The Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy is reaching beyond its borders to become a national resource for public policy analysis. Over the past year, SIPP has planned and participated in a number of high profile, national and international projects. Why is this important? The policy community has become global - people want to hear a Saskatchewan perspective on national and international issues and want to gain insight on issues that their global neighbours are facing. With that in mind, consider these examples:

• SIPP organized and hosted the Constructing Tomorrow’s Federalism: New Routes to Effective Governance conference, which looked at numerous issues such as democracy, distinctiveness, Aboriginal self-government, power imbalances in federations, and other sources of tension in governance. This conference gathered scholars and practitioners from across Canada and from Germany and Switzerland in Regina last March.

• Ian Peach (SIPP Director) recently returned home from the conference of the Centre for Canadian Studies at the University of Edinburgh where he and Merrilee Rasmussen, Chair of the Law Reform Commission of Saskatchewan, presented one of 84 papers (selected from 500 applicants) entitled Federalism And The First Nations: Making Space For First Nations’ Self-determination in the Federal Inherent Right Policy. This paper will appear in the Commonwealth Law Bulletin in the coming months.

• The distinguished career of constitutional scholarship of SIPP Senior Policy Fellow John D. Whyte will be recognized this fall at a symposium at Queen’s University entitled Constitutionalism and Political Morality: A Symposium in Honour of John Whyte. SIPP will be part of this celebration of the work of our colleague by sponsoring the symposium.

• Bob Anderson, a 2004-05 recipient of SIPP’s University of Regina Policy Fellowship Award, has recently been invited to present a paper based on his work as a SIPP Policy Fellow at a major conference on Innovations and Entrepreneurship in Functional Regions, to be held at the University of Trollhättan/Uddevalla in Uddevalla, Sweden on September 15 to 17.

• In March, Ian Peach appeared before the House of Commons Committee of Finance Subcommittee on Fiscal Imbalance to speak on vertical fiscal imbalance in the federation.

• Mr. Peach is also part of a national Working Group on Democratic Renewal, which has brought together academics, senior officials and politicians from across Canada to initiate a public dialogue on how to renew our democratic practices.

The Institute will continue to balance local issues and events with an agenda that brings a Saskatchewan perspective to national and international issues. In doing so, SIPP hopes to make public policy better understood and more accessible to every citizen.
Welcome to my inaugural Director’s Notes column! As Director only since January 1, 2005, I sometimes feel like I have jumped into the pool at the deep end but, more often and more importantly, I am proud of the opportunity to head the organization in an era when its activities and influence in the community are growing so rapidly. To be successful, SIPP must provide an opportunity for members of the academic, public administration, and broader public policy communities to exchange ideas, debate policy issues and foster democratic discourse. Our partnerships with the provincial government and Saskatchewan’s three universities are an important part of what makes this possible. Our new Government of Saskatchewan Senior Policy Fellow, Daniel Hickey, began his term on May 1. His interest in health policy research will serve to bring SIPP back into this field in a significant way. I must also thank my friend and colleague, Bill Warriner, for his contribution to SIPP as the 2004-05 Government of Saskatchewan Senior Policy Fellow. Further, I am pleased that Jim Marshall has recently joined SIPP as Senior Economist on a secondment from the Department of Industry and Resources. Jim will add some real strength in economic analysis and I want to welcome him.

As well, the current recipients of the University of Regina and First Nations University of Canada Senior Fellowship Awards are coming to the end of their terms and we have announced the recipients of the 2005-06 Fellowship Awards. I am particularly pleased that we will have the benefit of a scholar from Campion College. Interest in the Fellowship Awards is growing as SIPP’s profile in the university and the policy community grows. In turn, the contributions of these scholars increase SIPP’s profile and reputation still more. I look forward to seeing the Fellowship Awards expand and include faculty members from other provincial universities and colleges.

The establishment of a new Graduate School of Public Policy and Administration at the University of Regina and the discussion of a new Graduate School of Public Policy at the University of Saskatchewan open further opportunities for SIPP to contribute to our universities’ missions in the area of public policy scholarship and education. Our first “wave” of graduate student interns from the University of Regina were at SIPP during the winter term and I look forward to SIPP continuing to be a site for faculty and students from across the province to work together on a wide variety of public policy issues.

There are days when it is hard to keep track of all that is going on here, yet we intend to do still more to build SIPP into a nationally known and highly respected centre of public policy research, analysis and debate. Building on the success of our recently instituted e-mail news service and our membership program (and let me take this moment to encourage you to become a member), we plan to experiment with new, likely web-based, ways of engaging youth, expatriate Saskatchewanians, and all of you in policy discussion. Keep an eye on our website for announcements of new initiatives.

While I look forward, I cannot end these notes without thanking Raymond Blake for his work on behalf of this Institute during his five years as Director. I was lucky to work under Raymond’s directorship when I came to SIPP and am lucky to be taking over an institute that is better and stronger for his contributions. Raymond is now enjoying a much-deserved administrative leave to work on several books, and I wish him all the best.
FRIENDLY DISCUSSION ON EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE (ELCC)
Martha Friendly (Childcare Resource and Research Unit, U of T) gave an excellent presentation on March 24/05 during a SIPP Armchair Discussion. Ms. Friendly believes that the basis for a high quality ELCC system is strong public policy. She also believes, however, that policy makers’ thinking is still in the early stages. Ms. Friendly’s website provides a wealth of information and a Public Policy Paper based on her presentation will be released this fall (2005). (www.childcarecanada.org)

SCHOLAR SERIES & SOCIAL POLICY
Every year, SIPP releases the research findings of its Senior Fellows in the Scholar Series publication, which is accompanied by a public presentation. This fall, SIPP is pleased to release the work of Mr. William Warriner (Government of Saskatchewan Senior Fellow, 2004-05). Mr. Warriner’s project on Canadian Social Policy Renewal and the National Child Benefit grew substantially over the year and its findings will be released through the Scholar Series publication and presentation and an extended version will be released as a book. Bill returned to his job with the Department of Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs at the end of April 2005 and his contributions to SIPP’s various events and discussions will be missed.

FAITH AND POLITICS PANEL
At a recent event at the University of Regina, Dr. Joyce Green (former SIPP Senior Fellow) presented a view that “the standard social wisdom suggests that one does not discuss either religion or politics in company, for fear of giving offence or inciting argument. Yet, religion and politics are about profoundly important values which shape our political culture. Healthy democratic processes require consideration of religion and politics, especially when they intersect”. With that in mind, SIPP is looking forward to a fall (2005) panel that will review interesting and often provocative issues of faith and politics. Panelists include John D. Whyte and Dr. Shadia Drury. Full details will be available on the SIPP website.

CANCELLATION OF CONFERENCE
Due to circumstances beyond our control, SIPP has cancelled the conference Alberta And Saskatchewan At 100: Two Paths To The Same Destination? originally planned for September 21 – 23, 2005. However, it is clear from the responses to the ‘call for papers’ that the ideas are definitely worth exploring and SIPP is considering alternatives to a conference and seeking input from interested parties. SIPP will take the month of May to consider our options and will post an update on this project in June.

FASD POLICY RESEARCH
SIPP recently assisted a consortium of community groups in Regina in developing a proposal for the National Homelessness Initiative on new policies for people living with FASD. This paper proposed educational initiatives and the development of supported housing for people with FASD, so that they would have access to affordable housing and the life-skills training and assistance necessary to avoid becoming homeless and marginalized. This study will be presented at the National Homelessness Conference in Toronto in May by Lisa Brownstone, the principal author, and will be the basis for a SIPP Public Policy Paper.

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All SIPP information sent directly to your inbox….just submit your e-mail address online at www.uregina.ca/sipp (see bottom of each web page).
At least since the negotiation of the Charlottetown Accord in 1992, the notion that the Aboriginal peoples of Canada have the inherent right to self-government has been part of political debate in this country. Little has been accomplished, however, to make the inherent right part of the reality of governance in Canada. The federal government’s Inherent Right Policy, for example, is a policy for the recognition of Aboriginal peoples’ inherent right to self-government in name only. It is premised on a presumption of the superiority of mainstream institutions of government and a distrust of Aboriginal peoples’ willingness or capacity to govern themselves democratically; as a result, it makes self-government tremendously difficult to negotiate and makes any self-government agreements arrived at under the policy so complex as to be virtually impossible to implement. There is a better way, however, built on Canada’s liberal democratic traditions of responsible government and federalism.

The basic problem in negotiating self-government agreements in Canada is that many in non-Aboriginal society are committed to a brand of liberalism which leaves very little room for the recognition of difference and distrusts the idea that distinct communities should have the autonomy to govern themselves, without outside interference, in areas important to those communities. This attitude gets reflected in federal and provincial government policies that seek to limit the autonomy of Aboriginal communities to order themselves as they see fit. This position unfortunately ignores a whole branch of political theory about the recognition of distinct communities, much of which is part of modern liberalism. A major thread of liberal thought today suggests that, if liberalism seeks to promote the capacity of individuals to exercise their autonomy, a principle that sub-state communities should also be provided with the scope for exercising their autonomy as collectivities of like-minded people joined by a common culture, language, or history is an important element of liberalism.

Canadian history also provides support for the assertion that collective self-determination is tied to liberal democracy. For over 100 years prior to Confederation, the people of the colonies sought to secure their right to self-determination from the British by demanding the establishment of legislative institutions, the capacity to legislate their own rules of social ordering, and the authority to have their democratically elected representatives control their governors. With responsible government secured by 1848, the next task was to gain the capacity to act as a fully self-governing nation, without any need to seek the consent of Great Britain, while simultaneously protecting, through a federal arrangement of governance, the particular rights, political authority, and cultural distinctiveness that had evolved within the formerly separate colonies during the colonial period. Throughout its evolution, the development of self-government in what was once British North America was a project of building responsible liberal democracies and securing their right to legislate the rules of social ordering that the democratically elected representatives of the people believed were appropriate, without any requirement that those rules reflect the decisions of outsiders.

First Nations self-determination is, at heart, the same project. The principles of federalism, along with the principles of responsible government, thus provide the foundation for a new way of imagining First Nations governments within the Canadian political system. Creating a self-government agreement built on these foundations has even been attempted by the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, the...
Government of Canada and the Government of Saskatchewan. These negotiations reflected a shared commitment among several of the negotiators to providing First Nations with the scope to define their own, culturally relevant institutional rules and regulatory regimes, while ensuring that basic liberal democratic rules of accountability and due process would still be respected.

Cultural relevance of institutions is an important component of building meaningful self-govern-ment, and innovative institutional design need not lead to the aban-donment of liberal democratic values. As well, for First Nations, the fundamental objective of negotiating a self-government agreement was to build on the Treaty relationship between the Crown and First Nations by acknowledging their jurisdiction and providing them with the capacity to make laws exclusively in some areas, as do provincial governments in the federation. It makes little sense to engage in the whole process of negotiating a self-government agreement to provide legal recognition for First Nation governments and the laws they enact, only to have all other laws apply as well. The whole point of a self-government agreement is self-determination, and self-determination requires that there be areas of jurisdiction in which First Nations can enact laws that will be relevant to them and their culture. Even if First Nations chose to enact the same law as the federal or provincial government, it is important that they have the capacity to make that choice. If the only laws that a First Nation can enact are laws that are already enacted by Canada or the province, there would have been little point in entering into an agreement.

While the Saskatchewan negotiations represent a worthy experiment in constructing a self-government agreement that is fundamentally federalist in its conception, this is not a credit to the progressiveness of either government policies or their bureaucratic cultures. Too often, the negotiators were confronted by a federal self-government policy, in particular, that would have made the innovative aspects of this agreement impossible to achieve and a federal bureaucracy which resisted reconsidering the federal policy, even if it was essential to securing a self-government agreement in Saskatchewan. While the provincial government’s policy was less explicit, provincial officials also frequently resisted the idea that First Nations should have the authority to pass and implement laws without reference to provincial laws and regulatory standards.

Instead, the draft Agreement-in-Principle represents a victory for a group of negotiators who both understood the conceptual underpinnings of what they were attempting to negotiate and were tenacious enough to continue to attempt to secure their desired result even in the face of bureaucratic resistance. Such circumstances cannot be guaranteed. Rather than rely on the good fortune of having the right negotiators at the table, it is time for federal and provincial governments to critically reassess their Aboriginal self-government policies and replace them with a policy framework that extends Canada’s traditions of responsible government, federalism and liberal democracy to Aboriginal peoples. It is time that our governments and our society come to the conclusion of Saskatchewan author Maggie Siggins who, in her recent book Bitter Embrace: White Society’s Assault on the Woodland Cree, has written, “I concluded that all my white society can do now is stand aside and give what is asked.”

This is a summary of the paper presented by Ian Peach and Merrilee Rasmussen, Chair of the Law Reform Commission of Saskatchewan at the 30th anniversary conference of the Centre for Canadian Studies, University of Edinburgh on May 6, 2005. SIPP will continue to spearhead research and provide critical analyses of the progress of self-government negotiations in Canada, as well as other Aboriginal policy issues, on a regular basis.
Prior to his appointment as Senior Fellow, Mr. Hickey was Executive Director, Medical Services Branch, Saskatchewan Health and, in 2001, participated as a member of the Saskatchewan Commission on Medicare. In his twenty-five years of public and health sector experience, he has dealt with a broad range of policy and program issues in the area of health management, provincial finance, program development and planning.

Academically, he has recently published a paper (entitled The Evolution of Public Drug Benefits in Saskatchewan: 1945 – 2002), which looks at the evolution of public drug benefits in Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan prescription drug plan, and the implications of rising provincial health expenditures. During his term with SIPP, he is planning to engage in research on the effects of provider payment arrangements on service quality and health costs, and the distributive impact of health financing options on population groups.

Born in Saint John, New Brunswick, Mr. Hickey holds a Bachelor of Arts (High Honours) from St. Francis Xavier University and the University of Durham, a Master of Public Administration from Queen's University and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Regina.
WEATHERING THE STORM OR REAPING A HARVEST?

The appropriate relationship between universities and society is difficult to understand and to manage.

How can universities balance their various roles as educational institutions and sites of pure and applied research to maximize their value to society? Is the connection between industry and university research transparent and constructive? How has this relationship changed over time? All universities, including Saskatchewan’s, are grappling, everyday, with these questions. To advance this discussion, a working group composed of representatives from the Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy, the University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan are planning a conference which 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 roles as social actors.

Saskatchewan universities, like their counterparts across the county, have responded to external forces and generated new strategies for meeting the needs of local, national and global communities into the future. For example, 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; and they have encouraged cultural and artistic activity in new forms and for new audiences.

This conference will encourage consideration and discussion of various analytical approaches to what is broadly termed “innovation”, as well as draw on the experiences of universities and their partners inside 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 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.”

Registration details will be available shortly. For additional information, please contact:

Beth Bilson for details about the program - beth.bilson@usask.ca
SIPP for details about registration - sipp@uregina.ca

Conference information is posted at www.uregina.ca/sipp

INTERESTED in being part of this conference?
Robert Anderson

Over the last 25 years of the 20th century, the Government of Canada has come to view the settlement of Indigenous claims less as a cost and more as a vehicle for improving Aboriginal socioeconomic circumstances, a view long held by Aboriginal people. Completed negotiations and those under way involve more than 25 percent of Canada’s land mass and 100s of billions of dollars in cash and resources. They also carry with them the hope of both Aboriginal people and the governments of Canada for a more prosperous future for Canada’s Aboriginal people. Are these hopes well-founded? This is the overarching question which Dr. Anderson will address during his SIPP fellowship.

This project will examine the impact of settled claims on the socioeconomic circumstances of the Aboriginal people involved. In particular, Dr. Anderson will focus on the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, the Inuvialuit Agreement and the Saskatchewan Treaty Land Entitlement Agreement in Canada, and the Treaty of Waitangi in New Zealand. All have been in place for a number of years and impacts are evident. Are the outcomes as expected by the governments involved? By the Indigenous people involved? If not, why not? What about the attitudes of the non-Aboriginal citizens of the regions involved? How have the settlements affected them? How do the costs compare to the realized benefits? Are claims settlements effective from a financial perspective? As the output of this investigation, Dr. Anderson will produce a public policy paper exploring the implications that occurred within the British and Canadian beef industries by considering them as political economies. The first objective of this research is to understand how a BSE crisis, which creates environmental uncertainty within a beef distribution channel, affects policy-making processes and structures of related federal and provincial agencies. In addition, by conceptually contrasting the two distinctive BSE events, the second objective will be to assess whether the British BSE event had any influence over Canadian public policies related to food safety prior to May 2003.

Robert McLaren

Since the benchmark decision of the Judicial Committee of the British Privy Council in 1937, the international relations of Canadian provinces are not to be left solely in the hands of the Canadian government in Ottawa. But the international realm can be very extensive. What priorities should the Government of Saskatchewan pursue? Can it pursue all matters? And how should it organize itself to undertake the implementation of any priorities? Should it leave the matters to each individual department (the decentralized model) or should it create a super-department to

Sylvain Charlebois

On 20 March 1996, the British Secretary of State of Health announced that a possible link existed between BSE and the Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, the human variant of mad cow, thus creating uncertainty. Seven years later, a somewhat comparable fate struck the Canadian beef industry. In May 2003, the discovery of the first native North American case of BSE in Canada deflated the prospects of the industry across the country, consequently creating unmanageable uncertainty.

The paper will conceptually compare the events that occurred within the human variant of mad cow, creating uncertainty. Seven years later, a somewhat comparable fate struck the Canadian beef industry. In May 2003, the discovery of the first native North American case of BSE in Canada deflated the prospects of the industry across the country, consequently creating unmanageable uncertainty.

Prior to Fall 2004, SIPP benefited from the annual secondment of a visiting University of Regina professor. The professor was free to pursue their public policy research interests and to participate in the various activities of the Institute. This initiative has changed and, starting this past fall, the Institute offered SIPP Fellow Research Awards. All the candidates demonstrated a strong record of scholarship in fields of study that bear on public policy issues. The Research Fellows must prepare a paper for publication in the Public Policy Paper Series during the period of their award. SIPP is pleased to work with the seven excellent Research Fellows and look forward to publishing their work, described in this article, in the summer and fall of 2005.
coordinate and oversee all the individual departments (the centralized model)? Or should it adopt some other structure, perhaps a combination of the two approaches depending upon the subject matter? It is with such organizational questions like these that this paper is concerned.

**James Pitsula**

Dr. Pitsula’s research focuses on the social economy in Saskatchewan, examining the interaction between the non-profit (or non-government) and government sectors. Since the 1980s, both the federal and provincial governments have been contending with less-than-optimal economic growth and the continuing burden of high debt loads. As a result, they have relied more heavily on the voluntary sector to provide social services. A more recent development is the reconceptualizing of the voluntary sector as the “social economy,” a term that accents the important contribution it makes to the overall well-being of both the economy and society. Accompanying this shift has been the highlighting of “social entrepreneurship,” an ambiguous term the meaning of which is still being contested. At one end of the spectrum, it means for-profit companies who have an eye for the “social bottom line.” At the other end, it connotes non-profit organizations that adopt some of the methods and cultural attributes of market-oriented operators. The case study focuses on Family Service Regina as an example of a non-profit, community-based agency which has existed in one form or another in Regina since 1913. The paper explores how the agency has moved since the 1980s to a mode of operation with a “social enterprise” emphasis that perhaps serves as an indicator for the promotion of the social economy of Saskatchewan in the years to come.

**Magdalena Cismaru**

According to Protection Motivation Theory, four factors influence the persuasive-ness of a health appeal: vulnerability, severity (threat appraisal), efficacy and costs (coping appraisal). Although costs and efficacy were found to have the highest impact on persuasion and severity the least, the literature reflects uncertainty of the interaction effects and the combinatorial rules among these variables. The proposed models (additive, multiplicative, or an additive model held within each appraisal process, with second-order interactions when combining components between the two processes) failed to find empirical support. We propose a new model in which the decision-maker ranks the variables and sets minimum cut-offs. According to this model, a weighed additive relationship will take place only when the minimum cut-off levels for variables are met. This model helps explain inconsistent findings from the literature and adds insight into the decision making process involved when deciding to follow or not follow a particular recommended health behavior.

**Neal McLeod**

Dr. McLeod is researching First Nations’ Treaty rights to hunt and fish in the context of the historical evolution of related public policy in Saskatchewan. He will examine this issue in the context of liberal-democratic traditions that are often at odds with the collective rights claims of First Nations people. A thorough examination of First Nation Elders’ oral history (especially of Treaty Six) will play a key role in his analysis. Key Cree concepts such as asotamâkêwin (“sacred promise”) and tipahamâtowin (“payment” / “rent”) will inform the analysis. Dr. McLeod will also examine the ways in which the Treaties have been violated through such legal mechanisms as The Natural Resources Transfer Act and other unilateral pieces of legislation. The public policy recommendations will be grounded in the assumption that in order for there to be justice in Saskatchewan, the Treaties must be honoured and respected.

**Hafiz Akhand**

Is foreign aid beneficial? Many argue that it is. These researchers claim that foreign aid has a positive effect on growth in developing countries with good policies. A growing number of researchers, however, are finding that foreign aid has had no measurable effect on growth and hence on the standard of living in the aid recipient countries. In view of these findings, it is reasonable to ask what will happen to heavily aid dependent countries if the donor countries stop giving foreign aid. Also, what would happen if they doubled the amount of foreign aid? This paper provides answers to these counterfactual but relevant questions.
Does Saskatchewan Support Québec Sovereignty?

Dr. Raymond Blake ended a four year directorship in December when he left SIPP to pursue personal projects and enjoy a sabbatical before returning to the classroom. Dr. Blake, a Canadian historian, will use this time to finish numerous writing projects, including a book examining the legacy of former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney (by looking at policy during the Mulroney era) and a book on social welfare with Broadview Press. Following his sabbatical, Dr. Blake will join the Department of History at the University of Regina.

Staff at SIPP miss Dr. Blake's leadership and management, not to mention his easy public speaking style and sense of humour. In the Spring 2000 Newsletter, Dr. Blake was quoted as saying, "We must produce relevant work that is disseminated widely. We must offer practical advice that will help to inform the public debate. If we can do that, then perhaps governments will more often make decisions and the Meaning of Sovereignty in the Era of Globalization". Mr. Duceppe wanted the Saskatchewan audience to get the Bloc's message from the leader himself. And while he was respectfully and pleasantly received, the questions from the audience suggested that Saskatchewan people do not support a Canada without Quebec. Audience questions and comments included inquiries about the place for First Nation peoples in a separate Quebec, observations that suggest all provinces have problems with the federation from time to time, but yet do not choose to disengage from the country, and a query about the sponsorship scandal. Mr. Duceppe reiterated his view that a separate Quebec would continue to have a relationship with Canada, and a friendly one at that.

L'Institut français and SIPP also organized an evening public lecture entitled “Living in Interesting Times: The Political Dynamics of a Minority Government in Ottawa”. Professor Stephen Kenny, a historian from Campion College, moderated the event and eloquently framed the discussion for the those in attendance.

Media reports from other stops on the western tour indicated that the reaction was as cold as the weather. However, those in attendance in Regina can attest that Mr. Duceppe was welcome in Saskatchewan, despite disagreements over his goals.

The Changing of the Guard
SIPP’s Second Director Takes His Leave
for the right reasons. If we strive to be relevant in all we do, and remember the…simple but profound question - why? - we will make a difference.” Under his guidance, SIPP staff and scholars certainly worked towards being relevant and asking the ‘why’ question. We will continue to do so under the directorship of Mr. Ian Peach. We wish Dr. Blake the best of luck in his future endeavors and hope to see him at many future SIPP events.
Another group of extraordinary young leaders finished the President’s Leadership Program this past winter and made a lasting impression on SIPP staff.

This vocal group, coming from various faculties including Kinesiology, Administration, Arts, Education, Social Work and Science, were able to experience some notable additions to the 2005 Program. For example, Workshop Day was made very interactive by Sandra Steen’s session on leadership competencies. The students completed self-assessments and worked in groups to discuss what produces ‘good’ leadership.

Also, in working with the Public Service Commission, the students met with several Saskatchewan Deputy Ministers and participated in a discussion that looked at issues such as challenges for public sector leaders, desirable skills for civil servants, and opportunities within the PSC for graduating university students.

The 2005 Volunteer Day was also modified to include a discussion with a panel of professional volunteers, which included Vishal Avinashi (internationally experienced volunteer), Kristy Roach (Volunteer Regina) and Larena Hoeber (Canada Summer Games).

The 2005 students came to the Program well-prepared to discuss the broad and difficult to define topic of leadership. Through the wisdom of various speakers, the students debated styles of leadership and the need for ‘good’ leadership in society. Discussions often tried to pinpoint how and why effective leaders can motivate others to take action.

The Institute would like to extend gratitude to all our speakers, SaskPower, the department of Culture, Youth and Recreation, and the President’s Office for their invaluable support.

As part of SIPP’s ongoing commitment to contribute to the University of Regina’s educational programs and to encourage student participation in the Institute’s activities, SIPP has provided an internship to three students of the Masters of Political Science Program this winter, one of whom was “sublet” to the Canada Revenue Agency. The two interns at SIPP were obliged to spend three hours a week at the Institute, to write a paper on a public policy issue (which will be published as a Student Public Policy Essay), and to lead a seminar based on their work.

Jackie Miller-Eashappie, one of the interns, felt fortunate to take part in this internship program. “The staff has created a true sense of caring and sharing. Each member has such a diverse background and brings a unique perspective to the discussion table that an observer cannot help but become enlightened during conversations. As well, the current event discussions are thought provoking and truly entertaining.”

The interns have been encouraged to participate in SIPP’s activities, both external and internal. For example, interns attended Armchair Discussions and staff meetings, which gave the students a unique look at SIPP’s internal workings. Miller-Eashappie enjoyed SIPP’s events, suggesting that they “are thought-provoking and stimulating for everyone in attendance. They challenge one to think outside of the box and to look for new solutions and other view points. This, in itself, is a great achievement.” Further, SIPP’s various publications acted as supplemental reading for the interns.

It seems that SIPP was able to provide a positive experience for the interns as Miller-Eashappie’s final comments suggest: “Overall, SIPP’s goal to involve and engage the public in thinking about public policy and participating in discussions about issues is so vital at this time when voter apathy is greatest. Democracy can only survive if we, the general public, voice our thoughts and ideas on issues.” Through informal discussions with SIPP staff and fellows, the interns have gained valuable insight into the processes of public policy research, analysis and debate. We look forward to this internship program continuing as part of the program of the new Graduate School of Public Policy and Administration.
SIPP hosted a special reception with Ms. Judith Maxwell, President and founder of the Canadian Policy Research Networks (CPRN). A member of the Order of Canada and a recipient of several honorary degrees, Ms. Maxwell is an important member of Canada's policy community. The reception, held in partnership with the CPRN, was an informal opportunity to socialize and included a brief program that looked at three important questions of interest to CPRN: What are some key concerns about Canada's future; What key messages should CPRN be sending to federal and provincial governments; and, What ideas do you have to make Saskatchewan and Canada more sustainable societies? The reception also provided the opportunity to announce the appointment of Dr. Tom McIntosh, a longtime friend of SIPP, as the new Director of the CPRN's Health Network.

The Heavy Hand of History, Interpreting Saskatchewan's Past edited by Gregory P. Marchildon

The heavy hand of history is a metaphor for the weight exerted by past events, decisions, institutions, and attitudes on the present. The authors in this volume were asked to write essays on their interpretation of the long-run historical factors that significantly influence Saskatchewan today and will continue to shape its future. They then presented their main arguments at a one-day session at the University of Regina in an event designed to kick off the centennial year. After the morning session, the authors appeared on a larger panel to speculate about the future of the province given its past. After this stimulating day of reflection, debate and dialogue, involving a diverse audience drawn from the broader community including government and business as well as Aboriginal and voluntary organizations, the essays were revised into chapters. These include: Why the Heavy Hand of History? (by Gregory P. Marchildon); Our Shared Destiny? (by Bill Waiser); Path Dependency and Saskatchewan Politics (by David E. Smith); The Great Divide (by Gregory P. Marchildon); and, The Saskatchewan Myth (by Dale Eisler).

The book will be available in June ($10.00 / ISBN 0-88977-179-0)

For more information contact the Canadian Plains Research Center, University of Regina
email: canadian.plains@uregina.ca / web www.cprc.uregina.ca

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