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NEWS RELEASE

States Can Reach Common Objectives in New Globalized Space

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Domestic and international regulations play off each other outside traditional territoriality, study shows

Montreal – The Institute for Research on Public Policy (IRPP.org) today released a study by Allison Young entitled, “Beyond Zero Sum: Trade, Regulation and the NAFTA Temporary Entry Provisions”.

The study demonstrates that the implementation of the NAFTA provisions governing the temporary entry of business persons between Canada, the United States and Mexico is transforming domestic and international rules and opening a new globalized space to achieve common objectives.

In some measures, the NAFTA’s regulation of temporary entry, which gives precedence to the immigration laws of each country, reflects the traditional separation between domestic and international spheres. But, new forms of associations in which domestic and external rules are becoming mutually constitutive, are emerging in a new globalized space.

For example, some rights and obligations in the domestic market are granted to some highly skilled individuals from other NAFTA countries. Although this applies to temporary entrants only, it nevertheless diverts from the traditional conditions of “presence” or “residence.” At the same time, governments and professional associations are being increasingly seized with both the benefits and the costs of facilitating temporary entry, for example in setting professional standards and criteria.

But Young explains that neither domestic regulatory activities nor international rule-making emerge at the other’s expense. This zero-sum argument, says the author, does not recognize that in a globalized world the state “no longer finds it efficient or effective to go it alone.” Hence, domestic and international regulations increasingly tend to play off each other.

Young argues that to achieve common objectives in this new globalized space, domestic and international regulatory policies must be coordinated. The study uses the example of the temporary entry of business persons to demonstrate how this can be accomplished.

The author also encourages the use of new options to manage policies that might best be pursued outside the state’s traditional territory, as is the case with the NAFTA Temporary Entry Working Group. But pursuing new avenues must be preceded by an exercise that

weighs the costs and benefits of the symbiotic relationship between domestic and international regulations.

“Beyond Zero Sum: Trade, Regulation and the NAFTA Temporary Entry Provisions” is the latest *Policy Matters* study to be released as part of the IRPP’s Canada’s Options in North America series. It is now available on-line in Adobe (.pdf) format on the Institute’s Web site (www.irpp.org). Please find the summary attached.

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

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