Throughout 2005, Saskatchewan’s 100th anniversary is going to be celebrated in various ways by individuals and communities throughout the province. Beyond celebration, however, this will also be a time to reflect deeply on past accomplishments, challenges and shortcomings as well as future possibilities. Examining the past and forecasting the future – this is what we propose to do in a seminar and town hall debate at the University of Regina, January 14, 2005.

When it comes to public policy, this province has much to be proud of. It has been a leading innovator in social policy, being the first province to introduce hospitalization and later medicare. In numerous other areas as well, it has consistently influenced the national policy agenda. On the economic front, Saskatchewan is wealthier today than it has ever been. Agriculture has greatly diversified since the days of King Wheat. The province is now a major producer and exporter of non-renewable resources such as oil, potash, and uranium. When resource prices are high, Saskatchewan is a real “have” province.

At the same time, Saskatchewan has not lived up to the dizzying expectations of those most responsible for its creation in 1905. This was going to be the most populous province west of Ontario. But Saskatchewan’s population, once the fastest growing, has been one of the slowest growing in the country since the Great Depression. While income per capita has grown at a respectable rate since that time, Saskatchewan has been a net exporter of brains and skills for decades. Decades of increasing farm size and rural depopulation has sapped the vitality of hundreds of communities that were once the soul of the province. And some of the province’s Aboriginal communities face some of the worst job prospects and health outcomes in Canada.

What are the developments and decisions in the past that have shaped this province and continue to influence our future? This question will be addressed in a morning-long seminar by four social scientists and thinkers that have reflected long and hard on the history of Saskatchewan. They include Professor Bill Waiser whose centennial history of the province will be appearing soon, Professor David Smith, a political scientist who has long pondered Saskatchewan’s position in the Canadian polity, and Dale Eisler, a former Saskatchewan journalist and writer who has just completed a book on the unrealistic expectations placed on the province by successive governments.

In the afternoon, moving from a classroom to the larger venue of the Riddell Theatre on main campus, we turn our attention from the heavy hand of history to the future of the province. Eight panellists, all of whom play an important role in shaping the future of the province, or in shaping how we think about that future, will debate what they think the future holds for Saskatchewan. All those who attend will be encouraged to participate in a wide-ranging discussion that will be moderated by Stephanie Langenegger of CBC Radio.
It was slightly more than four years ago that SIPP published its first Newsletter. When it appeared in May 2000, I was the new director of a relatively new Institute. Dwayne Adams had successfully completed his term as Founding Director, and the Institute was poised to make a contribution to public policy in Saskatchewan and across the country. I recall writing in my first Director's Notes that SIPP must strive to be relevant in all that it does, and if it could achieve that simple objective, it would make a difference and the Institute would thrive.

Before I started to write this, my last Notes as the Director of SIPP, I pulled out copies of all eight issues of our Newsletter, and thought I should try and see just how relevant we have been over the past four and a half years. Our Newsletters offer, of course, only a mere glimpse of the activities of the Institute, however, and relevance cannot be gauged by merely counting the number of publications, nor the number of lectures or conferences, nor the quality and wisdom of the speakers, nor the number of scholars, civil servants, students, and citizens that have participated in our many activities. Relevance, like beauty, is often in the eye of the beholder, and I realized that I might not be the best person to render a verdict on our relevance.

Yet, I am proud of what we have accomplished at SIPP in the past few years, and would invite you to visit our website to see for yourself our long and growing list of publications and our various contributions to public policy discourse. SIPP has offered a rich and diverse program that may be among the best of its kind not only in Saskatchewan but throughout Canada.

We have had many of Canada's leading academics, scholars, and policy practitioners involved in many of our ventures at SIPP, and there has always been a high level of interest in the program we have offered in each of the past four years.

The Institute has grown simply because of the dedication and commitment of what is now a long list of individuals. All of our senior policy fellows could have chosen places other than SIPP to pursue their scholarly contribution to public policy; we are grateful that they did not, and their work has contributed to the Institute's success. We have partnered with some of the best policy institutes in Canada, and have gained immeasurably from such collaborations. We have hosted a number of influential Canadians at SIPP, but what makes me believe we have been doing a number of things right is that we get many of the same people coming back to our events month after month. Clearly, we have some relevance to those individuals. And nothing would have been possible without the dedicated professional staff that deserves all the credit for SIPP's success.

The Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy is a special place, and not simply because of what we have achieved in a short time. SIPP is special because we are one of a kind in Canada – a partnership between three universities in Saskatchewan and the Government of Saskatchewan. The partnership has to be nurtured but SIPP is already a model that others across Canada are looking at. SIPP, like the CanadaWest Foundation, has demonstrated that policy research institutes in the West can contribute to a national dialogue, as we did recently with the SIPP conference on federalism. A few short years ago, SIPP was a mere concept; today, it is a productive and, yes, relevant, public policy institute that is known across the country.
ARMCHAIR DISCUSSION SERIES
SIPP's sixth year for this Series will continue to bring interesting speakers to Regina and extend an open invitation to the policy community to attend all of the lectures. September's Armchair speaker was Dr. Ian Green (York, UK) who compared and commented on Canada and Britain's Health Systems. Details for SIPP's October and November Armchair Discussions will be posted on SIPP's website.

POLICY SEMINAR: ELECTORAL REFORM
Issues of democratic participation and reform are receiving much attention from academics, the media and the policy community. Several governments are looking at ways to renew institutions of government and are using innovative processes to engage citizens in a genuine dialogue on democratic reform. Mr. Jack Blaney (the Chair) of the Citizen's Assembly on Electoral Reform (British Columbia), will lead a unique discussion on the use of a citizen's assembly as an exercise in renewing democratic debate. The Seminar will take place November 5, 2004 (9:00 a.m. - noon) with a fee of $75.00 per person. Seats are limited so register early to avoid disappointment.

POLICY ISSUES REVIEWED WITH A YOUTHFUL LENS
This fall, SIPP will release the winning papers from the SIPP Student Public Policy Essay Contest, Year 2. A winning undergraduate and graduate level paper will be published and released in October. SIPP wishes to thank the adjudicators of this year’s contest who were chosen based on their contributions and expertise to the study of public policy: Dr. Jack Boan (University of Regina, Faculty of Economics), Dr. Cristine de Clercy (University of Saskatchewan, Department of Political Studies and the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives), and Ms. Seonaid MacPherson (Senior Policy Advisor, Cabinet Planning Unit, Government of Saskatchewan).

ARE WE LIVING BETTER?
SIPP has recently begun research into measuring well-being through a Genuine Progress Index (GPI). This is one of several new accounting frameworks being developed around the world to supplement the traditional measure of growth, Gross Domestic Product (GDP). A GPI accounts for the value of both productive activity that GDP ignores, such as voluntary labour, and activity that reduces well-being, such as the costs of crime, to more accurately depict a community’s overall welfare.

TIME FOR A CHECK UP
SIPP will host a presentation by the Chartered Accountants of Saskatchewan entitled “Saskatchewan Check Up, 2004: Saskatchewan as a Place to Live, Work and Invest” with Ms. Nola Joorisity, FCA, Chief Executive Officer. The event will take place in the SIPP Window Room on November 2, 2004 (10:30 - noon).

SIPP SCHOLAR SERIES
Dr. Douglas Durst, the 2003-04 University of Regina Senior Policy Fellow, will present research findings during his November 18 Scholar Series presentation “Partnerships with Aboriginal Researchers: Hidden Pitfalls and Cultural Pressures”. A publication based on the presentation will be released immediately following the lecture.

ECONOMICS FOR LUNCH
SIPP is confirming details for the second annual SIPP Luncheon Lecture. The Luncheon Lecture focuses on shedding light on an economic issue of great significance to Saskatchewan. This Series provides an opportunity to interact with influential members of Canada’s policy community. Details will be released this fall.

SIGN UP FOR SIPP NEWS
All SIPP information sent directly to your inbox...just submit your e-mail address online.

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.
Over the last several years, SIPP has continually improved both the volume and quality of its research to the point where the Institute now produces a regular stream of policy-oriented, scholarly publications that are being noticed by decision-makers, scholars, and the media across Canada. SIPP has also built a reputation as an institution that promotes democratic discourse on important issues of public policy by undertaking events that provide a forum for the discussion of policy research among scholars, decision-makers, and members of the public. As the recently appointed Research Director, it is my job to ensure that SIPP continues to earn its reputation for high-quality policy scholarship and becomes known across the country as a “centre of excellence” in public policy research and debate.

One of the main vehicles for disseminating policy scholarship at SIPP is the Public Policy Paper series. We are on track this year to produce at least one Public Policy Paper a month, to provide readers with insightful analysis on a wide range of issues. As well, as of this autumn, all of SIPP’s regular Public Policy Papers will be subjected to a peer review process, to ensure they meet the highest standards of scholarly excellence. We will also be launching new collaborative research projects and will continue to analyse issues of federal governance, which we began this spring with our national conference “Constructing Tomorrow’s Federalism: New Routes to Effective Governance”. Four new projects, in particular, are worthy of note.

The relationship between Aboriginal people and the justice system has been a prominent topic of debate, and indeed controversy, in Saskatchewan over the last number of years. Concerns about the over-representation of Aboriginal peoples in the criminal justice system, criticism of the ability of the justice system to remedy dysfunction in Aboriginal communities and calls for alternative measures, and questions about the apparent victimization of Aboriginal people at the hands of the police culminated in the release this spring of the report of Commission on First Nations and Métis Peoples and Justice Reform.

In the coming year, SIPP will bring together scholars, government officials, and community activists to undertake research into the issues raised by the Commission report. This will result next February in a major conference to consider options for reforms that could improve the relationship between Aboriginal peoples and the justice system. No jurisdiction in Canada is a better setting than Saskatchewan for a discussion of Aboriginal peoples and justice system reform, and no institution is better placed to lead this discussion than SIPP.

A second major project will be a study of the effect that calls for universities to become centres of applied research and innovation have on the public’s understanding of the roles universities play in society and on the mission universities see for themselves (see page 7). In both the pure sciences and the social sciences, public and private funding agents have been demanding that universities undertake research that is more clearly relevant to society and, in particular, that fosters “innovation”. Universities can contribute a great deal to social advancement through partnerships with both public and private funding agents, but the value of applied research needs to be carefully balanced against other socially valuable roles of the university sector. To encourage debate on how to balance universities’ competing roles, SIPP will be holding an international symposium in May, 2005 on universities and “the innovation agenda”.

New Research Director for SIPP: Ian Peach 2004
We are also beginning to bring together a national research team to renew the policy debate on Aboriginal self-government. While self-government negotiations in Canada claim to be based on the recognition of Aboriginal peoples’ inherent right to self-government, too often the actual results of negotiations serve merely to limit Aboriginal peoples to administering institutions and laws that are a reflection of non-Aboriginal ways of governing ourselves. Prior to the recent federal election, though, the Prime Minister expressed his commitment to a fundamental review of Aboriginal policy.

SIPP intends to bring together some of Canada’s best academics and most knowledgeable self-government negotiators to address some of the fundamental questions that governments need to consider in renewing Aboriginal policy. The project will analyse whether self-government negotiations in Canada are providing Aboriginal peoples with an opportunity to become truly self-governing communities, whether self-government is helping to improve the lives of Aboriginal people, and what reforms should be made to Aboriginal self-government policies to foster Aboriginal peoples’ capacity for self-determination, both as individuals within society and as self-governing communities. This should provide several interesting and provocative Public Policy Papers. This project will also likely include a national conference, so our conclusions can contribute to a broader discussion on the future of Aboriginal governance.

The fourth major new research topic will be democratic renewal and, as part of this, electoral reform. Across the country, voter participation in elections and citizens’ belief in the relevance of our democratic institutions are declining. Five provinces and one territory are currently investigating options for reforming their electoral systems. All of them are interested in replacing the current “first past the post” system with a system that more accurately translates the percentage of popular vote that each party receives into seats in their Legislative Assemblies. The federal government and a number of provinces are also interested in other reforms to our institutions of governance to make them more vibrant fora of democratic debate and renew citizens’ interest in democratic politics.

British Columbia, however, has been the most innovative of all governments in Canada. There, a Citizens’ Assembly has been created to consider options for electoral reform; their recommendations will be put to a referendum in 2005. Thus, not only is British Columbia interested in renewing its electoral system, it is experimenting with innovative ways of directly involving citizens in public policy decisions. As part of SIPP’s investigation into the prospects and options for democratic renewal in Canada, Jack Blaney, the Chair of the B.C. Citizens’ Assembly on Electoral Reform, will hold a seminar in November to discuss the Citizens’ Assembly, the renewal of democratic discourse, and ways to increase the role of citizens in democratic decision-making.

2004-05 will be a very active year for SIPP. I hope that this coming year will prove to be SIPP’s most active yet and that it will bolster SIPP’s reputation as a vibrant site of public policy scholarship and debate.
Website Makeover and Membership Drive Focuses on Policy Community

The new and improved SIPP website is up and operational, just in time for the 2004-05 academic year. SIPP originally launched its website in 1998 when the Institute opened its doors to the community, and it was time for a revised look. These days, an organization’s website is an extension of the organization itself. How often do you hear about a new place and check it out on the Internet first before physically visiting the organization? This type of behavior has become commonplace.

SIPP’s new website has been restructured to help users easily find the information they want and need. Along with enhanced navigation and usability, the new site offers each visitor access to a growing collection of SIPP publications and event information. Also, users have the option to submit their e-mail addresses and receive monthly notices from SIPP. (SIPP will, of course, keep your e-mail address safe and private). This option will ensure that no one misses a SIPP event for lack of notice.

Along with the website redesign, SIPP is pleased to include a new membership brochure with the Fall newsletter. The brochure and the website are compliments of each other and the goal of both initiatives was to make it easier to share ideas and perspectives and increase engagement between SIPP and the policy community.

Your membership dollars will increase SIPP’s ability to bring influential speakers from across Canada and beyond.

It’s my hope that the policy community will recognize the value of SIPP membership and make the Institute part of their professional and civic lives.

Raymond Blake, SIPP Director

Your membership dollars will permit the Institute to pursue partnerships with academics and organizations working on policy issues and widely disseminate the research findings.

Your membership dollars will ensure that a local institute of civic engagement can continue to thrive.

The Institute needs the policy community, not only for their support, but also for their ideas, their participation, and their fellowship. What are you waiting for? Visit the website and obtain a membership. Solidify your commitment and support citizen engagement.

If you have any comments or questions regarding SIPP Membership or the new website, contact us at sipp@uregina.ca.

The new SIPP website is attractive, easy to navigate, and encourages the e-visitor to spend some time in exploration.

Andrea Geisbauer, SIPP Communications
Weathering the Storm or Reaping a Harvest?

Over the summer, a working group composed of representatives from SIPP, the University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan has been planning for a conference which will be held in Saskatoon on May 4-5, 2005. This conference will focus on the theme of how changes in the external environment – in particular, the demands created by the “new economy” with respect to research, technology transfer and training – have affected post-secondary institutions, and how universities are redefining or rearticulating their role as social actors.

Saskatchewan is a province which has been struggling to take advantage of innovation and new directions in economic development in order to reduce traditional reliance on agriculture and the harvesting of natural resources. As it moves forward, the province must face the challenges posed by geographic isolation, meet the needs of a growing Aboriginal population, and make choices about whether or not to support the continued influence of co-operatives and public enterprise as significant engines of the economy.

In this context, Saskatchewan universities have both responded to external forces and generated new strategies for meeting the needs of local, national and global communities into the future. To give some examples, they have explored government and industry partnerships in fields like agricultural biotechnology and energy; they have turned their attention to the potential for economic and cultural development in Aboriginal communities; they have supported and promoted research on environmental issues related to resource industries, water and northern ecosystems; they have encouraged cultural and artistic activity in new forms and for new audiences.

The planning group is putting together a conference program which will encourage consideration and discussion of various analytical approaches to innovation, as well as drawing on the experiences of universities and their partners in and outside Saskatchewan as they adjust to a new environment. A series of commissioned papers, circulated to participants beforehand, will explore conceptual issues, and there will be opportunities for scholars, business and research leaders and representatives of community organizations to engage in debate and dialogue about these important issues.

The issues which the conference will examine – whether or how universities should reorder their priorities in order to accommodate new demands and pressures from the outside; how universities can maintain their autonomy while forging new kinds of links with government, industry and communities; how universities can find and build on a sense of place while continuing to meet national and international standards – are all significant ones for future policies concerning post-secondary education.

“One of our main goals is to encourage a vigorous exchange of views among participants coming to these issues from many different perspectives – from different parts of the country, from universities, from business, from government, from Aboriginal communities, from our towns, cities and farms,” says Beth Bilson, of the College of Law at the University of Saskatchewan, who has been chairing the planning group.

Bilson adds, “A post-conference publication of the papers and proceedings will capture the main themes of the conference, and allow us to build on these themes in future discussions.”

Mixed Member Proportional Representation with Kerry Howe

The federal election in Canada has once again re-energized the debate about the electoral system in this country. Until now Canada has retained the “first past the post” system which has the advantage of producing more majority governments, but the disadvantage of often underrepresenting national parties without concentrated regional bases. Several countries have different systems, ranging from pure proportional representation to mixed systems. In the last decade New Zealand is one of the countries that decided to change to a mixed system. How has it worked out? Please join us to hear Professor Kerry share his experiences from our sister commonwealth country.
N ational social policy initiatives are often associated with the federal government and its use of federal spending power to impose program criteria and advance federal objectives in areas of provincial jurisdiction. Yet, during the mid to late 1990’s, provincial and territorial governments provided leadership in a difficult but productive process of intergovernmental collaboration with the federal government that resulted in some significant developments in Canadian social policy. This was the period during which governments cooperated in the development of the National Child Benefit, the National Children’s Agenda, and the Social Union Framework Agreement.

These are significant achievements in Canadian social policy, and it is instructive to review the process by which these initiatives were accomplished. It is also important to investigate more deeply how these developments in social policy reflect the larger economic and social dynamics, and what they reveal about the nature of the modern international economy and the role of government social policy within that larger context.

Things have changed. Over the past thirty years or so, a dynamic and increasingly competitive process of globalization and international marketization has effected unprecedented changes, which have both stimulated and emerged, and they have substantial implications for economic and social policy.

The nature and impact of these dramatic changes have been controversial and have raised concerns about the ability of governments to maintain social policy initiatives to protect or promote population health and well being. In particular, increasing rivalry by government of intensified competition and economic restructuring. The absence of effective labour force adjustment measures to ease the impact of economic restructuring has contributed to the deterioration of living standards, especially for low-skilled workers and their families.

In Canada, the labour market effects of economic restructuring increased the need for social assistance and other government transfers to maintain income levels among the poorest segment of the population. By 1993, about 20 percent of Canadian children were living in poverty, and child poverty had become a pressing social and political issue. Welfare programs had been designed for short-term relief for a relatively small portion of the population, and were not really appropriate for addressing the higher levels of poverty that had emerged.

“Welfare programs had been designed for short-term relief for a relatively small portion of the population, and were not really appropriate for addressing the higher levels of poverty that had emerged.”
tion, in an environment of intensified international competition, the regulation of minimum wage rates was not considered an economically efficient means to address the income needs of low-income families with children. It became increasingly necessary for governments to seek alternative measures to supplement insufficient employment incomes and provide assistance to low-income families.

During the mid to late 1990’s, the prospect emerged for major reforms in Canada’s social programs. There was real pressure for social and economic adjustment; the national unity issue encouraged a political desire to demonstrate that the federation could work to address social and economic pressures; there was substantial interest, especially among provinces, to address pressing social policy issues in the context of redefining the policy roles of provincial and federal governments; and there was provincial interest in seeking greater control over the application of the federal spending power. All this contributed to creating a political environment with the potential for change.

In January 1994, the federal government launched a Social Security Reform initiative, which conducted public consultations across Canada and managed to raise public expectations. The initiative produced a discussion paper with various supplementary technical documents, and a Report by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resources Development. However, the potential of this initiative for significant reform was deflected by the federal government’s fiscal restraint agenda that was largely expressed through the 1995 federal Budget, which reduced financing for social programs through the Canada Health and Social Transfer, and suspended further consideration of previously identified policy alternatives.

The fiscal restraint on the federal government and the collapse of the federal social policy reform initiative exacerbated existing structural and fiscal problems in federal-provincial relations and created a very unlikely environment for progress on the numerous social policy objectives that had been identified. Nevertheless, Premiers appreciated the need to address pressing social policy issues and asserted leadership by establishing a provincial/territorial initiative for social policy renewal. The provincial/territorial agenda and approach to social policy reform precipitated a period of federal-provincial cooperation during which several major national initiatives were advanced, notably the National Child Benefit, the National Children’s Agenda, and the Social Union Framework Agreement.

So, what are these social policy initiatives all about.....in the big picture? What was the nature of the process that lead to such a high degree of inter-governmental cooperation? What does this experience in national social policy development suggest for future social policy initiatives? Where should we go from here and how do we get there? Perhaps this study can contribute something toward answering some of these questions.

Mr. Warriner will present the results of this project in a public lecture in the spring of 2005. Visit SIPP online at www.uregina.ca/sipp for the date and details.
Reaching Canada’s Youth: Saskatchewan Representatives Make Positive Impact on Premiers

In a project managed by the Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy, in cooperation with the Department of Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs, two young Saskatchewan representatives joined their counterparts from across the country for a special Youth Forum at this summer’s Council of the Federation meeting in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario.

Saskatchewan youth expressed their interest by participating in an essay-writing contest exploring youth participation in Canadian democracy and issues of public affairs. The winning submissions and their authors were: Heather George “VOTE: Increasing Youth Participation in Canadian Democracy” and Uliana Kojolianko “The Democracy Fair – A New Household Name”. Submissions were judged by an independent panel of adjudicators chosen from Saskatchewan’s policy community.

The opportunity to meet and interact with powerful decision makers was one of the highlights for the Saskatchewan representatives, as was summed up by Uliana Kojolianko, “How often does one get to discuss post-secondary issues with Gordon Campbell or the state of Canada’s Francophonie with Jean Charest? Needless to say, the exchanges were invaluable, and the sensation – yes, somewhat surreal.” However, when asked about observations of leadership during the event, Heather George confessed that she “learned a very important lesson in time constraints and the role it plays in policy development. The forum was a mental marathon, consisting of a full agenda which left very little time to ponder over or refer back to a particular theme. ... Most likely, organizers were trying to provide us with a sense of the time constraints decision-makers are forced to work under and how important it is that, as a group, you are able to cope with that kind of pressure.”

Heather pointed to a number of themes that recurred during the discussions. “These topics included both structural (ie: use of modern means of communicating to youth) and theoretical changes (promotion of political leadership based on accountability, integrity, and service to the public).” Press coverage of the event focused on health issues.

Finally, Heather commented on the issue of citizen participation, or the lack thereof, and provided insights into this phenomenon “Number one, some people have yet to realize the benefit of becoming an active citizen. They are more likely to focus on the cost. Number two, I think governments and their agencies have a tendency to promote the notion that policy development is an incredibly complicated and complex process. As such, citizens feel they simply lack the capacity to become involved.” Uliana’s thoughts on participation focused on education, “We need to inspire a generation of active citizens – active not only in the hospitals and charitable societies where we find so many of our socially conscious youth, but equally at the polls and bargaining tables of our democracy. We shouldn’t have to convince youth, come election time, that they should vote; it’s time that active citizenship became instinctive.”

According to Saskatchewan’s representatives, the Youth Forum was an enjoyable and insightful experience. There is no word yet on whether it will become a regular addition to the Council of the Federation meetings, but it seems logical to include the opinions of youth when discussing youth participation and citizen engagement.
In March 2004, SIPP hosted an international conference entitled *Constructing Tomorrow’s Federalism: New Routes to Effective Governance*. By all accounts, this event was a success and stimulated the demand for debate on the state of Canada. Further, with the recent federal election and the summer meeting of the Council of the Federation, issues of federalism remain at the forefront for the policy community.

These appointments are not restricted to those who have previously prepared or published public policy research but are available to all those interested in exploring the public policy implications of the areas of research with which they have been engaged.

SIPP Research Fellows must prepare a paper for publication in SIPP’s Public Policy Paper Series during the period of their award (Public Policy Papers range from 6,000 to 12,000 words). SIPP Research Fellows are encouraged to spend time at the Institute. However, Research Fellows are not required to be resident at SIPP and may pursue their research from their current place of work. SIPP has produced Public Policy Papers in a wide array of policy-related subject areas of relevance to Canadian and international public policy. The Institute is particularly interested in papers that deal with issues of health, urban and rural research, governance and intergovernmental relations, public sector ownership, and Aboriginal issues, though we welcome papers on all contemporary public policy issues. Papers will contribute to improving the state of knowledge in virtually all areas of public policy that are significant to the residents of the province and to Canadians generally and that provide a theoretical framework for policy development.

Applications are available on the SIPP Website and must be submitted no later than 29 September for the 2004-05 Winter Term.

Each applicant must provide a detailed, current curriculum vitae and a one-page proposal outlining the research to be undertaken during their tenure as SIPP Research Fellows and the publication that will come from the research. A letter of support from the Department Head/Dean, giving approval for the teaching release, must also be provided.

**SIPP & CRIC Federalism Magazine Makes its Way Around the World**

Opinions from noted academics such as John D. Whyte, Gilles Paquet, and Richard Simeon share common space with fresh thinkers such as Gabrielle Slowey and Julie Simmons – creating a new dynamic in the study of Canadian federalism.

We would ask professors of Business Administration, Political Science, and Law to consider recommending the magazine as reading material to students, as it reflects the thoughts and comments of many of Canada’s top academics in the field.

Magazines are available at a cost of $4.95 per copy and a order form is available on the SIPP website at: [www.uregina.ca/sipp](http://www.uregina.ca/sipp).
Federal and provincial immigration policy issues are addressed in the upcoming Public Policy Paper entitled “Immigrant Skilled Workers in Canada: Issues and Challenges for Policymakers”. The paper also explores the challenges facing policymakers in Canada in light of the country’s deteriorating demographic profile and changing labour-market requirements in order to continue on the path of economic growth and prosperity. There is a need to look for a more innovative and effective approach to immigration, not only by the federal government, but by provincial governments as well, in order to maximize the economic and social potential immigrants bring to Canada. One such approach is to encourage foreign students in Canada to apply for permanent residency after they complete their postsecondary studies by easing some of the restrictions they currently face.

In the fall, watch for a new addition to SIPP’s Briefing Note Series, “More Than Just Bricks and Mortar: The Consequences of Poor Housing Conditions in Regina’s Aboriginal Population.” In this piece, Senior Policy Analyst Janice Stokes analyzes the demographics of housing mobility and home ownership in Regina according to census data, comparing Aboriginal population figures to total population data. The Briefing Note explores the wider implications of inadequate housing and the suitability of federal housing policy.

In June, SIPP held a luncheon with special guests from the School of Social Sciences, Waiariki Institute of Technology, New Zealand in an event organized by Dr. Douglas Durst, the 2003-04 University of Regina Senior Policy Fellow. These scholars shared their experiences and knowledge on issues such as treaty obligations, culturally appropriate child and family services, self determination, and self governance. SIPP wishes Dr. Durst good luck as he returns to his post in the Faculty of Social Work and the staff of the Institute look forward to working with him in the future.

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