

## POLICY WATCH

**Policy Watch is a selection of articles, research links, and updates designed to keep you informed and engaged about important Canadian and international policy issues. It is also our platform to communicate new Canada25 policy developments such as chapter policy projects, national policy reports and upcoming projects. Please feel free to send in your thoughts, suggestions and any relevant materials to [policywatch@canada25.com](mailto:policywatch@canada25.com).**

In this issue of Policy Watch you will find several articles and resources for civic engagement issues, intergovernmental policy, and some general fiscal and international policy resources.

### **Civic Engagement**

#### **Are Young Canadians Becoming Political Dropouts? A Comparative Perspective.**

This piece looks at how and why young Canadians are getting or not getting engaged in the political process. By Henri Milner, IRPP. <http://www.irpp.org/choices/archive/vol11no3.pdf>

#### **Smart Recruitment: Recruiting Community College and Institute Graduates into the Public Service.**

The Public Policy Forum has an interesting piece on reform of the civil service and new ways to ensure that the technological and skills needs of the public service are being met.

[http://www.pforum.ca/eforum/Smart\\_Recruitment\\_RPT\\_eng.pdf](http://www.pforum.ca/eforum/Smart_Recruitment_RPT_eng.pdf)

#### **Civil Society and the United Nations**

John Foster of the North-South Institute discusses the recent United Nations efforts to strengthen the work and role of Civil Society in development work.

[http://www.nsi-ins.ca/english/news\\_views/oped59.asp](http://www.nsi-ins.ca/english/news_views/oped59.asp)

### **Fiscal & Economic**

#### **Federal Government "Spending Spree" Jeopardizes Fiscal Health and Increases Risk of Budget Deficit.**

Economists at the Fraser Institute argue that the federal spending habits of the recent minority government will have significant impacts on the availability of tax relief to Canadians. The report is available at: <http://www.fraserinstitute.ca/shared/readmore.asp?sNav=nr&id=667>

#### **Lifting the Boats: Policies to Make Work Pay.**

Almost one-sixth of workers in Canada earn very low wages, according to the Canadian Policy Research Network. Ron Saunders examines the problem and a variety of policies that could be implemented to improve the lot of the working poor. [www.cprn.org/documents/37297\\_en.pdf](http://www.cprn.org/documents/37297_en.pdf)

#### **A Review of Canada's Economic Performance.**

The Conference Board of Canada examines Canada's recent economic performance finding surging consumer spending and strong business investment are driving Canada's economic performance.

[http://www.conferenceboard.ca/press/2005/Canadian\\_Summer05.asp](http://www.conferenceboard.ca/press/2005/Canadian_Summer05.asp)

This interesting article from the Ottawa Citizen presents a rebuttal by Thomas d'Aquino of the Canadian Council of Chief Executives responding to Canadian Labour Congress president Ken Georgetti's criticisms of the Council.

[http://www.ceocouncil.ca/en/view/?area\\_id=1&document\\_id=435](http://www.ceocouncil.ca/en/view/?area_id=1&document_id=435)

### **Sustainable Development**

The Institute for Research on Public Policy has devoted the July-August issue of its magazine Policy Options to exploring sustainable development. It provides a series of articles and resources from corporate social responsibility to Kyoto implementation plans.

<http://www.irpp.org/po/index.htm>

### **Equalization Reform that Works: Taking Seriously the Idea that Incentives Matter**

Bruce Winchester of the Atlantic Institute of Market Studies argues that equalization payments from the federal government to provinces have created a situation of dependency for certain provinces.

<http://www.aims.ca/library/EqualizationRoundtable.pdf>

## **Innovation**

### **From Discovery to Market: Creating a Multi-Stakeholder Partnership in Support of Canada's Innovative Health Industries**

Geneviève Lépine and Graham Fox from the Public Policy Forum present an argument that government, industry, and other stakeholders could strengthen the ability to commercialize Canadian health R&D.

[http://www.ppforum.com/ow/chip\\_report\\_english.pdf](http://www.ppforum.com/ow/chip_report_english.pdf)

### **Canada's Healthy R&D sector**

Spending on research and development in the field of health is representing more and more of total research and development spending in Canada, according to a new Statistics Canada report.

<http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/050727/d050727b.htm>

## **Cities**

### **Changing Agendas**

David Rudd of the Canadian Institute of Strategic Studies reflects on the risks that terrorism poses to residents of large Western cities. [http://www.ciss.ca/Comment\\_Londonterror.htm](http://www.ciss.ca/Comment_Londonterror.htm)

Next month watch for articles on international policy. Please feel free to send in materials, ideas, or let us know if you'd like to contribute a piece for future policy watch issues.

If you have any questions, comments or ideas for Canada25 please email [policywatch@canada25.com](mailto:policywatch@canada25.com).