

# The Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy

## CALL FOR PAPERS

# Moving Towards Justice

## Legal Traditions and Aboriginal and Canadian Justice

The Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy (SIPP) and the First Nations University of Canada are organizing a conference **Moving Towards Justice: Legal Traditions and Aboriginal and Canadian Justice** to be held in Regina on March 2 and 3, 2006. A significant element of the work done by the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples related to justice issues of Aboriginal peoples. Since then, every province has developed, through formal or informal processes, Aboriginal justice policies, and regional, provincial and territorial First Nations and Metis governments and political organizations have pursued both adaptation of the justice system to meet the needs of their communities or greater political authority over the response to crime and over other justice challenges.

In Saskatchewan in the last year, reports recommending reform of the justice system have been issued by the Commission on First Nations and Metis Peoples and Justice Reform and by the Commission of Inquiry into Matters Relating to the Death of Neil Stonechild. Very recently, the Government of Saskatchewan has announced its response to these

### SIPP CONFERENCE Regina, SK March 2-3, 2006

reports recommending an extensive series of reforms. It is now appropriate to engage in a critical examination of the social and political analyses behind new government policies, as well as a rigorous evaluation of proposed reform policies. It is also time to explore expansion of the range of justice reforms that have been tried or proposed and to explore the connections between development of effective of justice structures, social development more generally and the growing case for First Nations and Metis self-determination and self-government.

SIPP and the First Nations University of Canada seek to advance the public policy discourse on Aboriginal justice by providing a forum in which scholars, practitioners, and the policy community can engage these discussions, with an emphasis on exploring the intellectual framework for assessing greater legal and institutional pluralism in Canada's justice system.

The Institute is seeking proposals for papers that would stimulate discussion on

the issues identified above. Papers may deal with the following topics:

- Aboriginal legal traditions, both historical and in current practice;
- the tension between pluralist visions of justice and the rule of law in the administration of justice;
- the role of self-determination in Aboriginal justice and law;
- the Saskatchewan Commission on First Nations and Métis People and Justice Reform (and other Aboriginal justice commission reports) as blueprints for coordinating Aboriginal conceptions of justice with the Canadian justice system;
- responding more effectively to needs and values of Aboriginal communities within the justice system, including descriptions and assessments of existing innovative programs; and,
- comparative perspectives on efforts to integrate Indigenous conceptions of justice with public government justice institutions and the legal process.

Please send paper abstracts of 500 to 1000 words, a 1-page *curriculum vitae*, and your anticipated audio/visual technology needs by

August 31, 2005 to [sipp@uregina.ca](mailto:sipp@uregina.ca)

Please contact Lorena Fontaine

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