On March 25 and 26, SIPP hosted a national conference, “Constructing Tomorrow’s Federalism: New Routes to Effective Governance”. This conference brought together academics, government officials, students, and members of the public from across Canada and from Europe to discuss how to improve Canada’s governance as a federal state.

The conference was the culmination of nearly nine months of discussion, planning, and organization. When, in July 2003, we first entertained the idea of hosting a national conference on federalism, we knew it would be a daunting task, but the case for embarking on such a project was just too compelling. The last decade has not been an era of cooperative federal-provincial relations. Rather, it has been a period of highly competitive and mostly acrimonious relations, in which governments often sought to win the public’s hearts and minds by trying to discredit the other order of government in the federation. Too often lost amidst this competition was a commitment to making good national policies through intergovernmental consultation and cooperation. The last decade has also seen another development — the growth in demands from new sources, such as territorial and Aboriginal governments, cities, and citizens, for inclusion in the mechanisms of intergovernmental decision-making.

In contrast, 2003 held out hope for the start of a new, more cooperative period in Canadian intergovernmental relations. Most provinces had held elections in 2003; the most important of these for national politics was likely Quebec’s, where the avowedly federalist Charest Liberals were given a majority government. In addition, the incoming Prime Minister, Paul Martin, had clearly expressed a wish to improve the state of federal-provincial relations in the country and to address Western alienation. The first, tentative experiments in improving intergovernmental coordination and decision-making were launched, in the form of Mr. Martin’s meeting with the Premiers in Regina during the Grey Cup and in the establishment of the Council of the Federation.

(Article continued on page 8)
I have commented earlier on this page about how important it is for public policy research institutes to strive for relevance in the work that they do. As you read through the pages of this edition of the Newsletter, I think you will have to agree that SIPP’s research agenda continues to be relevant, not just for Saskatchewan but for Canada too. What can be more relevant that contributing to a discussion that leads to a new era in intergovernmental relations in Canada? What can be more relevant than the role of E-governance in the renewal of governance in the Knowledge Age? What can be more relevant than finding the avenues to facilitate the full participation of Aboriginal peoples in Canadian society, and what can be more relevant than the leadership and participation of young people in our political system. SIPP, like many of the other policy research institutes in Canada, has demonstrated its relevance in many ways, only some of which you will read about in our Newsletter.

But as I look at the world of policy and policy development, I am increasingly worried by the lack of vision from political leaders, not just in Canada but all around the world. We do not need to look much further than to our southern neighbor to see evidence of this.

One can make the argument, I suppose, that the recent scandal in Ottawa was over government mismanagement and waste, but really that explains only some of our outrage. Those who have come forward to defend the various advertising programs by the Canadian government as a way to keep Quebec in Canada have shown us that Canadians are so angered by the advertising scandal, and their governments generally, because governments have rarely had a vision in recent years. After more than 10 years as Prime Minister what, really, is Jean Chretien’s legacy? What vision did Mike Harris bring to Ontario other than cutting the civil service, reducing services, and lowering taxes? Last year, most of the provinces in Canada held elections and a number of the political parties in those campaigns from Newfoundland to Saskatchewan talked about growing the economy; what does that mean? In Ontario, the winning party said practically nothing in its sweep to power. And now it seems that most of the new provincial premiers have already alienated those who elected them, as in Newfoundland and Quebec.

We need visionaries in the provinces and we especially need a visionary in Ottawa. Paul Martin, it seems, might have snatched defeat – a minority government, at best if the polls are accurate – from the jaws of victory. Canadians are not just punishing Mr. Martin for the errors of his predecessor, but they are looking for a leader with a clear vision for Canada. In fact, Canadians are looking for leaders with vision in every order of government, and they are looking for governments with vision.

Where have all the visionaries gone?

Dr. Raymond Blake, Director
BOOK LAUNCHES

The Institute was pleased to organize and host two important book launches. On March 3, 2004, SIPP celebrated the release of the three volumes of research studies from the Romanow Commission on Health Care, edited by Greg Marchildon, Pierre-Gerlier Forest, and Tom McIntosh. Mr. Romanow Q.C. spoke briefly to the new volumes and their importance in the ongoing discourse of health care policy in Canada.

On April 6, 2004, SIPP worked with the Institute of Public Administration of Canada to organize the release of *E-Government Reconsidered: Renewal of Governance for the Knowledge Age*, which was co-edited by Dr. E. Lynn Oliver, who was the Government of Saskatchewan Senior Fellow at SIPP and is now the Director of E-Learning for the Government of Saskatchewan, and by Larry Sanders, a policy advisor with the Government of Canada. This book challenges governments at all levels to look beyond the simplistic appeal of technological “quick-fixes.” The debates behind the scenes revealed by this publication show that the issues are not about “e” anything, but really about governance and public administration in the knowledge age. The book launch was followed by a panel discussion on the policy issues raised in the publication. Books can be ordered by contacting the Canadian Plains Research Centre at (306) 585-4758/59 (www.cprc.ca).

POLICY INNOVATION AND PATH DEPENDENCY

SIPP has benefited, on numerous occasions, from working with Dr. Greg Marchildon, Canada Research Chair in Public Policy and Economic History at the University of Regina. His current research employs a path dependency methodology in determining when, how, and why fundamental policy changes occur. With this in mind, SIPP has hosted a number of guest speakers on this topic, including Dr. Michael Howlett and Dr. John Richards, both from Simon Fraser University. SIPP was also pleased to present a public lecture with Mme. Monique Bégin, who reflected on the national scope of public health care.

COUNCIL OF THE FEDERATION YOUTH FORUM

The Government recently announced an exciting opportunity for Saskatchewan’s eager young thinkers. The top two entries from a province-wide essay contest will attend a national Youth Forum* being held during the July meeting of the Council of the Federation at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. Issues facing Canada’s young people will be among the subjects that will be addressed at the Council of the Federation’s summer meeting. The Youth Forum will enhance premiers’ dialogue on this subject. Saskatchewan’s contest is being managed by SIPP and all provinces will be administrating similar initiatives to pick their own youth representatives.

Applicants must be between the ages of 19-22 and must be Canadian citizens or have landed immigrant status. If you, or someone you know, meets the criteria and is interested in this excellent opportunity, please encourage them to download the entry form and review the essay question from SIPP’s website: www.uregina.ca/sipp. Questions can be directed to Andrea at (306) 585-5863 and the contest closes May 15, 2004.

THE SCHOLAR SERIES

Mr. Ian Peach, the 2003-04 Government of Saskatchewan Senior Fellow, completed a research paper comparing different governments’ approaches to managing horizontal policy development, while also completing two Public Policy Papers, two SIPP Briefing Notes, playing a lead role in the national federlism conference, and playing an active role in several other SIPP activities and publications. The results from Ian’s Scholar Series project will be presented during a public lecture being held on June 8, 2004.

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.
Special Article: ~ From Political Theory to Policy Practice~

Dr. Joyce Green, Department of Political Science and Women’s Studies
SIPP Senior Fellow 2002-03

The problems of colonialism, and more importantly, of decolonization, were the subject of my research work while I was the University of Regina Senior Fellow at SIPP in 2002-03 and indeed, will preoccupy me for the next several years. I find the subject interesting - but also of considerable practical importance. Aboriginal peoples are an essential foundation of Canada, and are part of our collective future. Yet, Aboriginal peoples are largely invisible in Canadian culture, academe, and public policy, except as objects of resentment for their claim on public monies and as communities troubled by too high an incidence of social pathologies. This suggests that the settler population, educators, politicians, and bureaucrats, know little about this subject.

Canada is founded on colonialism. The relationships between settler populations and Aboriginal peoples are inextricably coloured by that exploitative relationship. Colonialism is a predatory economic and political practice that violates the sovereignty of colonized nations and the fundamental human rights of their citizens. It is part of the international history of imperialism, itself part of the more repugnant practices of capitalist expansion. Colonialism is justified by racist ideology, which proposes that these problematic practices were necessary, or benevolent, or required by the cultural deficiencies of those who were colonized.

The consequence is racist and oppressive public policies by the colonial administrations - policies like the reserve system, the residential school system, and the goals of assimilation of Aboriginal peoples until, in the words of Duncan Campbell Scott, a one-time senior bureaucrat implementing this policy, there would be “no Indians and no Indian problem”. In other words, there is a prerequisite link between the racist ideology of colonialism and the bureaucratization of racism via public policy and legislation.

Public policy does not emerge from some neutral bureaucratic - legislative nexus. Bureaucrats, stakeholders, pressure groups, and the legislators that ultimately choose between policy options, are all formed in a political culture that presents a limited range of information and ideologies on which to base decisions. It can be very difficult for any of us to step outside of our paradigmatic boxes, to think differently about old problems. In respect of Aboriginal peoples, Canadian political culture is hostile and racist. The consequences include inappropriate and sometimes pernicious policy, and a failure to consider more hopeful alternatives.

Demonstrably, political theory provides the foundation for the ideologies that dominate state politics. The work of illuminating those theories and ideologies, critiquing them, and offering alternatives to them, is also essential to different public policy approaches. More profoundly, this kind of work can transform political culture - the basis of what most of us think we know about politics and society - by offering compelling alternatives.

And this is what my year at SIPP permitted me to do. I had the luxury of time to think through a portion of
This problem; to talk about it with other scholars and public policy practitioners; and to refine the results through writing and publication and then share the fruits of my labour with the wider community. In this way, I contribute to the conditions in which public policy is made. Most importantly, I am able to contribute to the discourse - the broad stream of intellectual work - which ultimately can change sufficiently to change popular understandings of the tainted politics of the colonial state.

Political theory is only relevant if it helps us think differently, or concretely, or more precisely, about social relationships. The kinds of theory I have been working with suggest that we need to move beyond thinking, to action; beyond understanding, to solidarity; beyond theory, to practice. Confronting colonialism, racism, and sexism are not ‘just’ the work of activists personally affected by these practices. They are the essential work of all of us who are committed to a measure of justice, social coherence, and sustainability in the world in which we live. Without positive measures of justice in terms shaped by those who endure injustice, there will be no political, economic, or social health for all of us in the long term. Enlightened self-interest should move all Canadians to learn and do more about the “isms” that are fundamental violations of human rights.

Canadian political culture is in need of some radical transformation as well. It has broad and deep strands of racism and sexism. As citizens, educators, bureaucrats and politicians engaged in a perpetual search for a rational, just, and sustainable society, we are constantly challenged to identify and eliminate strands such as these. The process of doing this shifts political culture – the common sense understandings of what Canada is all about. Our existing political culture favours only assimilative or superficial policies to deal with the dreadful legacies of colonialism. Further, it resists any notion that reconciliation requires a more honest accounting, including truth-telling, reparations, and power-sharing. With new information and analysis, we can shape new alliances, new policies, new practices. Then, popular consensus and strong political leaders will move Canada to a more post-colonial phase, where Aboriginal peoples are not considered merely irritants, liabilities, or objects for liberal assimilation.

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### Where Are They Now? PAST SIPP SENIOR FELLOWS

**Joel Prager, 1997 - 1999**
Mr. Prager has retired but continues to review demographic studies on pension reform and labour markets. He is also interested in the demography of justice and the measurements of political systems as they succeed and fail.

**John R. Allan, 1998 - 2003**
Dr. Allan continues to teach undergraduate and graduate level classes in the Faculties of Administration and Arts.

**Ken Rasmussen, 1999 - 2000**
Dr. Rasmussen is an Assistant Dean of the Faculty of Administration, University of Regina.

**Greg Marchildon, 2000 - 2001**
Dr. Marchildon is a professor and Canada Research Chair in Public Policy and Economic History (University of Regina) and a Fellow at the School of Policy Studies at Queen’s University. He is currently focusing on the evolution of public health care in Canada as well as the political, administrative, and economic history of postwar Saskatchewan.

**Howard Leeson, 2000 - 2001**
Dr. Leeson is the Political Science Department Head at the University of Regina. He is often in the news, contacted for his political commentary on current events and their significance for the province and the country.

**Louise Greenberg, 2001 - 2002**
Dr. Greenberg is an Assistant Deputy Minister in Saskatchewan Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization. She is responsible for the Programs and Services Division which includes areas such as rural issues, agricultural Crown land, intensive livestock operations, animal health and disease surveillance, game farming and livestock inspection. During this past year, Louise has devoted much time to working on the positive cases of BSE in Canada and the United States and other animal health issues. Current policy interests include food safety and animal health, risk management, rural issues, land use and governance.

**Michael Rushton, 2001 - 2002**
Dr. Rushton is teaching in the Department of Public Administration & Urban Studies and Economics at the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies (Georgia State University)

**E. Lynn Oliver, 2002 - 2003**
Dr. Oliver is the Director of E-Learning for the Government of Saskatchewan and has recently co-edited and released E-government Reconsidered: Transformation of Governance for the Knowledge Age, a book resulting from the E-Governance Symposium (May 2003).
Striking a Balance: 
The Right to Privacy Versus the Need to Possess Personal Information

Pavel Peykov, SIPP Policy Analyst

The protection of an individual’s privacy has become a major issue and a topic of public interest, as technology has grown so rapidly that it has outpaced any attempts to develop legislative frameworks dealing with privacy rights. The first privacy laws that were in place were designed and implemented in the 1980s to regulate the management of personal information in possession of governments. In recent years, however, the public and private sectors have increased their collection, use, and disclosure of personal information, which, in many cases, occurs without the knowledge or consent of the individual. Concern about abuse of privacy has given rise to a demand that governments control (or limit) the flow of personal information managed by public and private organizations. The legislative response is an attempt to balance the need to fulfill government’s mandate to provide public goods and services and the private sector’s need to perform commercial activities using personal information with a reasonable level of protection of that information.

Two recent Briefing Notes, published by the Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy (SIPP), described the developments in privacy rights protection in the public and private sectors in Canada, and presented an overview of existing provincial and federal privacy legislation. The first of those Briefing Notes, Information Management and Privacy Rights: Are we Adequately Protected Against Intrusion in Our Lives?, was released in the wake of two privacy breaches in the public sector in Saskatchewan – the alleged involvement of six government employees in the unauthorized disclosure of confidential information to a private investigating company in the spring of 2002 and the theft of a computer hard drive from the Regina office of ISM Canada in January 2003. The second Briefing Note, The Challenge of Compliance: Privacy Protection in the Private Sector preceded the implementation of the first comprehensive piece of federal legislation governing commercial enterprises in Canada, the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA).

In response to the growing public demand for more information and education on matters relating to privacy protection and compliance with existing privacy laws, SIPP organized three privacy seminars earlier this year. The Institute invited the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Saskatchewan, Mr. R. Gary Dickson Q.C., as a speaker, which gave the seminar participants an opportunity to learn more about privacy protection from a very knowledgeable and experienced source. Mr. Dickson explained the provincial and federal privacy laws applicable in Saskatchewan and provided a number of case studies to help the participants to overcome the abstract world of legal terms and definitions, and be able to apply the legislation in their own specific working environments. The privacy seminars turned out to be largely successful given the overwhelming positive feedback by participants.

In addition to the privacy seminars, the Institute was approached by several organizations to give presentations on privacy issues, such as the Building Owners and Managers Association, the East Regina Business Association, and the Saskatchewan Association of Urban Municipalities. By all accounts, those presentations provided the audiences with some very useful information, made them aware of their rights and responsibilities with regards to the protection of personal information in their custody, and helped them to identify ways of complying with the relevant privacy legislation.

Dr. Douglas Durst, Senior Policy Fellow, has facilitated a unique partnership between SIPP and the National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC) to conduct two national studies on issues pertaining to urban Aboriginal persons. Working with Alfred Gay, Policy Analyst of the NAFC, they have successfully procured financial and in-kind support close to $200,000.

The first study, titled **Aboriginal Governance and Leadership: Volunteers in the Friendship Centres of Canada**, examines the Board leadership of the 117 Aboriginal Friendship Centres in Canada. The project coordinator is Karen Martens Zimmerman and Metis professor, Dr. Jackie Maurice of the University of Regina, is also assisting in the project. The funding source is Knowledge Development Centre, Canadian Centre for Philanthropy (Total: $76,580 - $61,080 KDC and $15,500 benefits in kind). There has been growing interest in understanding non-profit organizations and the contributions they provide (Hall and Banting, 2000). However, little is known about Aboriginal leadership styles and this study offers some ground-breaking research. The decision making and leadership are different in traditionally based Aboriginal communities and how modern urban Aboriginal leaders transpose their leadership and governance styles to non-profit organizations is of interest in order to develop, train, and retain volunteer leaders.

The research methodology involves four distinct strategies: secondary data and reports from data available in the Ottawa office of the NAFC, a national telephone survey of 100 randomly selected directors and volunteers, 20 in-depth qualitative interviews with leaders and non-participant observations of Executive, Board and Annual General meetings in 6 strategic centres across Canada. The selected centres are: Whitehorse (Northern), Victoria (BC West Coast), Regina (Prairie), Thunder Bay (Small Urban Ontario), Montreal (Large Urban Bilingual), and Halifax (Atlantic). It is believed that these centres would offer a broad national perspective of the leadership dimensions of the Friendship Centres in Canada. The final report will identify “best practices” and discuss the leadership styles and issues pertaining to Aboriginal leadership including suggestions for building and retaining leaders.

The second study, **Inclusion or Exclusion: Urban Aboriginal Families of Children with Disabilities**, is a participatory model of researching the social inclusion issues facing Aboriginal families of children (ages 0-16) with physical disabilities living off-reserve in Canadian urban centres. The study has been funded by Human Resources Development Canada, Social Development Partnership Program – Office of Disabilities (SDPP-D). The total budget spread over 3 fiscal years is $115,800 ($82,490 from SDPP-D).

The study is national in scope and directly involves the Aboriginal communities in the cities of Vancouver, Regina, Toronto, Montreal and Halifax. The study is to include First Nations (status), Metis, Inuit and those who identify themselves as “Aboriginal”. The study is divided into 3 “stand alone” phases. First phase examines a single urban centre with the following phases broadening the research making it national in scope.

A comprehensive literature review has been completed and a theoretical framework, Freiler’s Model of Social Inclusion, will form the conceptual foundation of the study. A research team of a project coordinator, graduate student researchers and community-based personnel will be formed to collect both quantitative and qualitative data from families and health/social care professions. Research methods include face-to-face interviews and focus group meetings. The team and committee lead by the principal researcher will analyze the data, prepare the final report and implement the dissemination plan. The study will produce a practical guide for professionals, a final report and community presentations.
SIPP saw, however, that the opportunity 2003 presented needed to be put on a firm foundation of principles and mechanisms that would not only improve the state of federal-provincial relations but would also properly respond to the demands of the new communities for inclusion in the processes of national decision-making. SIPP also firmly believed that this foundation could best be built through a discussion among academics and officials, and that both the perspectives of recognized, established experts in the field of federalism and new thinkers on the challenges of governing our federation had to play a role. Thus was born “Constructing Tomorrow’s Federalism: New Routes to Effective Governance”.

Driven by the twin goals of strengthening, rather than abandoning, our federalist heritage and seeking out a combination of new and established thinkers, SIPP set out to organize a national conference that would provide scholars and decision-makers with some new ideas for principles and mechanisms by which Canada could be governed more effectively. SIPP staff efficiently performed all the necessary organizing work – securing a location, seeking out speakers, arranging a programme, lining up sponsors, announcing the conference, and collecting registrations – the tasks that make a conference a success. We knew that getting people to come to Regina in March for a conference on federalism (one of the most esoteric fields of public policy scholarship) would be a challenge, but we hoped to attract about 150 participants from across the country. As it turned out, by the time all of the registrations were in, 148 people attended. Among our speakers and participants were both senior and young scholars, federal, provincial and territorial government officials from across the country, scholars from Europe, students, and private citizens. We were honoured with keynote speeches by the Honourable Benoit Pelletier, Quebec Minister of Canadian Inter-governmental Affairs and the Honourable Pierre Pettigrew, federal Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs. A very lively panel was also provided by three former Premiers – Nellie Cournyea of the Northwest Territories, David Peterson of Ontario, and Roy Romanow of Saskatchewan.

The more important question than the number of people at the conference is whether, by putting these people together in rooms for two days to discuss a wide range of topics, we achieved what we set out to. Did we advance the study of federalism and
intergovernmental affairs? Did we give decision-makers in this country something to think about? I believe we did. One message that came loudly and clearly from the conference was that Aboriginal peoples, and their governments, pose a real challenge to the legitimacy of intergovernmental relations in Canada. Aboriginal peoples cannot continue to be denied a place, as full partners in the federation, in the processes by which national decisions are made.

If the only achievement of the conference was to have bridged the divide between intergovernmental relations scholar-ship and practice and Aboriginal policy scholarship and practice, it would have been a success. But the conference did more. It reinforced the centrality of the federal spending power in understanding intergovernmental relations in this country, and clearly indicated that the federal government’s unilateral use of its spending power could not continue. It expanded our understanding of our discontents, by looking beyond regional alienation to frustrations that cross regional lines. It critically assessed ideas for the reform of both the institutions of our federal government and the institutions of intergovernmental relations. And it posited some new principles by which functions, authority and responsibilities could be divided to make the governance of our country more legitimate in the eyes of more Canadians, principles such as subsidiarity, consultation, and citizen engagement. What’s more, in the midst of all this serious discussion, people enjoyed themselves, renewing old acquaintances and making new ones. I have to thank the staff at SIPP, our colleagues who helped plan the conference, the speakers, the session chairs, and everyone who attended for making this conference interesting, enjoyable and, I believe, valuable to the people of Canada.

The conference magazine, “Constructing Tomorrow’s Federalism” will be published in early May; its price is $4.95 plus GST. Plans are also under way for the papers from the conference to be published in a book of proceedings in early 2005.
Mr. William Warriner is on secondment from his permanent position as Director of International Relations for the Saskatchewan Government, Department of Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs. His recent work has focused on international relations strategic planning, Saskatchewan-U.S. relations, and international aid. Mr. Warriner was previously an officer with Saskatchewan Intergovernmental Relations and was closely involved with the Social Policy Renewal initiative which was undertaken by Provincial Governments in cooperation with the Government of Canada.

Mr. Warriner has worked for the Government of Saskatchewan since 1981, in various positions, including: Intergovernmental Officer, Federal-Provincial Relations, Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs; Manager of Policy and Research, Saskatchewan Human Resources Labour and Employment; Senior Project Officer, Policy Consultant, and Senior Research Officer, Saskatchewan Labour; Manager of Policy Analysis and Economist, Employment Development Agency; and Senior Policy Analyst, Saskatchewan Justice. In 2002, Mr. Warriner was on leave working as a CUSO (Canadian University Services Overseas) volunteer on a governance project for the Government of Vanuatu. Mr. Warriner studied at the University of Regina, where he received a Bachelor of Arts, Economics; and Masters degree in Social Studies. His academic work includes Graduate Studies in Sociology at Carleton University in Ottawa.

“Leadership cannot be practised through waiting” John D. Whyte

SIPP welcomes the third group of students to participate in the President’s Leadership Program.

By Karen Jaster, SIPP Research and Administrative Assistant

A series of afternoon lectures sparked debates of rural versus urban growth and labour issues in Saskatchewan. John Wright (SaskPower) and Barbara Byers (Canadian Labour Congress) brought a personal touch to these issues which the students enjoyed. Newly added to this year’s program was the Meyer’s Briggs Type Indicator Assesment. This short test enables one to recognize strengths and weaknesses, and gave the students more insight of how to best use their abilities in leadership situations.

The highlight of the Program was Volunteer day, which was organized in conjunction with the Department of Culture, Youth and Recreation. Deputy Minister Angie Gélinas led a valuable discussion on how volunteerism in Saskatchewan plays a vital role in every community. The students toured the Royal Saskatchewan Museum and then turned their attention to some volunteering of their own. Students were able to gain a first-hand perspective of how policies impact citizens.

The final reception at the residence of Dr. David Barnard (President, University of Regina) allowed the students to reflect on their experience. After much success, SIPP looks forward to facilitating this Program in the future, and would like to thank Program sponsors SaskEnergy, the Canadian Unity Council, and the University of Regina President’s Office.
SIPP Holds Annual Provincial Budget Review Panel


Dr. John Allan, Professor of Economics at the University of Regina, delivered an overview of revenues and expenditures in the provincial budget. Ms. Marilyn Braun-Pollon, Director of Provincial Affairs for the Canadian Federation of Independent Business and one of Sask Business’ top ten “Women of Influence”, provided a commentary on the effects of the budget on small and medium-sized businesses.

Analyzing budgetary decision-making, Dr. Ken Rasmussen, Assistant Dean of Administration at the University of Regina, explored the options available to governments during tough fiscal times. Ms. Rosalee Longmoore, President of Saskatchewan Union of Nurses, provided a labour perspective on the budget’s impact on the provincial public sector workforce. Mr. Murray Mandryk, political commentator for the Regina Leader Post, explored the media’s treatment of government administrations that bring down difficult Saskatchewan budgets.

Federal Budget Does Not Measure Up to Throne Speeches’ Commitments to Urban Aboriginals

After receiving notable mention in the last two Throne Speeches, urban Aboriginal poverty and socio-economic issues would appear to be close to the top of Ottawa’s priority agenda. In the Address by the Prime Minister following the 2004 Speech from the Throne, Prime Minister Paul Martin claimed “[t]he continuing gap in life conditions between Aboriginals and other Canadians is intolerable. It offends our values, we cannot remain on our current path.” Relative to growing urban Aboriginal populations, the Prime Minister further noted that “[w]e will not allow ourselves to be caught up in jurisdictional wrangling, passing the buck and bypassing their needs.” Historically, the federal government has directed most of its Aboriginal policy development and financial aid to the on-reserve and status off-reserve population. The growing number of non-status and Metis people living in marginalized conditions in urban centres has resulted in considerable policy pressures on provincial and municipal governments.

Unfortunately, the 2004-05 budget does not reflect the strong language that Ottawa has used to describe the seriousness of urban Aboriginal issues. The Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy, scheduled to end in 2004, received additional one-time funding of $25 million a year over the next five years in the most recent budget. Yet, this funding is to be distributed to both on-reserve and off-reserve locations across Canada, and seems to be a considerable step backward from the original $1.6 billion commitment made when the program was initiated in 1999. The 2004-05 budget also extended one-time funding by one year for the Urban Aboriginal Strategy (UAS) to a total of $50 million dollars. However, this funding is to be spread over 4 years to 14 cities, resulting in, on average, less than $1 million to each city per year, with no promise for future renewal. Further, the UAS has a matched funding requirement, making it more difficult for poorer provinces with a large percentage of Aboriginal residents, particularly Saskatchewan, to participate.

One-time funding for urban Aboriginal Peoples does not address the conditions that the Prime Minister deemed intolerable and offensive to Canadian values. The Canada-Aboriginal Peoples Roundtable in April 2004 saw the making of even more promises for future shared responsibility with the provinces to provide services to urban Aboriginals. Hopefully, these federal-provincial negotiations will not be too far into the future, and will lead to meaningful change in urban Aboriginal policy.
Support Saskatchewan Public Policy
Debate, Discussion, and Development

Do you want a direct connection to public policy networks, analysis, and updates on matters of provincial and national importance? Would you like advance notice of speakers, conferences, seminars, and a wide array of other opportunities to participate in public policy discourse in Saskatchewan mailed right to you? Would you like to receive hard copies of policy publications right at your doorstep or mailed right to your office? If you answered ‘yes’ to these questions, then you should definitely consider membership with the Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy.

Since it opened its doors in 1998, the Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy (SIPP) has experienced a steady growth in the dissemination of public policy analysis in several policy constituencies. With an expanding policy network and growing links to the community, SIPP hosts a wide array of events that touch upon current social, economic, and governance policy issues. Speaker events host well-known names in policy circles from within and outside of the province. SIPP has become a venue of choice for scholars to release their findings on breaking policy issues. Membership in the Institute has several benefits, including copies of public policy papers, briefing notes, and SIPP senior fellows’ scholar series publications. SIPP membership also comes with a 20 per cent discount on conferences, seminars, and luncheon events. Perhaps the greatest benefit, though, is the access to the individuals and organizations in the private and public sector that membership provides, as well as the ability to take part in shaping public policy debate in the province.

SIPP Membership Benefits / $45.00 per year:
- Mailed advance notice of speaking engagements, seminars, conferences, workshops, book launches, and other public policy events;
- Receive hard copies of SIPP Policy Papers, Briefing Notes, and Scholar Series;
- 20% discount on conferences, seminars, and other priced events; and,
- Special new member offer for 2004 – a SIPP mug included in membership. (Mugs will be available for pick-up at the Institute)

REQUIRED INFORMATION:

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Regina, Saskatchewan S4S 0A2
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Please visit the SIPP website for all information on upcoming events and publications: www.uregina.ca/sipp

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