



POLICY WATCH

April 2006

Policy Watch is back! In this edition you'll find articles about civic engagement, cities, international policy and the Supreme Court of Canada as well as a few Canada25 announcements.

Policy Watch is looking for 'policy watch writers' to monitor and contribute 'Feature' pieces on policy issues on an ongoing basis. If you have expertise on an issue, or simply would like to learn about and cover a topic this is your chance to engage your peers, and the entire Canada25 network. Please email policywatch@canada25.com for more information.

Canada25 Honoured: Canada25 will receive the Youth Award at this week's Public Policy Forum Testimonial Dinner. This is an incredible honour that wouldn't have been possible without the dedicated efforts of our members, volunteers and partners. Thank-you very much.

DEMOCRACY AND POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT

The **Dominion Institute** is always very active on the issues of democracy and political engagement. In this edition of Policy Watch we profile two important pieces of their work in addition to an insightful commentary on Senate reform.

The Democracy Project - Young Adult Survey - Research on the motivations of Canadian young people during the last federal election.

http://www.dominion.ca/English/2006_democracyproject.pdf

Celebrated Canadian writer and public thinker George Elliott Clarke delivered the 7th Annual **LaFontaine-Baldwin lecture** and involved Calgarians in a vital discussion about the future of democracy in Canadian cities. Entitled City of Justice, the lecture explored the growing role of cities in supporting its citizens and shaping our democratic institutions and values.

Finally, Paul Vieira from the National Post discusses Senate reform and the idea of an Elected Senate in this article.

CITIES

The issue of cities and their impact on the Canadian economy was gaining momentum when Canada25 tackled it in 2002 and continues to be explored by some of Canada's leading thinkers.

Finding the Funding Formula for Cities: Jack Mintz and Tom Roberts of the C.D. Howe Institute examine the perceived shortfall in municipal funding and suggest reforms to municipal funding structures in this report.

http://www.cdhowe.org/pdf/commentary_226.pdf

Urban task force can show Harper understands issue: Canada West Foundation (CWF) provides commentary on the need for a continued federal role in the assurance of vibrant and successful Canadian cities in this Op-Ed.

http://www.cwf.ca/abcalcwf/doc.nsf/doc/oped_berdahl_022706.cm?Open

INTERNATIONAL POLICY

With **Canada taking a leadership role in Afghanistan**, CBC provides a timeline of Canada's involvement in the reconstructions and peace-building efforts in the country.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/background/afghanistan/timeline.html>

Pollara and the Canadian Institute of International Affairs recently released the results of a poll conducted to examine what **Canadians foreign policy expectations** are of the new Canadian administration.

http://www.pollara.ca/Library/Reports/CIIA_Harper_poll.ppt

Early thaw awaits new D.C. envoy: Tim Harper discusses the 'new' relations between Canada and the United States that will result from the appointment of the Hon/ Michael Wilson as Canada's Ambassador to the United States.

[Article](#)

One of Canada25's partners, the **Walter & Duncan Gordon Foundation** recently launched the **Global Fellowship Program**. The fellowship programme is targeted towards young and emerging leaders in Canada who have demonstrated a commitment to international issues. The fellowship will provide financial as well as other forms of support that will enable recipients to deepen their understanding of global policy issues. For more information please visit -

http://www.gordonfn.ca/GC_fellowships.cfm

OF NOTE

On March 1st Prime Minister Harper nominated Mr. Justice Marshall Rothstein to the Supreme Court of Canada. Prior to being nominated Justice Rothstein appeared before the Ad Hoc Committee to Review a Nominee for the Supreme Court of Canada, the first time such a process has been used to fill a vacancy on the Supreme Court.

<http://www.pm.gc.ca/eng/media.asp?id=1041>

For some commentary on this appointment check out this [article](#) from the Ottawa Citizen.

COMING UP

In the next edition of Policy Watch look for information on Canada25's upcoming Civic Engagement policy report and our work for Elections Canada. Both reports follow Canada25's successful [National Forum](#).

If you have any questions, comments or ideas for Canada25 please email

info@canada25.com

Designed by [Cameron Finlayson](#)