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POLICY WATCH

Policy Watch is a selection of articles, research links, and updates designed to keep you informed and engaged important Canadian and international policy issues. It will also be our platform to communicate new Canada25 policy publications 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.

ARTICLES

CANADA'S ROLE IN THE WORLD:

In the journals this month: the *International Journal* has released its first John W. Holmes issue on Canadian foreign policy <http://www.er.uqam.ca/nobel/ieim/> featuring contributions from many distinguished Canadian scholars and policy makers, including Kim Richard Nossal, Paul Heinbecker, and Thomas Axworthy.

Canadian Foreign Policy / La Politique Etrangere du Canada has not posted its table of contents online, but has a new issue as well <http://www.carleton.ca/npsia/cfpj/>.

Etudes Internationales has a special issue on European transformation and the construction of identity in new forms of governance.

<http://www.iqhei.ulaval.ca/Pdf/Sommairemars05.pdf> The Institut d'études internationales de Montréal announces the April launch of a new journal, *Asymétries*, which will analyse contemporary international affairs.

OTHER ARTICLES OF INTEREST:

IRPP's public policy magazine *Policy Options* has several good articles in March including:

- "'E-the-people': reflections on citizen power in the information era" by Thomas J. Courchene. <http://www.irpp.org/po/archive/mar05en/courchene.pdf>
- "The arts and culture as new engines of economic and social development" by Simon Brault. <http://www.irpp.org/po/archive/mar05en/brault.pdf>

FEATURE: Update on Foreign Policy by Veronica Kitchen, Canada25

March opened the reverberations on many of February's international stories still echoing through the news: softwood lumber, the budget, the failure of the legislation to split DFAIT into Foreign Affairs and International trade, and most of all, missile defence. March brought its share of stories, through. In the middle of the month, *CP* reported that Canada's Foreign policy review is... still being reviewed. What some thought was an overwhelming focus on Canada's relationship with the United States has allegedly been tempered by including a passionate review of Canada's foreign policy achievements, designed to demonstrate Canada's foreign

policy independence. The Foreign Policy Review was due to come out last summer and has been delayed several times. Earlier this year Prime Minister Martin sent the review to Oxford scholar, Jennifer Welsh for revisions. The Review is now scheduled for release sometime in April.

The major foreign policy story in March was the North America trilateral summit. On the 23rd President Bush hosted President Fox and Prime Minister Martin at his ranch in Crawford, Texas. The three leaders announced the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America. The Partnership calls for progress on a number of measures to develop compatible strategies for screening goods and travellers entering North America, combating the spread of infectious diseases, and streamlining trade regulations where differences are not significant. The statement is worth reading: this initiative has been in the works for about a year, it builds on previous successes like the Smart Border Accords and the Container Security Initiative, and it represents the policy future of North American co-operation, something every Canadian should take the time to form an opinion about. Canadian reaction to initiatives like these tends to fall into two camps: those who see it as a step towards the dissolution of the Canadian polity, and those who argue that its impact will be insufficient to make a difference. The SPP is far from the 'big bang' proposed by the Council on Foreign Relations-sponsored Independent Task Force on Creating a North American Community (ex-DPM John Manley and Thomas D'Aquino of the Canadian Council of Chief Executives were Canada's representatives), but it will undoubtedly raise the ire of groups like the Council of Canadians. Analysis of and reaction to this initiative has only just begun, and the first reports are due in 90 days.

Think Tanks and NGOs

The CIIA (www.ciia.org) hosted its annual foreign policy conference this month in Halifax, bringing together academics and policy makers to discuss "Countering Terrorism, Enhancing Security: Shared Canada-US Approaches?" The CIIA has also published a summary of a discussion held at Foreign Affairs concerning the future of the foreign service. Called "Does Canadian Foreign Policy need a foreign service? Can the World's second oldest profession learn new tricks?" it is accessible at <http://www.ciia.org/insights.htm>.

Elsewhere Canada-US relations are the news of the day, as befits policy developments this month. The IRPP www.irpp.org and the Fraser Institute www.fraserinstitute.ca both provide background to the issues and offer new publications. The IRPP recently published Joel Sokolsky's analysis of North American maritime security, and has released the first chapter of Thomas Courchene's edited volume *Thinking North America* to provide context to the debates. The Fraser Forum donates the entire issue to "Fixing the Canada-US Relationship".

Internationally, the Club de Madrid hosted a major international summit on democracy, terrorism and human rights to coincide with the first anniversary of the Madrid train bombings <http://english.safe-democracy.org/>. The summit deserves more attention than it got in North America – it released the Madrid Agenda naming terrorism a crime against humanity and recommended a series of measures to be taken by governments and international institutions <http://english.safe-democracy.org/agenda/the-madrid-agenda.html>. UN Secretary General Kofi Annan used the opportunity to propose his own global strategy for the UN, focusing on 5 Ds: dissuading disaffected groups from choosing terrorism as a tactic, denying terrorists the means to carry out attacks, deterring states from supporting terrorists, developing state capacity to prevent terrorism, and defending human rights in the struggle against terrorism <http://english.safe-democracy.org/keynotes/a-global-strategy-for-fighting-terrorism.html>

WEBSITES

- Policy library: <http://www.policylibrary.com/canada/>
- Canadian Policy Research Network: www.cprn.org/en

- Institute for Research in Public Policy: <http://www.irpp.org/po/>

REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

The following reports focus on post-secondary education, which has gained traction on the political agendas of governments across Canada.

- Former Ontario Premier Bob Rae's report on PSE in Ontario:
<http://www.raereview.on.ca/en/report/letter.asp?loc1=report&loc2=letter>
- A report by CPRN -Getting There and Staying There: Low-income Students and Post-secondary Education by Patrice de Broucker.
<http://www.cprn.org/en/doc.cfm?doc=1198#>
- CPRN has also released a solid work on the state of the Urban agenda in Canada - Place-based Public Policy: Towards a New Urban and Community Agenda for Canada, by Neil Bradford. <http://www.cprn.org/en/doc.cfm?doc=1186#>

Next month watch for articles and resources on the environment and aboriginal issues. 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

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