members. In short, it will be a very active year.”

**DR. DOUGLAS DURST:** In the past, Dr. Durst has concentrated his research energies in three major areas of study: issues facing the adjustments and integration of immigrants, social and policy issues in gerontology, and self-government of social programs by First Nations and Aboriginal people. During his stay at SIPP, Dr. Durst will expand and build on this research, specifically examining inclusion/exclusion of Aboriginal persons with disabilities and adjustments of elderly immigrants. Dr. Durst adds that “inclusion has a cultural context and has different meanings for different groups. For many mainstream Canadians, inclusion has come to mean economic self-sufficiency, sometimes at the cost of social relationships. Exploring the meaning of inclusion, meaningful participation and citizenship among elderly immigrants and Aboriginal persons with disabilities will be a focus for the upcoming year.”

**MR. ROY ROMANOW:** From his base at the Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy, Mr. Romanow will be teaching a seminar (with former SIPP Policy Fellow Greg Marchildon) on selected topics on Saskatchewan’s role in Canadian federalism. He will, in addition, be continuing his busy speaking schedule on the challenges facing health care in Canada. Mr. Romanow is also a member of SIPP’s organizing committee for the conference on reforming Canadian federalism and, it is hoped, will prepare a paper for the conference.

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**FINAL THOUGHTS**

- Please visit the SIPP website for all information on upcoming events and publications: [www.uregina.ca/sipp](http://www.uregina.ca/sipp)

- We would like to welcome Karen Jaster to the Institute. Karen has worked with SIPP in the past and we are pleased she will be joining us full-time this fall.

- We encourage your comments; please feel free to contact us to contribute to our newsletter ([sipp@uregina.ca](mailto:sipp@uregina.ca)).