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NEWS RELEASE

***Ensuring the Positive Benefits of Globalization:
Humanizing the Tool Box of Progress and Cooperation***

Montreal - The challenge of the globalization and information revolution (GIR) is to ensure that it benefits individuals as much as multinational enterprises, and not only as consumers but also as citizens. But to achieve this, globalization must be embedded in society as well as in the economy, here in Canada and around the world, says Thomas Courchene in a study released today by the Institute for Research on Public Policy (IRPP) entitled "Embedding Globalization: A Human Capital Perspective."

"Progressively, the 21st century will be about people, about mortarboards, and not boards and mortar. The time has come to cease railing against capital and multinational enterprises and to direct attention toward promoting people as citizens and holders of human capital. Ultimately, it will be citizens, acting collectively, that will civilize globalization both within and across countries," says Courchene, Senior Scholar at the IRPP and Jarislowsky-Deutsch Professor of Economic and Financial Policy at Queen's University.

The GIR must be directed to ensure social cohesion globally, as well as domestically. Many of the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that are part of "civil society" have expressed deep antipathy towards aspects of the GIR. While recognizing this reality, as reflected in the confrontations in Seattle, Quebec City and Genoa among other venues, Courchene's analysis adopts an optimistic stand on the future role of these NGOs as they interact at the supranational level.

In this context, Courchene suggests ways to improve global governance by introducing more transparency, accountability and participation into the process. Among the suggestions are refocusing the World Trade Organization as a body that manages and reconciles differences between countries, rather than seeking to eliminate them; adopting the United Nations' Global Compact as a guide for operating business around the world; and using the G-20 as a forum to reconcile a variety of the global civil society concerns.

In short, Courchene believes there now exists a promising window of opportunity for rethinking global governance, in a way that would ensure that individuals are the main beneficiaries of GIR.

"Embedding Globalization: A Human Capital Perspective" is the IRPP's latest *Policy Matters* paper. It is now available in Adobe (.pdf) format on the IRPP website at <http://www.irpp.org> – to access the document, simply click on the "What's New" icon on the homepage.

Courchene, who has also taught at the University of Western Ontario, York University and l'École nationale d'administration publique in Montreal, is the author of a widely acclaimed book, *A State of Minds: Toward a Human Capital Future for Canadians*, published by the IRPP in 2001.

For more information, or to schedule an interview with the author, please contact the IRPP.

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