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NEWS RELEASE

***Security, Intelligence and Trade Priorities Now More Powerful
in Shaping Immigration Policy Than Employment and Growth***

***Institute for
Research on
Public Policy***

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Prospective immigrants divided into two classes.

Montreal – The Institute for Research on Public Policy (IRPP.org) today released a study by H el ene Pellerin entitled “Int egration  conomique et s curit  : nouveaux facteurs d terminants de la gestion de la migration internationale.”

The author, an associate professor of political science at the University of Ottawa, examines the multilateral initiatives for managing migration in Europe and North America and in the international community.

She observes that “these initiatives have evolved within the larger context of regional economic integration, but also – increasingly since September 11, 2001 – in a context in which many countries are ever more preoccupied with the security of their borders.”

According to Pellerin, economic integration and security concerns compel states to harmonize their migration policy principles and practices. And, the author explains, in the absence of an international legal framework for migration, international trade law tends to serve as a reference.

This new reality is not without consequences. The author observes that multilateral initiatives rooted in either economic or security concerns have displaced the traditional decision-making core of migration policy. “We now find,” says Pellerin, “a greater involvement of ministries responsible for trade, finances, foreign policy and intelligence, and a withdrawal of those ministries charged with employment and social security in the framing of migration policy objectives.”

Pellerin also notes that migration policies that are increasingly influenced by international trade law tend to separate the qualified migrants from other migrant categories. “For qualified migrants, incentives that facilitate mobility are put in place; for others, restrictive measures that criminalize or victimize migrants are increasingly implemented,” writes Pellerin.

The author concludes that the big losers in these new migration management practices are the migrants’ countries of origin, which must absorb the costs associated with heightened control measures, on the one hand, and the brain drain, on the other.

“Intégration économique et sécurité : nouveaux facteurs déterminants de la gestion de la migration internationale” is the first study published by the IRPP as part of the **Shaping Canada's Future: Immigration and Refugee Policy** research program. It is now available in Adobe (.pdf) format on the Institute's web site (www.irpp.org).

For more information or to request an interview, please contact the IRPP.

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- 30 -

Contact:

Jasmine Sharma (jsharma@irpp.org)
Director of Communications and Public Relations
IRPP.org
(514) 985-2461, ext. 324