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Public Policy

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recherche
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publiques

For immediate distribution – May 27, 2009

NEWS RELEASE

IRPP releases pathbreaking book on Canada's North

Time to take a comprehensive approach on northern development

Montreal – The Institute for Research on Public Policy is releasing *Northern Exposure: Peoples, Powers and Prospects in Canada's North* co-edited by Frances Abele, Thomas J. Courchene, F. Leslie Seidle and France St-Hilaire, the fourth volume in its Art of the State series. The result of a two-year, multidisciplinary research program, this wide-ranging collection explores the themes of Arctic sovereignty, climate change, science policy, Aboriginal and public governance, economic development, human capital and education, and northern policy in Canada, always with a focus on the views and perspectives of northerners.

In this illustrated edited volume, policy specialists review the implications of the unprecedented changes in governance that have taken place in the territories and in Aboriginal communities in northern Quebec and Labrador over the past three decades and analyze challenges that must be faced in order to increase economic development and improve quality of life of northern residents.

“Canada’s North has always been an important part of the country’s identity,” notes co-editor France St-Hilaire, IRPP’s vice-president of research. “But, this reality is taking on a new light as melting polar ice transforms the Arctic into the epicenter of new global economic and geopolitical interests. Northern development will be an increasingly important aspect of Canadian political, social and economic vitality, and it should be a priority for public discussion and debate.”

Northern Exposure: Peoples, Powers and Prospects in Canada's North includes contributions from Inuit and First Nations leaders, former territorial premiers, and Aboriginal youth activists, as well as commentaries by Nobel Peace Prize nominee Siila Watt-Cloutier, and former ambassador for circumpolar affairs Mary Simon.

“The future of Canada’s northern regions is closely tied to the well-being of its residents and the strength of its communities – as well as the financial viability of its governments,” says co-editor Frances Abele, a professor at Carleton University’s School of Public Policy and Administration and an IRPP research fellow. “Above all, a new northern policy strategy should focus more clearly on the future well-being of northerners and their communities and ensure they have greater control over their own destinies.”

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