

COMMUNITY SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL OF TORONTO
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Issue # 41, August 2006

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the fortieth edition of the electronic newsletter from the Community Social Planning Council of Toronto. At the beginning of each month, this e-bulletin provides news on the activities of the CSPC-T and our partners, as well as access to new research and policy products and networks, in print and web-based forms. We hope it is useful. We value and welcome your feedback at the email address below.

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<http://www.socialplanningtoronto.org/CSPC-T%20Newsletters/Newsletter%202006.htm>

Please note the deadline to submit information for the next e-Newsletter is August 25, 2006.

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1. NEWS FROM THE COUNCIL

The Family Service Association of Toronto and Community Social Planning Council of Toronto release “On the Front Lines,” report on working conditions in the community services sector

Toronto’s community service sector is facing a crisis of growing demand, inadequate funding and persistently low wages. As community organizations struggle to provide such critical services as employment and training, in-home elderly care, shelters for abused women, immigrant settlement, and early learning and child care, the consequences of these pressures extend beyond their workforces to the health and well-being of Toronto residents, particularly vulnerable and at-risk populations.

“Toronto is a diverse and rapidly changing city with significant, complex social needs. The community sector has been doing an extraordinary job but they are doing it on a shoestring. It’s impossible to keep services accessible, accountable and reactive to the multitude of needs if agencies are struggling just to keep the lights on. It is not a model that can be sustained,” says John Campey, Executive Director of the Community Social Planning Council of Toronto.

On the Front Lines of Toronto’s Community Service Sector, a report released on July 17 by Family Service Association of Toronto and the Community Social Planning Council of Toronto, reveals that Toronto’s community service sector is being starved of funding while demand for services has grown following major funding cuts to welfare, social housing, child care, health and education programs. At the same time, Canada’s non-profit sector is a major economic contributor worth \$62 billion.

“The non-profit community service sector is like the elephant in the room. It’s a sector that everyone relies on, that is huge in comparison to the economy and that has been punching above its weight for more than a decade. Yet, the woefully inadequate level of funding does not recognize the sector’s critical role in our economic and social well-being,” says Laurel Rothman, Director of Social Reform at Family Service Association of Toronto. “Agencies are struggling now in our booming economic times. If we continue along this path of chronic underfunding and hit a downturn in the economy, community needs will escalate. Yet the sector will not be in a strong position to respond. Inevitably there will be serious consequences for the safety and well-being of many people.”

Over the last decade, numerous government services have been downloaded to Toronto’s non-profit organizations without the funding to support them. Funders have also shifted from providing core funding to short-term project funding, which creates instability and contributes to deteriorating working conditions. As stress grows among agencies to find funds to cover ongoing operational costs, qualified workers are exiting the sector in search of better wages, benefits and job security.

An accompanying report entitled *On the Front Lines of Toronto’s Immigrant- and Refugee-Serving Sector* highlights the effect of sector instability on newcomer communities. Toronto’s community service sector is often the only line of support for

newcomers, who face disproportionately high rates of poverty, unemployment/underemployment, and barriers to housing in the country's largest immigrant reception centre.

This report notes that the already crucial role that Toronto's immigrant- and refugee-serving sector plays will only grow in importance as Canada's immigrant population increases significantly over the next decade.

The *Front Lines* project conducted surveys, focus groups and roundtable discussions with front-line staff from a variety of agencies in Toronto. Among the reports' seven recommendations, the authors are calling for:

- all levels of government to increase funding levels;
- a shift from project funding to sustainable funding models;
- funding practices that are more consistent with funders' stated goals; and
- better recognition of the work and value of the sector.

Highlights from the two reports: On the Front lines of Toronto's Community Services Sector, and On the Front Lines of Toronto's Immigrant-and Refugee-Serving Sector:

There are approximately 1,342 community-based human services agencies in Toronto, excluding those providing arts and culture, recreation and child care services. Government funding accounts for 72% of the community service sector's revenue.

Focus groups and a survey of 59 front-line and managerial staff from Toronto's community service sector found that:

- Government underfunding is leading to deteriorating working conditions which put the quality and availability of community services at risk;
- Funding cuts have led to sector stress and fierce competition for remaining funding sources;
- The shift from "core funding" to short term "project funding" has led to stress for workers in precarious jobs, inconsistent salaries across the sector, and instability of services for clients;
- Wage rates have not kept up with inflation. Low wages and lack of benefits contribute to deteriorating working conditions;
- Agencies are finding it difficult to attract/retain experienced staff. Staff turnover affects the quality of services;

Surveys of 321 staff in 61 Toronto agencies which serve immigrants and refugees found that:

- 27% of the agencies rely on unstable "project funding" as their main source of income;
- 69% of participants earned less than \$40,000/year. Almost 55% worked overtime, but 30% of those workers received no overtime pay, or time in lieu;
- 24% of participants were on temporary contracts. 21% were working more than one job.

- 80% of participants reported being satisfied with their jobs, but 44% had considered leaving during past year. The most common reason (74%) was low wages.

Funding for the reports was provided through the United Way of Greater Toronto Social Research Grants Initiative.

Full reports available at: www.socialplanningtoronto.org and www.fsatoronto.com, and media coverage can be accessed at:

http://www.thestar.com/NASApp/cs/ContentServer?pagename=thestar/Layout/Article_Type1&c=Article&cid=1153433434248&call_page=TS_EditorialOpinion&call_pageid=968256290204&call_pagepath=Editorial/Opinion&pubid=968163964505 and <http://www.socialplanningtoronto.org/Newspaper%20Articles/Social%20agencies%20face%20funding%20crisis%20Jul%2020,%2006.htm>.

Employment Opportunities with the Council

The CSPC-T is currently seeking a Director of Community Engagement, and a Program Support Staff. Details of these positions can be found on our website at

<http://www.socialplanningtoronto.org/Index2.htm> under “events & opportunities”.

Candidates from equity-seeking groups are actively encouraged to apply for these positions.

2. UPCOMING EVENTS

Prisoners Justice Action Committee (PJAC)

Prisoners Justice Week

August 10th, 2006 marks the 31st Anniversary of Prisoners Justice Day (PJD). PJD began in 1975 in Millhaven Penitentiary in Kingston ON to commemorate the first anniversary of the death of Eddie Nalon, a prisoner in segregation awaiting medical assistance.

For 2006, the PJAC will hold Prisoners Justice Week - six days of cultural events, demonstrations and workshops

Date: August 8 – 13

Join us in challenging arbitrary detention, secret trials, racial profiling, police brutality, forced psychiatric treatment, and the criminalization of youth and Toronto's Black Community.

For details on the week's activities contact Antonia at: pjd@ckln.fm

Completing the Circle – West Side Story Job Fair/Youth Outreach

This event will involve games (3 on 3 basket ball tourney, 3 point shoot out), talent show and special guests.

Date & Time: August 12th, 10:00 am – 6:00 pm

Location: Dixon Park (Kipling & Dixon)

Free Food and Drink and lots of prizes.

For information about this event contact Adrian at: 416-243-0066 ext. 27 and for general information contact Mary Harari at: mharari@careerfoundation.org

Maria A. Shchuka Library

Teen Summer programs

This summer, the Maria A. Shchuka Library is offering workshops on music production hosted by award winning beat-boxer, DJ, lyricist, and producer, Sean Maxim Mauricette aka Subliminal.

Date and Time: Thursday, August 17, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

There will also be a free teen movie night. Snacks will be provided

Date & Time: Wednesday, August 30 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Location of both events: Maria A. Shchuka, 1745 Eglinton Avenue West

For further information contact Elsa Ngan at: 416-394-1000 or Email:

engan@torontopubliclibrary.ca

Visions in Green Present

Jerk & Jazz Festival

You invited to one of Toronto's number one family event.

Date & Time: Saturday, August 19th, 1:00 pm – 10:00 pm

For more information contact, Angelita Elliott at: 416-431-1222

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and Ontario Parks & Rec Sport Initiative

Bring your family and come out to an afternoon of fun – Find Your Sport! Try Them All!

Date & Time: Saturday, August 12th, starting at 12:00 pm

Location: Christie Pitts, 749 Bloor St. (Main Field)

The event is free. For further information contact Heather Purdon at: 416-977-9881 or by email: heatherp@metisnation.org

Planet in Focus

Youth, Camera, Action Environmental Video Production Camp

Planet in Focus International Environmental Film and Video Festival announces its 6th annual two-week hands-on video production Youth Summer Workshop. This is for youth between the ages of 14 and 18 who are interested in film and video and are passionate about the environment.

Date & Time: August 14-25, Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Location: Week 1 Innis College (2 Sussex Ave); Week 2 Charles Street Video (65

Fee: \$100 for the two weeks (payable on the first day of camp). Scholarships are available (please indicate requests on your application).

To apply or for further information visit: www.planetinfocus.org, email: myan@planetinfocus.org, telephone Myan at: 416-531-1769

JVS Toronto

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

JVS Toronto cordially invites you to their JVS 59th AGM and 60th Anniversary kick-off!

Date: Wednesday, September 20

Location: Sala Caboto, 40 Playfair Avenue, Toronto

For further details visit: <http://www.jvstoronto.org/index.php?page=148>

Campaign For Public Education (CPE)

CPE Summit

The 3rd Annual CPE (Pre-election) summit – Advancing Quality Public Education will feature:

- Q & A with Mayor David Miller
- Featured guest speaker
- CPE's election campaign platform launch
- Meet CPE-endorsed school trustees candidates

Date & Time: Sunday, September 24, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Location: North York Civic Centre, 5100 Yonge Street

For further information visit the CPE's website at:

<http://www.campaignforpubliceducation.ca/>

Women's Intercultural Network (WIN)

Traditions in Transition Video

WIN, an umbrella organization whose members are women from diverse racial, cultural, and ethnic communities has embarked on a video project to record the experiences of senior immigrant women in Canada. We are therefore asking community organization to select elderly immigrant women to participate in this important documentary project.

For further information or an application form, kindly contact Olga Gil at: 416-766-6858 or via email: olga.gil@sympatico.ca

FUNDING

Team Spirit

Call for Community Sport Program Proposals

Team Spirit: Aboriginal Girls in Sport is a national project designed to increase community sport opportunities for Aboriginal girls and young women (ages 9-18). *Team Spirit* is a partnership between the Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women and Sport and Physical Activity (CAAWS) and the Aboriginal Sport Circle, and has received Sport Participation Development Program funding from Heritage Canada, Sport Canada.

CAAWS and the Aboriginal Sport Circle are now seeking proposals from organizations across Canada to develop and implement multi-year community sport programs for Aboriginal girls and young women. Three programs will be selected to receive \$6,000 in funding over two years (2006/2007 - \$3,000; 2007/2008 - \$3,000).

In addition to program funding, successful organizations will benefit from:

- A *Team Spirit* consultation hosted in 2006/2007 to discuss the needs of Aboriginal girls and young women, build partnerships and community support, develop action strategies, and access CAAWS resources including the *On the Move* Handbook.
- Ongoing support and communication with CAAWS and the Aboriginal Sport Circle.
- Profile through *Team Spirit* Project communication, including a project website, press releases, and a promising practices resource that will be developed to support the implementation of community-based programs for Aboriginal girls and young women in other communities across Canada.
- Participation in the *Team Spirit* monitoring and evaluation strategy to assess community program and national project success.

Proposals are due August 8, 2006

For more information, visit: <http://caaws.ca/onthemove/e/aboriginal/communication.htm>

**Human Resources and Social Development Canada (HRSDC)
Understanding the Early Years (UEY) Call for Proposals**

HRSDC is announcing a Call for Proposals for the Understanding the Early Years (UEY) Initiative delivered in accordance with the Social Development Partnerships Program (SDPP) Terms and Conditions.

Understanding the Early Years (UEY) is a national initiative that enables members of communities across Canada to better understand the needs of their young children and families so that they can determine the best programs and services to meet those needs.

The focus of UEY is community capacity building using local research on young children. The broad objectives of UEY are to:

- Strengthen the capacity of communities to use quality local research to help them make decisions to enhance children's lives; and
- Enable community members to work together to address the needs of children.

Proposals will be accepted until September 29, 2006.

For more information, visit: http://www.sdc.gc.ca/en/hip/sd/300_UEYInfo.shtml

3. NEWS FROM OUR PARTNERS

Conference Board of Canada

Roundtable on Socio-Economic Determinants of Health

While there is great emphasis from government on the funding and restructuring of the health care system, more emphasis is needed on the socio-economic determinants of health. Social and economically disadvantaged people have less access to health resources, they are less healthy and they die earlier than people in more privileged socio-economic positions.

The Conference Board of Canada has created a new network that will allow key stakeholders to gather together and share challenges, but also offer solutions to these issues.

To receive an invitation to this meeting or to find out more about becoming a member, please contact gagnon@conferenceboard.ca or go to: <http://www.conferenceboard.ca/RSEDH/rsedh.pdf>

Toronto Seniors Council

Current Programs

Formed in 1999 following the amalgamation of the City of Toronto, the Toronto Seniors Council is a non-profit organization of individual seniors and interested groups working to address the issues and concerns of older adults in Toronto.

Current programs include:

- *friendly to seniors* a unique initiative, designed and conducted by trained senior volunteers, to foster greater knowledge, understanding and support for our rapidly expanding older population and,
- Annual Symposium, September 20, 2006 from 10:00am to 12:00pm, this years topic Macular Degeneration, presented in partnership with the CNIB.

For more information on membership, the Symposium or to find out how you can make a difference by becoming a volunteer call 416-351-0095 x 215.

Centre for Social Justice (CSJ)

Call for Volunteers - Become a Community Educator for Social Justice

Students for Social Justice, a project of the CSJ with support of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation, the Ontario English Catholic Teachers Federation, and many other groups, is an exciting new initiative to encourage young people to become more informed and more active on social justice issues. The project will train university students and recent graduates to deliver workshops at local high schools about issues of inequality and democracy in Canada and around the world.

The first training session of volunteers will take place from August 24-27 at the Social Justice Summer Retreat (travel, accommodation and food costs will be covered).

Please forward resume and statement of interest by email to students@socialjustice.org
Applications received on or before August 4 will be given priority.

The Maytree Foundation

Maytree Public Policy Training Institute

The Maytree Public Policy Training Institute is an innovative learning program designed for individuals and organizations with a demonstrated interest and engagement in public policy. The objective of the program is to provide participants with the knowledge and skills required to develop, influence and monitor public policy on issues relevant to their communities of interest.

The Institute begins in October 2006 and will offer a comprehensive five module training series of one and two day sessions over a six-month period.

Application deadline is Friday, August 25, 2006 by 5pm.

For program guidelines and application forms go to:

www.maytree.com/MaytreeInitiatives/ppti.htm For more information contact Anita K. Srinivasan at: anita.srinivasan@maytree.com or by telephone: 416- 944-2627 ext. 245

It's Up to You

Help Us Let People Know How to Confirm Their Eligibility to Vote

You can vote if you are a **Canadian Citizen**, at least 18 years old, and you **live, rent or own** property in Toronto.

The City of Toronto needs to verify the eligibility of some voters before the election on November 13, 2006. We would greatly appreciate your assistance in letting people know why we need to confirm their eligibility to vote and how they can confirm their qualifications with the City.

The City has received the preliminary list of electors for the 2006 municipal election from the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC). This list, unfortunately, contains the names of 277,000 people with unconfirmed qualifications.

Since only qualified voters can be included in the voters' list, the City is sending a letter asking these people to confirm their qualifications. Anyone who does not return the letter by September 8 will be removed from the list and will then need to have their name added during the revision period or when they go to vote.

Help us get the message out to individuals who may be affected. For further information, please contact the elections office at: 416-338-111 or visit the website: www.toronto.ca/elections

4. CONFERENCES AND CALLS FOR PAPERS

XVI International AIDS Conference

Time to Deliver

The AIDS 2006 Conference theme, Time to Deliver, underscores the continued urgency in bringing effective HIV prevention and treatment strategies to communities the world over. The International AIDS Conference is one of the most important gatherings for the release and discussion of key scientific developments in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

AIDS 2006 will bring together the movement of people responding to the HIV/AIDS epidemic to share their lessons and together stake out the road ahead. In doing this, the Conference directly affects the lives of those living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. AIDS 2006 is a catalyst for change.

Date: August 13-18, 2006

Location: Metro Toronto Convention Centre (MTCC) North & South Buildings

For details about the conference go to: <http://www.aids2006.org/start.aspx>

Centre for Social Justice (CSJ)
9th Annual Social Justice Summer Retreat

This annual event brings together people from a variety of social movements – Activists from all walks of life. You, friends and family are invited to join is for a wonderful time of relaxation and renewal.

Date: August 24-27th

Location: Camp Arowhon, Algonquin Park

The 2006 theme is Power in Movements: Movements in Power?

For further information and to register go to: www.socialjustice.org or contact Ewa Cerda at justice@socialjustice.org or call CSJ at: 416-927-0777 or toll free: 1-888-803-8881

RUCKUS! Youth Activism and Anti-Racism Conference and Events
Call for Workshop Proposals and Involvement - Youth Action Network (YAN)

Ruckus! Anti-racism conference is an annual conference and series of events held in the Greater Toronto Area for high-school aged youth to address the lack of inclusion into current social justice, community and environmental advocacy movements.

The project aims to critically examine multiculturalism, race and social justice and introduce participants into existing community work, and to provide spaces to find creative ways of bringing anti-racism principles into community-based social justice and environmental advocacy. Practically, we want to address "what specifically can youth do" to become active in their communities. Ruckus! also brings together community organizations and initiatives by youth under one-roof to show-case the amazing work that is already being done with the hopes of attracting more youth to "Do Something".

We are seeking both organizations and youth who are interested in conducting a workshop at the conference. Proposals should be no longer than 1-2 pages.

Proposal submission deadline is August 20th, 2006

Launch Party and Events: September 17th – 20th, 2006
Conference: September 22nd and 23rd, 2006

For more information Contact Erica Stillo at: 416-316-1327 or stillo.eric@gmail.com or visit: <http://www.youthactionnetwork.org/ruckus>

The FCJ Refugee Centre
Conference on Gender and Migration

This conference will be unique in style and purpose, setting up an environment where participants will be challenged by theory, methodology, and a concrete invitation to action and practice.

Date: Thursday September 28th

Location: The Brigantine Room, Harbourfront Centre

For more details or to register visit www.fcjsisters.ca/refugeecentre or contact Heather Lash at: 416.469.9754 or by email: lash@silentspiral.com

The Centre for the Study of Education and Work, OISE/UT and The Toronto Training Board (TTB)

Conference: Skills, Jobs and Immigrants: What's Working, Who's Working?

This conference will:

- Provide a rare opportunity for participants from different sectors to meet and discuss common concerns;
- Facilitate the development of more coordinated approaches between employers, labour unions, academics and community workers;
- Offer participants a chance to learn about innovative projects that are working to move foreign trained professionals into the trades, professions and occupations; create connections between unions, immigrants/newcomers, youth, and community organizations; effectively integrate people into the labour force; and influence policy and programme development;
- Promote the adoption and/or adaptation of successful and innovative approaches to the integration of newcomers into the Canadian labour force, focusing on how learning can facilitate more equitable access to jobs.

Date: October 12-13, 2006

Location: Hart House, University of Toronto

For further information contact Rhonda Sussman at: 416-923-6641 x. 2392

University of Peace (UPEACE)

Connect! - Exploring the Complexity of Diaspora

The UN mandated **University for Peace (UPEACE)** is calling for submissions from emerging artists (less than 6 years of professional experience) for a group show from **October 18th to 23rd**. The exhibition will explore the complex notion of diaspora, its multifaceted characteristics whether it is observed from the country of origin or the host country. As a catalyser for cultural, political, social and economical dynamics, diasporas have the capacity to be both tools for peace and tools for conflict. This dichotomy will be examined by emerging artists using different media to provoke and stimulate the public dialogue on diaspora.

Connect! is conceived as an inspiring and provocative companion to the High Level Expert Forum, *Capacity Building for Peace and Development: Roles of Diaspora*, being organized by the International Centre of UPEACE in Toronto on October 19 and 20th 2006.

Application deadline is August 10th

For submission and information please contact Pierre Terver at: pterver@upeace.org or Pauline Ling at: 416-321-3372. You may also visit the website at: www.upeace.org

OCASI Professional Development Conference – Call for Session Proposals

Over the years, trainers and consultants from the community, private and government sector as well as staff from member agencies of the Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI) and from other community organizations have presented many of the training sessions and other activities at the OCASI Annual Professional Development Conference.

OCASI invites you to submit a session proposal for this year's Professional Development Conference

Date: October 18, 19 and 20, 2006

Location: Geneva Park Conference Centre, Orillia, Ontario

Submission deadline is August 11th

The full text of the Call For Proposals is on the OCASI website at:

<http://www.ocasi.org/index.php?qid=895&catid=166>

en français: <http://www.ocasi.org/index.php?qid=896>

For further information please contact Afua Marcus, Tel 416-322-4950, ext 250, Fax 416-322-8084, or e-mail conference@ocasi.org.

Art for Real Change Festival (ARCFest) 2006

5 Day Festival

ARCFest is a Social Justice Arts Festival that will be held from October 23rd-29th in multiple venues in the Queen West Art and Design District and Parkdale neighbourhoods in Toronto. As a multi-disciplinary festival, ARCFest features art events, panel discussions, speakers, and workshops addressing local social justice issues.

We are looking for provocative, radical, inspiring, empowering, innovative and/or enlightening works from across the artistic media (i.e., film, poetry, performing arts, music, visual arts and anything else you consider art). Proposals must address local social justice/ activist/human rights issues.

We encourage projects that are co-created or co-produced by an artist together with an organization involved in social justice pursuits (though this is not a requirement)

ARCFest is committed to supporting equity and embraces submissions from diverse communities.

For more information: email info@arcfest.org or visit our website www.arcfest.org

University of Windsor
Building Bridges - A Labour Studies Conference,

This conference seeks to bring together academics, movement leaders and activists and artists to analyse the sources of division within and between labour and social movements, and to foster strategies for building more effective forms of solidarity. This conference will also be taking place at the same time at the 9th Annual Windsor Labour Arts Festival.

Date: February 2-3, 2007
Location: University of Windsor

Call for Participants

If you are interested in being a participant either as a Panellist or Discussant or for additional information about the conference, kindly contact Dr. Alan Hall at: hall4@uwindsor.ca, or Dr. Stephanie Ross at: stephr@uwindsor.ca, by August 15, 2006.

5. INFORMATION RESOURCES

5.1 New Reports and Publications

Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA)
Getting Better health Care: Lessons from (and to) Canada

According to a recently released report by the CCPA, the federal and provincial governments must work together to reduce disparities in our health care system. The report highlights key reforms governments must make to reduce health disparities and shows that reform and investment in public health care will deliver equity for the best price.

The report examines trends in health care reform, specifically in the areas of governance, finance and coverage, human resources and information. It finds that:

- Canada’s health care systems have become increasingly fragmented and riddled with inequities over time;
- public insurance and investment is cheaper than private;
- prescription drugs are the biggest cost driver and the public sector has the greatest ability to manage costs and ensure universal access;
- health care professionals must be trained and deployed differently; and
- information systems are key to innovation and improving access and outcomes.

The complete report is available on the CCPA web site: <http://www.policyalternatives.ca> (PDF File, 1862 Kb, 78 pages)

Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA)
The Art of the Impossible: Fiscal Federalism and Fiscal Balance in Canada

This report by the CCPA shows that the largest contributor to the so-called fiscal imbalance is interprovincial tax cut competition, not federal cuts in transfer payments. It shows that federal cuts in transfers to the provinces had little real impact on provincial finances as most of the cuts were simply passed on to local governments.

The study looks at historical data between 1961 and 2005 and finds that, contrary to popular belief, federal transfers were not responsible for the growth in the Canadian public economy. Instead, it can be attributed to the willingness of provincial governments to tax their citizens to pay for improved public services.

These conclusions have significant implications for the current debate over fiscal federalism and fiscal imbalance. Most importantly, the study points to the need to address the issue of tax competition among provinces.

In addition to adding to the calls for putting highly mobile tax bases under federal jurisdiction, the study makes two new recommendations for change:

1. the introduction of an interprovincial tax treaty that would limit tax competition among the provinces; and/or
2. the establishment of national “umbrella taxes” which would protect provincial tax room by allowing the deduction of pre-determined levels of provincial taxes from federal taxes payable.

The complete report is available on the CCPA web site: <http://www.policyalternatives.ca> (PDF File, 1350 Kb, 58 pages)

National Council of Welfare (NCW) Poverty Profile 2002 and 2003

According to a recently released report by the NCW, Canada needs a national anti-poverty plan to ensure a successful future for our country. The report, *Poverty Profile, 2002 and 2003*, shows that in spite of progress made in the fight against poverty among seniors, poverty rates for children and working-age adults are about the same as they were almost a quarter century ago. Income inequality is growing and many groups of Canadians continue to have unacceptably high poverty rates. For those in need today, however, Canada’s social safety net offers less protection against poverty than ever before. Governments cannot walk away from social policy. About 16 percent of Canadians, or 4.9 million people, lived in poverty in 2003. Many jobs pay too little to let people pull themselves and their families out of poverty.

This report shows that full-time, full-year employment is not always enough to make ends meet. The report calls for a long-term plan with clear goals to prevent and reduce poverty and inequality. The plan needs to explore innovative solutions and include a process that involves Canadians living in poverty. It should respect the social and economic rights that Canadians have under international agreements, including the right

to an adequate standard of living. To be effective, it must have indicators and targets so that governments and leaders can be held accountable.

The complete report is available at:

<http://www.ncwcnbes.net/htmldocument/reportPovertyProfile20022003/PP20022003Eng.pdf> (PDF file - 3.5MB, 165 pages)

Inter Pares

Boundaries of Belonging - Reflections on Migration Policies into the 21st Century

This paper examines the politics of categorization that defines people who move, as well as the migration containment policies that set and maintain the boundaries of these categories. The paper explains why “the problem” is not migration *per se*, but rather the way the powerful seek to control and contain the movement of people. Migration policies are a form of population control; the issue is who is controlled, and how. And because of the who, and the how, migration policy is a justice issue. Indeed, it is one of the most pressing justice issues of our time, and requires the consolidated and coordinated attention of all of us concerned with issues of human rights and social justice. It cannot be ignored.

For the full report visit:

http://www.interpares.ca/en/publications/pdf/boundaries_of_belonging.pdf

Canadian Policy Research Networks (CPRN)

Building Blocks for Strong Communities - A Profile of Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises in Canada

This multi-volume study compares the characteristics, economic and social contributions, and public policy supports for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and small and medium-sized community organizations (SMOs) in Canada and in international context. It finds significant gaps in our knowledge of community organizations and advocates better supports for them.

Economically speaking, SMEs generate 43% of Canada’s private sector GDP and 62% of private sector jobs. But, SMOs are also economically significant. The SMO sector employs more than a million Canadians and handles some \$77 billion in revenues every year – about 70% of those for the non-profit sector as a whole.

Since the 1980’s, Canada and other countries have put in place a significant array of policies and supports for SMEs, in light of their contribution to the economy and job creation, and the need to compensate for market imperfections that disadvantage them. This current study makes the case for similar support for SMOs

To access or download a copy of this study visit:

<http://www.cprn.org/en/doc.cfm?doc=1505>

Community Foundations Canada

Unsettled: Legal and policy Barriers for Newcomers to Canada

This new research study concludes that Canadian social policy is undermining the success of newcomers to this country, hampering their access to employment and vital services and creating a web of discrimination that makes it harder for immigrants to settle here, even though they are more educated and more skilled than their predecessors.

The research was conducted as part of the *Community Scholar in Law Reform* Project, a joint initiative of Community Foundations Canada and the Law Commission of Canada. The project was launched last year after both organizations identified a lack of comprehensive research regarding the impact of legal and policy barriers on the settlement of immigrants.

Unsettled identifies seven key barriers and accompanying recommendations for Canada's policy and law-makers. It also includes suggestions for non-governmental organizations and a compendium of ideas that lists programs already working to overcome the barriers identified in the report.

The full study is available at www.lcc.gc.ca or www.cfc-fcc.ca. The literature review is available at www.cfc-fcc.ca/socialjustice/pdf/LegalPolicyBarriersReview.pdf

The Daily, Statistics Canada

July 7

[Labour Force Survey, June 2006](#)

Following large gains the previous month, employment was little changed in June, leaving the unemployment rate at a 32-year low of 6.1%. Since the start of the year, employment is up 1.3% or 216,000, more than double the growth of the first half of 2005.

There were solid gains in health care and social assistance in June. This increase continues an upward trend that began at the start of this year, particularly in British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario. Employment in construction, however, pulled back in June.

Declines in full-time employment in June offset increases in part time, mostly among youths and adult men. Following strong gains since March of this year, employment was flat for adult women in June.

A more detailed summary, Labour Force Information is available at:

<http://www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/71-001-XIE/71-001-XIE2006006.pdf>

(PDF file - 371K, 58 pages)

July 10

[Study: The Death of a Spouse and the Impact on Income, 1993 to 2003](#)

Senior women suffered economically from widowhood, much more than senior men,

according to a new study. Senior widows saw their median adjusted family income decline continuously in the five years following the loss of their husband. On the other hand, widowers' median adjusted income was higher five years after the wife's death when compared to the year before that event.

Overall, 51% of widowers suffered a loss of adjusted income after five years of widowhood compared with 72% of widows.

Not only did widows' adjusted income decline, more of them fell below the low-income threshold following widowhood. After five years of widowhood, 8.7% of widows were living in low income, compared with 5.1% of widowers.

For widows, the loss came mainly from lower pension income and earnings. For widowers, lower earnings contributed the most to the decrease in adjusted income.

For more details read the report, **Death of a Spouse: The Impact on Income for Senior Men and Women** at: <http://www.statcan.ca/english/research/11-621-MIE/11-621-MIE2006046.pdf> (PDF file - 166K, 13 pages)

July 11

[Access to health Care Services, January to December 2005](#)

The new report, *Access to Health Care Services in Canada*, provides updated results of the experiences of patients waiting for care, based on 12 full months of data for 2005. Preliminary results from the first six months of data collection were reported in *The Daily* on January 31, 2006.

The updated report confirms that waiting times remain the number one barrier for Canadians who had difficulties in accessing specialized health care services last year.

Between 2003 and 2005, median waiting times for all specialized services under study remained relatively stable at between three and four weeks. (The median is the point where exactly one half of waiting times are higher and one half lower.) Most individuals reported they received care within three months, which was also relatively unchanged.

While most individuals who accessed a specialized service did not experience any difficulties, some did. An estimated 2.8 million people aged 15 or older visited a medical specialist in 2005. Of these, 19% reported that they faced difficulties accessing care.

Of the 1.6 million people who reported that they had non-emergency surgery, 13% reported that they had difficulty accessing care. Similarly, 13% of the 2.2 million people who accessed a diagnostic test also reported difficulties.

The report, **Access to Health Care Services in Canada, January to December 2005** is available at: <http://www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/82-575-XIE/82-575-XIE2006002.pdf> (PDF file - 370K, 25 pages)

July 12

[General Social Survey: Commuting Times, 2005](#)

The average Canadian now spends nearly two full weeks (12 days) a year getting to work and returning home, according to a new study on commuting, the first of a series of four that paint a picture of the daily activities of Canadians.

Commuters spent an average of 63 minutes a day making the round trip between their place of residence and their workplace in 2005. That's the equivalent of nearly 275 hours of commuting, based on a 260-day work year.

In 1992, they spent 54 minutes commuting; by 1998, that had risen to 59 minutes.

The study, based on data from the 2005 General Social Survey on time use, found that average times were significantly higher in 2005 than in 1992 in five of Canada's six largest urban areas.

The longest commute was in the metropolitan area of Toronto, where commuters took an average of 79 minutes for a round trip, or roughly 340 hours in a work year, or two solid weeks.

For more details read the report on **General Social Survey on Time Use: Cycle 19: The Time it Takes to Get to Work and Back** at:

<http://www.statcan.ca/english/research/89-622-XIE/89-622-XIE2006001.pdf>

(PDF file - 261K, 25 pages)

July 13

[Family violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2006](#)

Victimization surveys have shown that spousal violence frequently involves multiple incidents. However, a new study examining 10 years of police-reported data shows that most spousal violence is reported to police on only a single occasion.

The study, which analyzed spousal violence offenders and their contact with police using a 10-year data file for 1995 to 2004, found that 8 out of every 10 spousal offenders were reported to police on only one occasion during the 10-year time frame. Persons accused of repeated spousal violence (those with two to four police-reported incidents of spousal violence) accounted for 18% of the total. Only 1% was considered chronic abusers; that is they were involved in five or more reported incidents.

These results may be partially explained by the 2004 General Social Survey (GSS) on victimization that found that only 28% of victims of spousal violence turned to police for help. Incidents that are reported tend to depend on the severity and frequency of the violence, and on whether children were witnesses. Other factors include whether the victim was female, young, Aboriginal or turned to others for support.

This study is available from the 2006 edition of **Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile** at: <http://www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/85-224-XIE/85-224-XIE2006000.pdf> (PDF file - 405K, 78 pages)

July 21

[General Social Survey: Time use patterns of Older Canadians, 2005](#)

More individuals aged 55 to 64 were working later in life and spending less time in leisure activities in 2005. Both men and women were spending roughly an hour a day more in paid work than they were in 1998.

In fact, during the past decade or so, time use patterns of these older Canadians have shifted, in some cases significantly. The study, based on data from the 2005 General Social Survey (GSS) on time use, showed that older men and women have adjusted their time patterns in different ways over time.

For example, among men aged 55 to 64, this increase in paid work from 3.2 to 4.4 hours a day on average was accompanied by a decline in the time they devoted to both unpaid work and active leisure. In 2005, these men spent 3.5 hours a day on average in active leisure, half an hour less than they did in 1998. During this period, the time spent on unpaid work declined from 3.4 to 3.1 hours a day on average.

Among women of the same age, the biggest impact was a decline of more than half an hour a day in the time they devoted to active leisure. They spent most of their time (about 4.8 hours a day on average) on unpaid work, exactly the same as in both 1998 and 1992. In 2005, they spent 2.4 hours a day on average on paid work, up about an hour from 1992. But their time for active leisure fell from 4.3 hours to 3.6 hours.

For more details read the report on **General Social Survey on Time Use: Cycle 19: Aging Well: Time Use Patterns of Older Canadians** at: <http://www.statcan.ca/english/research/89-622-XIE/89-622-XIE2006001.pdf> (PDF file - 272K, 30 pages)

Perspectives on Labour and Income, Statistics Canada

July 19, 2006

[General Social Survey: Paid and unpaid work 2005](#)

Women still do most of the housework and tend to feel more time-stressed than men do. But now more men are juggling household chores and paid work duties, while women are spending more time at the office, according to a new time-use study.

As a result, the gap between men and women in the division of labour is still there, but it is slowly getting narrower.

The study, the second in a series of four based on time use data from the 2005 General Social Survey, examined developments in time spent on paid work and unpaid household chores between 1986 and 2005.

The full report, **Converging Gender Roles** is available in:

HTML version

<http://www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/75-001-XIE/10706/art-1.htm>

PDF version

<http://www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/75-001-XIE/75-001-XIE2006107.pdf> (PDF file - 889K)

Juristat, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada
July 20

[Crime Statistics, 2005](#)

Canada's national crime rate, based on incidents reported to police, fell 5% last year — despite increases in serious crimes such as homicide, attempted murder, serious assaults and robbery.

The homicide rate increased 4% to the highest level in almost a decade. However, the overall violent crime rate was unchanged, while the property crime rate fell 6%. The rate of drug offences declined in 2005 as did overall youth crime.

The national homicide rate increased 4% in 2005, in the wake of a 13% increase in 2004, to the highest level in almost a decade. Most of last year's increase was attributable to a rise in homicides in Ontario and Alberta. Police reported 658 homicides last year, 34 more than in 2004.

The complete report, **Crime Statistics in Canada, 2005** is available at:

<http://www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/85-002-XIE/85-002-XIE2006004.pdf>
(PDF file - 286K, 23 pages)

Caledon Institute of Social Policy

Aboriginal People and Postsecondary Education in Canada

The success of Aboriginal people in our postsecondary education (PSE) system is of vital interest to all Canadians. Aboriginal Peoples and Postsecondary Education in Canada reviews the empirical data about how Aboriginal peoples are doing in the PSE system and what the data suggests about strategies to improve these results. The report finds some positive signs. In community colleges, Aboriginal PSE graduation is almost at a level with that of the general population. However, on the negative side, there are many fewer Aboriginal graduates from university, and the situation did not improve over the last several years. Most troubling, Aboriginal people are still failing to complete high school in hugely disproportionate numbers; for example, on Manitoba reserves as many as 70 percent of Aboriginals between the ages of 20 and 24 failed to complete high school (compared to about 16 percent among everyone aged 20 to 24). A surprising and important finding in this paper is that Aboriginal high school graduates have about the

same probability as anyone else (75 percent) of graduating with a PSE degree or diploma; the problem therefore is the rate of failure to complete high school. The author argues that, while it is unusual for a quantitative analysis to have direct policy implications, the data in this report clearly shows that high school graduation is the key to improving PSE outcomes for Aboriginal peoples.

Access the full report at: <http://www.caledoninst.org/Publications/PDF/595ENG.pdf>
(PDF file – 1.1MB, 52 pages)

Goodwill Charity More Jobs, Better Society

According to a report released by Goodwill Toronto, the lack of access to meaningful job opportunities in the city not only affects individuals looking for employment, but takes a toll on the community at large.

The report calls for increased access to permanent work for those who are marginalized as this is a civic responsibility that will benefit individuals and the whole community.

Work, according to the report is the lifeblood of healthy, vibrant communities. It can also be a catalyst in revitalizing marginalized communities. A community that offers diverse and plentiful work opportunities becomes a magnet that draws in both people and investment. This leads to economic and social vitality that supports livable neighborhoods and healthy cities enriched by cultural, recreational, educational, artistic and community resources and services.

For the complete report go to:

http://www.goodwill.on.ca/documents/CommunityWorksSummary2pgr_screenRes.pdf

C.D. Howe Institute

E-Brief – Misplaced Talent: The Rising Dispersion of Unemployed Rates in Canada

This E-brief asserts that rosy nationwide employment numbers mask severe and growing disparities in regional labour markets, where unemployed workers tend to stay put rather than move to where the jobs are.

The study, "Misplaced Talent: The Rising Dispersion of Unemployment Rates in Canada," identifies a widening gap between high jobless rates in some regions, compared to the falling national average, and suggests the Employment Insurance (EI) program is an obstacle to improvement. There is, according to the report, evidence that Canada could be doing even better economically if talent moved more fluidly between and within regions. The EI program is a hindrance to such fluidity by tying eligibility and generosity to local unemployment rates. Regionally neutral rules would reduce this labour market distortion and help to promote a stronger Canadian labour market and a stronger economy overall.

This e-brief is available at: http://www.cdhowe.org/pdf/ebrief_33.pdf

The Creative Cities Leadership Team

Imagine a Toronto...Strategies for a Creative City

According to this report, if Toronto invests time, money and energy to turn itself into a creative city, the economic and social benefits could be huge, especially for at-risk youth in need of good-paying jobs. It urges better strategic planning and funding to make the creative economy stronger.

The four main themes of the report are:

1. People – expand creative programming for youth, transform local community centres into creative community hubs, and fund arts and creativity in public education;

2. Enterprise – provide specialized support and business skill development for creative industries, increase available cultural and creative ‘risk’ capital, advance Toronto as a centre of design, and develop a creativity/innovation convergence centre;

3. Space - systematically provide affordable and stable creative space, create a mortgage investment fund for creative industries, support development of waterfront ground-floor strategy, support design review panel, and animate the city below, i.e., creativity in Toronto ravines;

4. Connecting Toronto’s creative elements - create an infrastructure dedicated to connecting and promoting creative Toronto, and provide ongoing, stable funding for creative projects.

The full report is available at: <http://www.imagineatoronto.ca/>

5.2 WEBSITES OF INTEREST

John Howard Society of Toronto

The John Howard Society of Toronto provides support services to people in conflict with the law and adults at imminent risk of coming into conflict with the law, in order to facilitate positive change and achieve community reintegration.

For more information, visit: www.johnhowardtor.on.ca

CivicAccess: Citizens for Open Access to Civic Information and Data

Citizens for Open Access to Civic Information and Data (aka: CivicAccess.ca) is a new online space for Canadian civic engagement. CivicAccess is being founded by librarians, civil servants, academics, lawyers, free and open-source advocates, geomatics professionals and community planners from across Canada.

The goals of this website are:

- to encourage all levels of governments to make civic data and information available to citizens without restrictions, at no cost, and in useable open formats.
- to encourage the development of citizen projects using civic data and information

For more information, visit: <http://civicaccess.ca/>

Black Woman and Child Magazine

Black Woman and Child is a new magazine dedicated to serving the interests of Black women who are or have been pregnant, plan to become pregnant and/or have a child or children aged seven years and under.

For more information, visit: www.blackwomenandchild.com or <http://nubeing.com/bwac/index.htm>

Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation (CERA)

CERA is a non-profit human rights organization that promotes human rights in housing. The Centre works to remove barriers that keep disadvantaged individuals and families from accessing and retaining the housing they need.

For more information, visit: <http://www.equalityrights.org/cera/>

Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario (ACTO)

The Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario (ACTO) works to better the housing situation of Ontario residents who have low incomes including tenants, co-op members and people who are homeless. ACTO works with legal clinics, tenant associations and other groups and individuals concerned about housing issues.

For more information, visit: <http://www.acto.ca/english/home.php>

Labour Education Centre (LEC)

The mission of LEC is to build the capacity of unions to plan, develop and deliver training, adjustment, and labour education programs that transform the lives of individual members and build the strength, solidarity and equity of their unions.

For more information visit their website at: www.laboureducation.org

The Canadian Research Institute on the Advancement of women (CRIA W)

CRIA W is a research institute which provides tools to facilitate organizations taking action to advance social justice and equality for all women. CRIA W recognizes women's diverse experiences and perspectives; creates spaces for developing women's knowledge; bridges regional isolation; and provides communication links between/among researchers and organizations actively working to promote social justice and equality for all women.

For more information visit their website at: <http://www.criaw-icref.ca>

Hotel Workers Rising

The UNITE HERE Hotel Workers Rising campaign represents an effort to empower thousands of hotel workers in hundreds of properties in cities across North America as they work to improve their jobs and secure better lives for themselves and their families.

For more information, visit: <http://www.hotelworkersrising.org/aboutcampaign.asp>

CLEONet

CLEONet is an online clearinghouse for community legal education in Ontario. CLEONet is a project of Community Legal Education Ontario. For organizations that produce, use, or need community legal education materials, CLEONet is a tool to find resources, share information, and work together online.

For more information, visit: <http://www.cleonet.ca/about>

The Canadian Harm Reduction Network (CHRN)

The CHRN is the virtual meeting place for individual and organizations dedicated to reducing the social, health and economic harms associated with drugs and drug policies.

Visit the CHRN at: <http://www.canadianharmreduction.com/>

Juristat

This series of reports provides detailed statistics and analysis on a variety of topics and issues concerning Canada's justice system. Annual Juristats are produced on areas such as: crime, homicide, youth and adult courts, and corrections. Additional Juristats are also produced each year on current topics of interest to the justice community. This is a unique periodical, of great interest to those who have to plan, establish, administer and evaluate justice programs and projects, or anyone who has an interest in Canada's justice system.

To access the most recent issue (June 2006) visit:
<http://www.statcan.ca/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=85-002-XIE>

For earlier issues of Juristat visit:

<http://www.statcan.ca/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=85-002-X&CHROPG=1>

6. CONTACT US

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Office hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday, and we are wheelchair accessible. Our resource library is open by appointment. Please call the main line for further information.

We thank our colleagues involved in the ACTEW electronic newsletter, the Canadian Council on Social Development (CCSD), the Canadian Social Research Newsletter, the Daily, the Ontario Coalition for Social Justice Newsletter, the Centre for Social Justice (CSJ), the Canadian Policy Research Networks (CPRN), Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA), Caledon Institute of Social Policy, Canadian Institute for Health Information, Toronto Training Board (TTB), and City of Toronto for some of the information in this bulletin.

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