

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

It gives me great pleasure to report to you on the activities of the Institute during its thirty-first year, my twenty-first as chairman. This year has been one of great sadness and great triumphs. For an Institute that has pioneered in so many areas of public policy, it has also been a year of many firsts and program growth.

Director of Finance passes away

I must first deal with the sadness. During the year, long time Secretary-Treasurer and Director of Finance and Administration Michael Hopkins succumbed to the lymphoma with which he had struggled for some years. Mike was a tireless contributor to the development of the Institute and was responsible for the creation of its current state-of-the-art finance and control systems. He will be sadly missed by his colleagues and the Board.

Former US President John F. Kennedy in his Pulitzer prize-winning book *Profiles in Courage* noted that courage was the most admirable of human virtues. Michael Hopkins was amongst the most admirable of human beings. During the darkest days of his disease and up to a few hours before he died, Mike came in to the Institute. His presence in spite of his affliction set an example and a standard for conduct which none of us at the Institute will ever forget. His grit and determination not to permit his disease to dominate him—and of course his dedication to the Institute—were a gift and a legacy to us all.

I am quite confident that Michael Hopkins would be pleased with the account of the activities during 2005, which are surveyed in this report. As in recent years, the catalog of accomplishments is reflected in the one-page summary on the back cover. But of course to get the complete texture of the Institute's work there is no substitute for reading the individual departmental reports.

In my remarks to you, I would like to highlight just a few of the year's developments. The first item is the Supreme Court of Canada's decision that current policy toward health care in the province of Quebec constitutes a violation of the constitutional rights of the plaintiff. The *Chaoulli* case, as it is referred to, is a landmark development in the course of Canadian health care policy. Institute experts predict that the decision means the end of the monopoly provisions of the Canada Health Act and the

beginning of the process of reformation of the Canadian health care system.

Supreme Court of Canada's Chaoulli decision

Fraser Institute supporters must take particular satisfaction from this decision, since in some ways it is the culmination of a long program of research and measurement that the Institute has undertaken. In making this claim, I intend in no way to demean the efforts of others, particularly Dr. Jacques Chaoulli and Mr. Georges Zeliotis in bringing the case forward. But it is true that the two key issues of fact recognized by the court were the major thrusts of Fraser Institute health care research in a program that began in 1978.

The two key findings in the case were these. First, there were extensive waiting times for health care in Quebec and the rest of the country that jeopardized the lives of citizens. Second, there was incontrovertible international evidence that the freedom of citizens to choose their health care provider was not incompatible with maintaining universal access to the kind of care enshrined in the Canada Health Act.

As supporters of The Fraser Institute's work, you will know that the Institute has been the leader in the measurement and publication of waiting times for health care across Canada. In fact, the Institute's work in this area is unique in that The Fraser Institute's measurements of waiting times are the only nationally comparable source of information about how long patients are waiting for care. Our persistent publication of annual measurements of waiting times forced a national debate about waiting times and brought waiting times to the top of the policy agenda. Waiting times were a key feature in the past two federal elections and in several recent provincial elections.

It is worth dwelling on the topic of health care waiting times for what it reveals about the Institute's work. I am certain that many Institute supporters wonder from time to time what we do with the resources they give us. I'm equally certain that even when they know what we do with the resources, they wonder why we do what we are doing. The measurement of hospital waiting lists provides a particularly important illustration of the "what" and the "why."



Michael Kulik

Michael Walker and US Vice-President Dick Cheney at the Eisenhower Administration Building in Washington in June.



Rita Rubio

Executive Director Mark Mullins (left) and former Executive Director Michael Walker at the Institute's Open House in September.



Canadian Press

Canada's future Prime Minister, Stephen Harper, addresses the Institute's AGM in Calgary in April.

When first we got the idea to measure hospital waiting lists, we approached the ministry of health in one province in the hope that it would already have collected the data required to make such measurements. We quickly discovered that while there had been some attempt to measure waiting lists, there was almost no interest in doing so. In fact, the ministry made it quite clear to us that any data they had which might make it possible for us to construct waiting list measurements would not be made available to us.

Accordingly, we set about to make our own measurements. Since we could not get the cooperation of the health department to provide us with internal data, we realized that the only other way to measure waiting times was to approach the physicians and ask them how long their patients were waiting. And so we began to survey specialists in the province to find out two things: how long would the next patient on the list have to wait for an appointment to see the specialist, and how long following that appointment would the patient have to wait to get treatment for a specified list of ailments?

Of course you don't just make a survey. First we had to carefully construct the list of specialists, the list of ailments, and the questions we would ask. We then had to subject the questionnaire to the scrutiny of the Canadian Medical Association to ensure that the questions were appropriate and that they queried physicians about the most important procedures.

Then we had to take the most difficult step of all: to persuade physicians to actually respond to the survey. We were advised that we would have very little luck in doing this since physicians are one of the busiest groups of professionals and are constantly asked by pharmaceutical companies and others to complete questionnaires. We were authoritatively advised that at the very least we would have to pay the physicians in order to get the responses we required.

For our part, we reckoned that physicians would see the broader questions associated with waiting times and that they would want to contribute to public discussion about this issue. We also offered them the chance to win a lottery prize by completing the survey questions. And then we relentlessly pursued the physicians until we got more than 30 percent of all of the specialists in the country to respond to our questions. In many provinces and in many specialties, we get as many as 50 percent of the specialists in practice to respond. Every year, we receive answers from more than 3,000 specialist physicians.

We thought when we undertook this project that there would be a wonderful response from the community. On the contrary, we were attacked from almost every quarter. The Canadian Hospital Association said that we weren't measuring "hospital" waiting lists but merely measuring physician waiting lists. The organization devoted extensive effort to have our measurements ignored. In fact, it claimed there weren't any waiting lists. Provincial departments of health were not amused, particularly when they found that they had no waiting list measurements of their own with which ours could be compared. Academic supporters of the health care status quo said that the survey had not been published in a medical journal and therefore couldn't be trusted.

Dr. Gerald Wright, then Vice-President of one of Canada's largest hospitals, actually visited the Institute to try to persuade us not to publish the waiting list data, since doing so, he said, would not be helpful to health care management. He told us that waiting lists were maintained by hospitals in the same way that airlines overbook their airplanes—in other words, to ensure that the hospitals were used to their full capacities without too much down time. Besides, as he later told *Readers Digest*, individual patients were in no position to make a decision about when they should get their surgeries or other interventions and the system should decide that for them.

We have now been publishing the waiting list measurements for 15 years. The result has been thousands of newspaper, radio, and television stories about the existence of waiting lists. Provincial governments no longer deny the existence of waiting lists as they did for many of the years when we first published our estimates. In fact, many provinces now publish their own waiting lists—and some of them convey an accurate impression about the waiting times that patients experience.

The waiting list project perfectly illustrates how the world is changed by measurement. Things that are measured can be talked about. Things that are talked about in the public arena eventually become part of the climate of opinion. When things are as important as the time that people are waiting for medical care, the measurements change the climate of opinion. And it is the climate of opinion that molds public policy, whether the policy is made by Parliament or in Supreme Court decisions.

The second part of the Supreme Court decision rested on the question of whether there was some greater public good—like Canada's system of socialized medicine—that was served by prohibiting Canadians from purchasing private care when the public system failed them. The key question here was whether permitting access to private care was inconsistent with the existence of socialized medicine and the superior outcomes it was presumed to produce.

Once again, Fraser Institute measurements proved to be crucial. While others had noted that there were indeed countries that had both socialized medicine and privately produced health care services, no one had comprehensively examined the access, cost, and the coexistence of public and private health care. To address this need, The Fraser Institute produced the international comparative study *How Good Is Canadian Health Care?*

This study assesses various features of the health care systems of all of the OECD countries that promise their citizens universal access to health care. It examines the cost of care, access to care and to technology, the outcomes produced by the health care system, and the details of the structure of the system, including, for example, the requirement to pay user fees. The study is the only one that provides a comprehensive ranking of the health care performance of the countries in the OECD that offer their citizens universal access to care.

The study's evidence is overwhelmingly compelling. It shows that many of the countries that offer universal access to health care do better than Can-



Fraser Institute delegates meet with Czech President Vaclav Klaus at Prague Castle, the presidential residence, in October.



Canadian Ambassador to the US, Frank McKenna, speaks to delegates during the Institute's Washington excursion in June.

Michael Kulik



Michael Kulik

Participants in June's Washington excursion gather in front of the Eisenhower Administration Building.

ada at providing access and outcomes, while at the same time permitting their citizens to have access to private care options. Accordingly, the Supreme Court could with confidence reject the notion that, even if it was imperfect, our system of socialized medicine had to be protected from competition with private providers for the public good.

I have spoken at length about The Fraser Institute's contribution to the debate that led up to the Supreme Court's decision in the *Chaoulli* case. I've done so to the neglect of many of the other wonderful things that have happened in the Institute during the course of 2005. However, I think that is very important that we all remind ourselves of the profound impact which the Institute's work has had, and continues to have, on the evolution of public policy in Canada. It is important that we grasp how that impact occurs and that we realize that it will often take years to achieve a public policy return on the investment of resources upon which our work relies.

During the spring of 2006 we will release another major study of health care in Canada. It will provide the first comparative assessment of the performance of hospitals in Canada. It will have taken nearly 2 years to produce the first estimates and many health care providers will not receive the study well. In fact, the Institute will be roundly criticized from many quarters for publishing this data for the general public.

As you listen to that criticism and contemplate the wisdom of the investment in this project, I hope that you will remember the singular successes of the waiting list and international comparison projects. The hospital performance reports will have a profound, system-altering effect. They will continue our tradition of research on health care and further our goal of involving the customers of the health care system in the discussion of its future evolution.

A brief wrap-up of other successes

I now want to mention a few of the other developments during 2005 in the hope that they will whet your appetite for more details as you read the whole of this remarkable report on the Institute's thirty-first year of activity. Most importantly, the Institute continued to grow at a healthy pace and we reached record levels in the quantity and quality of our programs.

For example, the *Children First: School Choice Trust*, which provides matching grants for lower-income families to enable them to obtain access to the best elementary school for their children, grew from 360 to 800 children receiving school choice grants in Ontario. Children First expanded and began to develop a program for elementary students in Alberta.

The Institute created the new and unique Centre for Entrepreneurship and Markets, which will study and provide suggestions for how local, provincial, and national policies in North America can provide a better environment for entrepreneurship, innovation, and economic prosperity. The Centre has attracted a who's who of academics, entrepreneurs, and researchers from inside and outside of Canada for its advisory panel, including distinguished staff from Statistics Canada, the OECD, and a host of Canada's leading universities.



Gary Wildman

The *National Post's* Terence Corcoran helps roast Michael Walker in November.

The Donner Awards Program evaluated 842 non-profit social service programs delivered by community-based organizations across Canada, up from 238 the preceding year.

The Centre for Globalization and Trade won a world-wide competition for a \$500,000 research grant to examine how entrepreneurial activity can solve the problem of poverty in developing countries. Awarded by the John Templeton Foundation, the grant will be used to assist with the Institute's work in the Middle East.

The school performance report cards maintained their position as a critical driver of school improvement across the country and, in 2005, the *Vancouver Sun* joined the program as the lead media for the Report Card on British Columbia's Elementary Schools with a 24-page pullout section reporting the results for 1,013 elementary schools in the province.

The Garfield Weston Awards for Excellence in Education debuted in Ontario in March to an oversold audience of more than 300 educators. This builds on the Institute's work in publicizing school success and educational achievement across Canada.

The Institute's Toronto office grew by 50 percent during the year and now contains nine permanent staff, seven interns, and three student volunteers. This growth understandably occasioned an expansion of the Toronto office facility.

The Institute initiated a new series of monographs entitled *Canada Strong and Free* by Mike Harris and Preston Manning. The books aim to set a comprehensive vision for economic and social policy in Canada. The first two volumes met with a warm reception across the country.

The Health and Pharmaceutical Policy division evolved during the year, spinning off the new Health System Performance Measurement department. This department is responsible for the waiting list survey and the international comparisons of Canadian health care, as well as the new hospital report card series that will begin in 2006.

Meanwhile, the Health and Pharmaceutical Policy department has established itself as the pre-eminent source of information on pharmaceutical policy in Canada, publishing six major studies during 2005. As well, the division produces the annual assessment of the sustainability of public health care expenditures in Canada.

Leadership transition

One of the most important tasks of your Board of Trustees is to ensure that the Institute is well led and managed. I am pleased to report to you that the transition from the longtime leadership of Michael Walker to his successor Mark Mullins has gone very smoothly. Dr. Mullins, who headed the Ontario Policy Studies division of the Institute until he assumed the role of Executive Director in September 2005 has gained the confidence of the board and the



Gary Wildman

*Publisher of the **Western Standard**, Ezra Levant, gives an anecdote about his days as a Fraser Institute student intern at Michael Walker's retirement roast.*



Michael Kutlik

Michael Walker greets Rear-Admiral Ian Mack who gave a pithy presentation to delegates in the Washington excursion in June.



Rita Rubio

US Federal Reserve Board Governor Mark Olson speaks with the media following his policy briefing in Vancouver in October.



M. Ridewood, Canadian Press

staff of the Institute and has mapped out an ambitious program of research and development activities for the coming years.

Dr. Walker continues as an Institute Senior Fellow and is President of the newly created Fraser Institute Foundation. In that role, he will seek to establish a legacy fund to ensure that the ground which has been gained over the past 30 years will be protected by a suitable endowment. I hope that you will help Michael Walker to build the endowment as you have helped him build the Institute over the past three decades.

Meanwhile, the day-to-day demands of ensuring that public policy is based on a sound footing, that public services serve the public interest, and that governments are kept accountable for their actions will continue to be the focus of The Fraser Institute's important work. I look forward to working with you during 2006 to achieve even greater levels of accountability and transparency in Canadian public policy. Thank you for your continuing support for our very important work.

R.J. Addington, OBE,
Chairman, Board of Directors

Five hundred people heard former EnCana CEO and Fraser Institute trustee Gwyn Morgan present the annual TP Boyle Founder's Lecture in Calgary in December.



Kristin McCahon

Best selling author, statistician, and environmentalist, Bjørn Lomborg, speaks about "Global Crises; Global Solutions" at a Fraser Institute luncheon in January.



Gary Wildman

Chairman of the Board, R. J. Addington, OBE, together with the Institute Board of Trustees, makes a presentation at Michael Walker's roast.

INTRODUCING THE FRASER INSTITUTE

The Fraser Institute was founded in 1974 to redirect the attention of Canadians to the role of markets in providing for their well-being. Over the long term, ideas are the most powerful influence on public policy. The Institute, therefore, stimulates demand for economically sound public policy by conducting research and disseminating its findings to the general public and to policy makers.

The Institute has offices in Vancouver, Calgary, and Toronto. The Institute has active research ties with similar independent organizations in over 70 countries around the world.

Organization

The Fraser Institute is a federally chartered, non-profit research and educational organization, with tax-exempt status in both Canada and the United States. Sponsorship is open to anyone making a donation in support of the Institute's activities. A Board of Trustees is responsible to the members of the Institute for the conduct of the Institute's affairs. The Institute's programs are administered by the Executive Director, and the Institute's performance is monitored monthly by an Executive Advisory Board drawn primarily from the Board of Trustees.

Research

The fundamental objective of Institute research programs is to provide alternatives to well-intentioned but misguided and conventional views about the appropriate roles of governments. Research is carried out by Institute staff and by associated scholars from nearly 200 universities and other academic institutions around the world. Over 300 people have contributed to the Institute's work, including Nobel Laureates Gary Becker, James Buchanan, Milton Friedman, and Douglass North. Research is reviewed internally, and, where appropriate, by either associated policy experts or an Editorial Advisory Board of leading international economists.

The Institute's research agenda is decided by Institute staff at an annual planning session, and at a mid-year review. Ongoing projects are reviewed for their continuing relevance, and potential new projects assessed on the basis of importance and timeliness. The aim of the policy planning process is to produce a research and education plan that will maximize the Institute's contribution to improving public policy. Donors are not involved in this planning process.

Funding and independence

Throughout the year, funding is sought both for specific projects, and for the Institute's overall activities. The majority of the Institute's revenues are derived from the donations of its supporters, and from research foundations. Revenue also is generated from the sale of publications, from Institute events, and from interest on invested endowment funds. The Institute avoids government funding and contract research, and strives to minimize its dependence on any single source of funding or group of supporters. The Institute is non-political, and does not undertake lobbying activities.

Publications and outreach

The Institute's products—its ideas—are packaged in a number of different formats to reach different audiences. The Institute's magazine *Fraser Forum*, its periodic Critical Issues Bulletins and Public Policy Sources and its monographs and books are distributed to Institute supporters, the media, students, academics, policy makers, and politicians from all parties across Canada and abroad. Institute publications have been sold in over 50 countries and translated into 20 languages. The Institute makes a particular effort to reach students through seminars, *The Canadian Student Review* newsletter, and internships. Institute publications since 1991 are also available on our internet site at www.fraserinstitute.ca. The Institute reaches a wide audience through the mass media. Institute staff write news releases, commentaries, and articles, and conduct radio and television interviews throughout the year. Finally, the Institute holds conferences, luncheons, and seminars in major Canadian cities, and Institute staff make speeches and participate in public forums on a regular basis. Institute staff members also regularly make submissions to parliamentary committees.

Results

The Fraser Institute's efforts over the years have contributed to changing the conventional wisdom about many areas of public policy across Canada. The increasing scepticism Canadians feel about the efficacy of government solutions to economic problems is being reflected in the policy platforms of leaders across the political spectrum. The Institute has a well-deserved reputation for the quality of its work, which earns its research and recommendations the attention of policy makers around the globe.

ARAB ECONOMIC FREEDOM

With generous support from the John Templeton Foundation, The Fraser Institute has launched an exciting new project to promote economic freedom in the **Arab world**. It is important to note that the initiative for this project came from the Arab world. The project's development followed a number of invitations to the Arab world to discuss economic freedom, a request to help organize a free-market think tank in Oman, and an invitation from the World Economic Forum (WEF) to prepare a report, *Economic Freedom of the Arab World*, which the WEF published in the spring of 2005.

The project has progressed rapidly. With Fraser Institute help, the International Research Foundation (IRF) was established in Oman in the fall of 2005 with a mandate to promote economic freedom throughout the Arab world. In late 2005, The Fraser Institute and the IRF jointly published a second edition of the *Economic Freedom of the Arab World* by Salem Al Ismaily of the IRF and Fraser Institute researchers Amela Karabegović and Fred McMahon.

The *Economic Freedom of the Arab World* measures economic freedom in 16 nations: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, the UAE, and Yemen. Nations are ranked in five areas: size of government; legal structure and security of property rights; access to sound money; freedom to trade internationally, and the regulation of credit, labour, and business.

The publication of the second edition was followed by a gala awards ceremony to honour the Arab nations with the greatest achievements in economic freedom. More than 300 dignitaries attended the event in Muscat, the capital of Oman, along with representatives from virtually all Arab nations. Winning the overall award as the economically freest Arab nations were Lebanon and Oman. The prime minister of Lebanon, Fuad Siniora, though he was not at the gala event, made a point of personally accepting the award after the event. The prime minister has also expressed strong interest in the IRF and Fraser Institute plans to hold the next Arab economic Freedom Awards in Lebanon.

The awards ceremony attracted a great deal of media attention throughout the Arab world. The ceremony was held in conjunction with the Economic Freedom of the World Network meeting in Oman, attracting attendees

from almost 20 nations, which was also well covered by the Arab media.

The project continues to grow. The government of Oman has requested that the IRF and The Fraser Institute jointly prepare an audit of Oman's economic policies with a view to making Oman the economically freest nation in the world. Planning is well underway for this exciting project.

It is crucial to recognize the support of the Pennsylvania-based John Templeton Foundation for this work. In 2005, this Fraser Institute project was selected as one of three recipients of US\$500,000 as part of the foundation's "What Works in Enterprise-Based Solutions to Poverty" competition. The evidence shows that economic freedom is the best route out of poverty. The drive and ingenuity of individuals and families simply does a better job of reducing poverty than any amount of government planning in the Arab world or elsewhere. The support from the Templeton Foundation has made this project possible.

Sampling of media coverage in the Arab world of the Arab Economic Freedom project

Publication/Media	Circulation
Al Arabiya TV (Dubai)	Arab world
Al Khaleej (UAE)	900,000
Al Shabibah (Oman)	120,000
Al Watan (Oman)	500,000
Business Today (Oman)	280,000
Commercial Magazine	200,000
CNBC Arabiya TV (Dubai)	Arab world
Khaleej Times (UAE)	700,000
Kuwait News Agency	Arab world
Oman Daily (Arabic)	400,000
Oman Economic Review	350,000
Oman Radio (English and Arabic)	Oman population (2.3 m)
Oman TV (Arabic)	Arab world
The Week (Oman)	300,000

FISCAL STUDIES

The hallmark release not just for the **Vancouver**-based Fiscal Studies department, but for The Fraser Institute, continues to be Tax Freedom Day, recognized nationally as the day in the year when the average family earns enough money to pay the tax bill imposed on it by all levels of government. Tax Freedom Day maintained its popularity with the media, garnering over 288 media hits in 2005, among the most reported on of all Fraser Institute projects. In addition, people continued to visit the Institute's web site to calculate their own personal Tax Freedom Day.

Government failure

The second edition of *Government Failure in Canada* was released in 2005 as part of the Institute's larger initiative analyzing value-for-money issues. The study documented cases of government failure based on reports of the Auditor General between 1992 and 2005. The study was particularly timely given Justice John Gomery's investigation into the federal sponsorship scandal. Indeed, media coverage increased over that which the first edition received and included mentions or stories on *CTV National News*, *Maclean's*, the *Globe and Mail*, the *Toronto Sun*, the *Montreal Gazette*, the *Calgary Herald*, the *National Post*, and the *Ottawa Citizen*. Additionally, a number of newspapers wrote editorials based on the study.

Budgets

As is customary, Fiscal Studies responded to a number of government budgets in 2005, including the federal, BC, Alberta, and Saskatchewan budgets. Media coverage of our various budget series was excellent, and included segments on *CTV National News*, *CBC News*, and *CBC National Radio*, and in the *National Post*, *Vancouver Sun*,

Calgary Herald, *Regina Leader Post*, *Saskatoon StarPhoenix*, and many others.

In addition to responding to specific budgets, Fiscal Studies also published the *Budget Performance Index*, a summary analysis of federal and provincial fiscal policy (spending, taxes, and deficits and debt). Together, the two projects recorded the tenth highest level of media mentions of any study published by the Institute in 2005.

Submissions

Members of the Fiscal Studies team were also invited to make submissions to numerous government committees. Niels Veldhuis, Senior Research Economist, testified at the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade, and Commerce and at the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance regarding Canada's productivity. In its final report, the Standing Senate Committee included five of six recommendations that the Fiscal Studies team made. Jason Clemens, Director of Fiscal Studies, made a presentation to the Saskatchewan Business Tax Review Commission. The submission was posted on the Commission's web site, and the Commission's final report included every one of the major recommendations made in the submission.

Commentaries

Fiscal Studies also recorded a stellar year in commentary writing, completing over 25 opinion pieces which subsequently appeared in such prominent newspapers as the *National Post* and *Financial Post*, *Vancouver Sun*, *Calgary Herald*, *Montreal Gazette*, *Saskatoon StarPhoenix*, *Winnipeg Free Press*, and the *Windsor Star*.

Annabel Addington



At the "Liberty, Free Markets, and the State" conference in Vancouver are (left to right): Mark Milke, Jason Clemens, Tanis Fiss, Martin Masse, and Brian Lee Crowley.

EDUCATION POLICY RESEARCH

Education policy research continued to focus on the role of freedom, choice, and parental responsibility in education. Based out of the Institute's **Toronto** office, intern Carl Shulman surveyed parents who applied to Children First: School Choice Trust to examine the effect a Children First grant had on their family's school choices and satisfaction. Intern Laurence Dare updated data for the second edition of the *Canadian Education Freedom Index* and collected data on Ontario independent schools. The department hosted two speakers in 2005: Prof. James Tooley of the University of Newcastle-Upon-Tyne on the role of private schools in the developing world, and Peter Shawn Taylor, a leading commentator in the national child care debate, on the importance of choice in child care policy.

Aminah Husain



Children First grant recipients, Nehad and Joshua Omar, enjoy the children's activity area at the Children First Kitchener-Waterloo Meet 'n' Greet.

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE STUDIES

The School Report Card series

In every province where The Fraser Institute School Report Cards are published, they are immensely popular with both parents and educators. They continue to efficiently serve the purpose for which they were designed—to provide easily understandable and accessible comparative information on how local schools are doing in equipping students with the skills and knowledge that they will need in further study and work. They effectively encourage a greater focus on academic results and a positive atmosphere of competition among schools.

During 2005, the **Vancouver**-based School Performance Studies department published six report cards ranking almost 5,700 schools in British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario, and Quebec. These schools enroll almost 3,000,000 students.

Alberta—The department began the year in February with the publication of the fourth annual *Report Card on Alberta's Elementary Schools*. This publication and the *Report Card on Alberta's High Schools*, the seventh edition of which was published in May, provided the province's parents with detailed comparative data on academic performance at over 1,000 Alberta schools. Both publications enjoy the strong support of the *Calgary Herald* and the *Edmonton Sun* newspapers. On the day of each Report Card's release, the two papers published special features that include all of the school-by-school detailed results and rankings. In total, the Alberta report cards generated over 50 pages of coverage annually in these two papers alone. Extensive coverage in other media and easy access to Report Card files on the Institute's web site ensured that the vast majority of the province's parents and educators have easy access to the Report Card's valuable information.

British Columbia—The Report Card season in BC saw the release of the eighth edition of the *Report Card on British Columbia's Secondary Schools* in late March followed by the third edition of the *Report Card on British Columbia's Elementary Schools* a month later. An agreement was reached with the *Vancouver Sun* to publish an annual special feature on the findings of the elementary schools' report card. The newspaper produced a spectacular 24-page pull-out section providing results and rankings for all of the Report Card's 1,013 schools.

The Report Cards are an indispensable information source for parents with children in British Columbia's schools. This is evidenced by the high volume of Report Card file downloads from The Fraser Institute's web site. In 2005, more than 103,000 report card files were downloaded by BC parents alone.

Ontario—In early June, the department released the third edition of the *Report Card on Ontario's Elementary Schools*, rating and ranking 2,850 of the province's public and separate elementary schools. Extensive coverage of the results was published by the *Ottawa Citizen*, the *National Post*, and

the *Windsor Star*. Ontario parents downloaded 76,200 report card files from the Institute's web site.

Quebec—Late in October, the sixth edition of the Report Card on Quebec's Secondary Schools was released. As usual, its appearance was noted with great interest by that province's media. For the fifth year, *l'actualité*, Quebec's leading news magazine, devoted much of its first November edition to the Report Card. In depth stories accompanied the special 44 page pull out section in which all the individual school report cards were presented. In 2005, more than 200 media stories were published or broadcast. The report card's release was covered with multi-feature stories on CTV, Global, CBC, and TVQ television.

The Garfield Weston Awards for Excellence in Education

The *Garfield Weston Awards for Excellence in Education* honour school teams—teachers, administrators, and support staff—who have made an outstanding contribution to their students' academic success. Generously supported by The W. Garfield Weston Foundation, the program's objective is to encourage the celebration of success among educators. Not only does such a program remind educators that society at large values the work that they do, but it also provides hope and motivation to those educators who have not yet found success. Further, by showing that success is acknowledged and therefore valued, this recognition program aims to promote healthy competition between schools that will lead to improvement in all schools as educators accept the challenge and work even harder for success.

Ontario

The Weston Awards program expanded into Ontario and Quebec in 2005. The year began with the great success of the first annual Garfield Weston Awards for Excellence in Education for Ontario elementary school teams. The top-ranking one percent of school teams was invited to participate in the program. The gala presentation dinner was held at the Fairmont Royal York in Toronto. Two hundred and sixty-nine of Ontario's top elementary school educators joined together in a joyful celebration of excellence that saw school teams win awards for overall academic excellence, improvement in academics, and academic achievement in excess of expectations. These educators have undoubtedly become ambassadors for the program. They carried back to their schools the clear message that their success is appreciated and that they must work hard to ensure that they will again be on the podium in 2006.

Quebec

While awards were presented in Quebec to top-ranking secondary schools on the same three measures of academic success, we were unable to mount an awards presentation due to the currently uneasy climate within the province's education sector. We will continue to develop the program in Quebec and look forward to successful gala events in the future.

British Columbia

In British Columbia, the awards program followed the successful Ontario format. For the first time elementary school teams were invited to join their secondary school counterparts. Awards were presented for most rapid improvement in academics in elementary schools; most rapid improvement in academics in secondary schools; and most consistent improvement. The latter award was open to elementary and secondary schools. The gala awards dinner was held in early November at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Georgia in downtown Vancouver. Almost 200 BC educators joined this inspiring celebration of excellence.

Alberta

The Garfield Weston Awards for Excellence in Education were presented to outstanding Alberta school teams on November 8. As in British Columbia, the focus was on improvement and both elementary and secondary school teams were recognized. Forty-five school teams from across the province were saluted for their outstanding work.



J. Ross, Canadian Press

The Garfield Weston Awards for Excellence in Education expanded to include Ontario in 2005. Here Peter Cowley and staff from the Shirley Street Junior Public School pose with their award for "Academic Achievement in Excess of Expectations."

NON-PROFIT AND SOCIAL STUDIES

The **Alberta**-based *Donner Canadian Foundation Awards for Excellence in the Delivery of Social Services* had a banner year in 2005, becoming the single largest program that the Centre for Non-Profit and Social Studies has ever undertaken. A record 842 applications for the awards were received from non-profit organizations across Canada, almost three times more than in any previous year. Thirty-one finalists were honoured at a ceremony in Toronto on November 23 attended by 162 supporters of Canada's non-profit sector. Media personality Danielle Smith emceed the luncheon event, at which \$70,000 in awards were presented by the Honourable James K. Bartleman, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. Results from the 2005 program were published in the annual *Non-Profit Performance Report: An Analysis of Management, Staff, Volunteers, and Board Effectiveness in the Non-Profit Sector*.

The 2005 Donner Award recipients (back row, from left): Larry Lutgendorff (John Knox Christian School), Nancy Grant (Hopsice Saint John & Sussex), Benita Richardson (Children's Garden Nursery School), Mark Brunton (Simon House Residence Society), Sue Moen (A Loving Spoonful), Chris Grayson (Community Living Campbellford/Brighton), Tammy Vandenheuval (Sarnia-Lambton Rebound), Marlene Gorman (Sudbury Action Centre for Youth), Carol Fredrek (Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada—Calgary Chapter), Ian Ross (Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention Centre of BC). Front row, from left: Donner Awards Program supporter Margaret Bahen, Donner Canadian Foundation Trustee Garfield Mitchell, The Honourable James, K. Bartleman, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, media personality Danielle Smith.



J. Ross, Canadian Press

Donner Award finalists, representing the Big Brothers and Big Sisters Association of Peterborough, enjoy celebrating their achievements together at the recognition event in Toronto.



J. Ross, Canadian Press



The Donner Canadian Foundation Awards for Excellence in the Delivery of Social Services logo is a distinctive symbol of Canadian achievement in this area.

MINING SURVEY

The Fraser Institute's *Annual Survey of Mining Companies* has become a powerful tool for mining executives to judge the quality of the regulatory environment in jurisdictions around the world. The survey's primary focus is on uncertainty. Miners spend years in exploration and development and require a predictable regulatory climate to know that they will maintain their rights at the end of this long process. Everyone from miners to environmentalists should seek certainty in regulation, so that the go-ahead depends on having a good project rather than political power. The importance of the survey was well explained by writer Leonard Melman in a special Fall 2005 supplement on the mining survey in the *Western Standard*. "Few industries are as dependent on overall regulatory conditions for their prosperity as the mining industry, but until 1997 there was no convenient way for mining executives to compare geographical and political regimes. Since 1997, The Fraser Institute has filled that need by conducting an annual survey of metal mining and exploration companies to assess how mineral endowments and public policy factors such as taxation and regulation affect exploration investment," he wrote.

CENTRE FOR LABOUR MARKET STUDIES

The Centre for Labour Market Studies, which operates out of the Institute's **Vancouver** office, continued its research series on unionization. *Explaining Canada's High Unionization Rates* provided an overview of different causes of unionization. The study concluded that labour laws, such as certification rules, secret ballot voting requirements, mandatory union membership rules, and forced union dues payment played a major role in explaining unionization rates. The study received substantial media coverage in 2005.

A study published by the Centre for Labour Market Studies that did not receive a great deal of media attention but which nonetheless has had an enormous impact is the *Transparency of Labour Relations Boards in Canada and the United States*. The paper empirically measured the level of transparency amongst the 10 provincial labour relations boards as well as the Canadian and US national labour relations boards. The response from the boards, whether they performed well or poorly, was beyond expectations. According to the feedback, the study highlighted deficiencies of which the boards were unaware while outlining ways for them to improve their transparency.

Researchers associated with the Centre for Labour Market Studies leveraged previous Institute work, namely the 1980 book *Unions and the Public Interest: Collective Bargaining in the Government Sector*, by Professor Sandra Christensen. They issued a press release reminding media of the book's still-timely analysis of how wages are set in the public sector and, more importantly, the efficacy of moving to a wage board model, wherein public sector wages are linked to private sector equivalents. The response to this brief release led researchers to schedule a full study with updated analysis for 2006.

The Centre was pleased to welcome Milagros Palacios as a part-time researcher; she divides her time between the Centre for Labour Market Studies and Fiscal Studies. The Centre made great strides in establishing an Advisory Panel and hopes to confirm and finalize the panel in mid-2006.

HEALTH AND PHARMACEUTICAL POLICY

Research on health and pharmaceutical policy is very important because the stakes are high—often a matter of life and death. Policy choices made by governments in the health sector affect the quality and availability of medical goods and services and the costs of obtaining it. Evidence shows that Canadians, like other people around the world, have very practical non-ideological expectations for health care: they simply want quick access to the most effective medical treatments available, and to ensure that no one will be denied access to medically necessary goods and services if they are too poor to pay for them privately.

The purpose of the Department of Health and Pharmaceutical Policy Research at The Fraser Institute is to find the best way to achieve these two goals. Under the direction of Brett J. Skinner, the **Toronto**-based department conducts research to find health policies that are financially sustainable, produce the best ratio of value for money over the long run, minimize the negative impacts of the state on medical practice and innovation, minimize the burden of health policy on taxpayers, and respect the inviolable right of people to preserve and improve their own health without interference from government.

In 2005, the department expanded on its pre-existing program of research, helping to make it the leading centre of research on prices and competition in Canada's brand name and generic drug industries. In 2004 the department published *Generic Drugopoly: Why Non-Patented Prescription Drugs Cost More in Canada than in the United States and Europe* followed by *Canada's Drug Price Paradox: The Unexpected Losses Caused by Government Interference in Pharmaceutical Markets* in early 2005. These two studies found that while brand name drug prices are lower in Canada than in the USA, the prices of generic drugs are significantly higher in Canada than elsewhere. The reason for this was a lack of competition in Canada's generic drug industry, aided by government interference in the market and policy favoritism toward generic companies. The research has had an enormous impact on the pharmaceutical policy debate in both Canada and the US. In October 2005, Parliament asked the federal drug price regulator, the Patented Medicines Price Review Board, to move beyond its official mandate on patented (brand name) medicines, and begin monitoring the prices of generic drugs as well. In the US, the research has been reported widely in major media and

cited frequently among experts in the field and policy-makers at legislative debates about pharmaceutical policy.

The department has also created an annual measurement of the sustainability of public health care expenditures in Canada that has made the Institute the primary source of policy research in this area. The study measures the most recent five-year average annual growth in total public expenditures on health care and total government revenues from all sources in each of the provinces, then projects these trends into the future to illustrate the unsustainability of the current policy logic in health care. The 2005 edition of the study, *Paying More, Getting Less 2005: Measuring the Sustainability of Provincial Public Health Expenditure in Canada*, showed that in 7 out of 10 provinces, if trends continue, public spending on health care will consume more than half of total revenues by the year 2022, two-thirds by the year 2032, and all revenue by 2050. This study has made the tone of the health care debate in Canada more urgent and has been very persuasive with provincial and federal policy makers as well as the media. In fact, politicians as far away as New Zealand now use this research to inform their own health care debate.

Other research in the department includes issues like access to medicines, the economic impact of drugs on health care costs, the cross-border resale drug trade, relative risk, and the economic value of various medical technologies. The department published 6 major studies, 13 *Fraser Forum* articles and 8 commentaries in major newspapers in 2005. Brett Skinner also delivered 10 conference presentations and 2 policy briefings. In 2005, the department underwent organizational changes by spinning off Health System Performance Measurement into a separate department under the directorship of Nadem Esmail.



Gary Wildman

Dr. Brian Day of the Cambie Surgical Centre has been actively facilitating debate on Canada's health care system.

HEALTH SYSTEM PERFORMANCE STUDIES

The Fraser Institute searches for competitive market solutions for public policy problems. In Canadian health care, governments tend to prohibit competitive markets in favour of government monopoly, which provides the **Alberta**-based Health System Performance Studies department opportunities to measure the effects of these policies and to propose sound reforms.

Waiting Your Turn

In 2005, under the direction of Nadeem Esmail, the Health System Performance Studies department continued to provide Canada's only national, comparable, and comprehensive measurement of waiting times for medically necessary treatment.

The fifteenth edition of The Fraser Institute's benchmark publication in health performance studies, *Waiting Your Turn: Hospital Waiting Lists in Canada*, showed that waiting lists decreased for the first time since we began measuring the state of delays for medically necessary treatment in 1993. Total waiting time for patients between referral from a general practitioner and treatment fell to 17.7 weeks (equal to the wait time experienced in 2003) from 17.9 weeks in 2004. The small nationwide improvement reflected waiting time decreases in five provinces while concealing increases in waiting time in Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland. The study received high-profile coverage including the front page of the *National Post*, and recorded the highest number of media mentions of any study published by The Fraser Institute in 2005.

How Good is Canadian Health Care?

The third edition of *How Good is Canadian Health Care?* was also published in 2005. The study compares Canada's health policies and health care performance with other nations that guarantee their citizens access to health care insurance. The evidence examined in the study showed that only Iceland and Switzerland spent more than Canada on health care (measured as an age-adjusted share of GDP). Unfortunately, despite this high level of expenditure, the Canadian health care program delivered inadequate access to health care services and technology and only satisfactory health outcomes when compared with these other developed nations. The international evidence shows that these other countries get better value for

money by allowing private insurers and funders to compete with government insurers, allowing private hospitals to serve patients in competition with government hospitals, and requiring patients to fund some portion of the health services they consume.

Health Performance Studies

Late in the year, Health Performance Studies coordinated a health care focused issue of *Fraser Forum*. Articles in that issue of The Fraser Institute's journal discussed topics such as the cost of health care insurance per tax-paying family, the experience with private health insurance in Australia, concerns about electronic health records, and health care reform in the UK. In addition, as part of the department's ongoing study of health system performance, various articles published throughout the year in *Fraser Forum* covered topics such as Canada's physician supply, private and public health care expenditures in the OECD, the benefits of pharmaceutical spending and private health care provision in Quebec, and the private cost of waiting for medically necessary care.

Nadeem Esmail also wrote a significant number of commentaries, with columns appearing in such prominent newspapers as the *Saskatoon StarPhoenix*, *Ottawa Citizen*, *Vancouver Sun*, *National Post*, *Montreal Gazette*, *Victoria Times Colonist*, and *Windsor Star*. In addition, he delivered 19 conference presentations and 3 policy briefings on the department's research.



Rita Rubio

Nadeem Esmail (right) and the president of the British Columbia Medical Association, Dr. Michael Golbey, draw the prize ticket in the Waiting Your Turn lottery.

CHILDREN FIRST: SCHOOL CHOICE TRUST

The year saw tremendous growth for Children First: School Choice Trust, Canada's first privately funded program that helps families with financial need afford their choice of independent elementary school. The program is run out of the Institute's **Toronto** office. In the 2004-05 school year, the program served 360 elementary school students. That number rose to 800 in 2005-06. This dramatic growth was, in part, the result of parents selecting less expensive schools than in previous years, so that the average tuition dropped 15 percent to \$4,400 per child per year. Average annual household income also dropped slightly to \$28,000.

Children First was sorry to lose its founding program director, Virginia Gentles, but welcomed an excellent new team, which grew over the course of the year to accommodate the new demands of growth. The new team includes Program Director Michael Thomas, Program Manager Nadia Hasan, and Program Assistant Aminah Husain.

With this excellent new team in place, Children First took the first steps to grow beyond its original territory of Ontario. The Hunter Family Foundation generously pledged funding to establish an Alberta program, set to launch in January 2006 with the support of several other individual donors.



Kennedy Hong

Claudia Hepburn, Director of Education Policy (standing, right), chats with Brownwen Chisholm, parent of two Children First grant recipients and spokesperson for Children First Ontario, at the 2005 grant announcement event.



Nadia Hasan

Children First grant recipients, Kristina, Emily and Josephine Clarke, smile for the camera at the Children First Kitchener-Waterloo Meet 'n' Greet.



CANADA STRONG AND FREE

In 2005, The Fraser Institute, in conjunction with the Montreal Economic Institute, published the first installment of *A Canada Strong and Free/Pour un Canada fort et prospère*, co-authored by Fraser Institute Senior Fellows Mike Harris and Preston Manning. In the series, Harris and Manning present a vision to make Canada the best democratic federation in the world. Two volumes were released in 2005.

In volume I, released in March, Harris and Manning tackled some of the problems plaguing our health care system. But the first volume went well beyond the health debate. Harris and Manning also set forth innovative proposals to improve our economy, job creation performance, democratic institutions, and international standing. The authors were supported by Fraser Institute research and policy analysts in presenting their vision.

In volume II, *Caring for Canadians/Au service des Canadiens*, released in October, Manning and Harris focused on giving Canadians the highest quality of life in the world, paying attention to the provision of K-12 education, welfare, health care, and child care. They show how Canada can become the world's most caring nation by implementing policies based on sound principles and fact-based research.

Both volumes were launched with large events, the first in Ottawa and the second in Toronto, attracting some of Canada's most prominent leaders and thinkers. In 2006, the *Canada Strong and Free* series will continue with a volume focussing on improving democratic governance in Canada and another on improving the nation's competitiveness to help raise the standard of living of all Canadians.

As Harris and Manning said recently, reflecting on their efforts in *Canada Strong and Free*, "We began with positive recollections of the great things Canadians have achieved together in the past. But we also asked, what now of the future? Where is that strong clear national vision that will unite and guide Canada for the twenty-first century? ... In recent years, a vision and policy deficit developed at the national level ... we are hopeful that the various reports in this *Canada Strong and Free* series will be of assistance in meeting the challenge" that that deficit has created.



J. Ross

Senior Fellows Preston Manning and Mike Harris, authors of the *Canada Strong and Free/Pour un Canada fort et prospère* series at the gala dinner in November.

“The biggest policy issue in Canada today is what to do about a health care system with soaring costs and mediocre service. Yet, important as it is, we seem quite incapable of talking sensibly about it... If Canada is to fix its costly, poorly performing health care system, we need to get away from the rote arguments of the past decade and have a freewheeling national debate. Points to Mr. Manning and Mr. Harris for starting it.”

—*Globe and Mail*
April 15, 2005

INSURANCE POLICY



Brett Skinner is the Institute expert on pharmaceutical policy and on insurance policy.

Insurance was created as a free market mechanism for providing financial protection against the risk of suffering large and unexpected economic losses. Members of an insurance plan agree to pay regular small amounts of money (premiums) into a “risk pool,” knowing that if some of them experience significant economic losses from an unexpected event, they can collectively afford to fund a financial recovery in a way that would be too expensive for any of them to do individually. The complicated economics of insurance leave this sector of the economy subject to criticisms of market failure. Governments in many countries, including Canada, have also attached social goals to insurance that have been used to justify heavy regulation, or the government take-over of this industry.

Based in the Institute’s **Toronto** office, the Department of Insurance Policy Research will study insurance regulation; measure the costs and benefits of government intervention in the insurance industry; and identify policies that optimize the ratio of value for money for insured consumers, minimize the negative impacts of the state on insurance, minimize the burden of insurance regulation on taxpayers, and respect the right of people to offer and enter into an insurance contract without unreasonable interference from government.

In 2005, the Institute appointed Brett J. Skinner as the director of the department, effective January 2006. Brett is also the Director of Health and Pharmaceutical Policy Research and his expertise in health insurance will carry over into this area. Brett has also worked as a consultant to the Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC), which is the industry association for home and automobile insurers. In 2005 Brett began planning to expand previous Institute research on automobile insurance issues. Look for the department to release a new study comparing automobile insurance regulation in Canada, the US, and the UK in 2006.

The influential Harvard economist, Joseph Schumpeter, coined the phrase “creative destruction” to describe the entrepreneurial process, which he argued was the essential fact about capitalism. He described this critical process as one which “incessantly revolutionizes the economic structure from within, incessantly destroying the old one, incessantly creating a new one.”

Schumpeter clearly understood the essential role that entrepreneurs play in an economy. The Fraser Institute’s newly created Centre for Entrepreneurship and Markets focuses on research and education to ensure that Canada has the most competitive and entrepreneurial-friendly environment in the world.

CENTRE FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND MARKETS

In 2005, The Fraser Institute created a new centre dedicated to studies in entrepreneurship and markets. The Centre for Entrepreneurship and Markets, based in **Vancouver**, was founded based on a generous grant from the John W. Dobson Foundation. The Centre, the only one of its kind in Canada, is charged with researching, educating, and disseminating information on the institutions and environments that support and encourage entrepreneurial activity.

The Centre created an advisory panel composed of a remarkable group of academics, researchers, and entrepreneurs. The panel provides expert advice on the efficacy of proposed research, provides peer review, and in some cases undertakes research directly. The Panel includes:

- Ian Aitken, Managing Partner of Pembroke Management Ltd and Founder and current Director of Advancing Canadian Entrepreneurship (ACE);
- John Baldwin, Director of Micro-Economic Analysis, Statistics Canada;
- Brendan Calder, Adjunct Professor at the Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto;
- John Chant, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Economics, Simon Fraser University;
- Tim Davis, Project Manager—Entrepreneurship Indicators, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD);
- William M. Gentry, Associate Professor of Economics, Williams College (Massachusetts);
- Howard Haugom, entrepreneur with interests in retail, manufacturing, and trading companies;
- Thomas Hellmann, Associate Professor at the Sauder School of Business, University of British Columbia;
- Peter Johnson, founding Director of McGill University's Dobson Centre for Entrepreneurial Studies;
- Laura Jones, Vice-President of the Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses, British Columbia and Yukon Division;
- Paul S. Kedrosky, Academic Director for the von Liebig Center for Entrepreneurism & Technology Advancement, University of California, San Diego;
- Robin Louis, President of Ventures West Management Inc.;

- Teresa Menzies, Associate Professor, Faculty of Business, Brock University;
- Eric A. Morse, J.R. Shaw Professor of Entrepreneurship and Family Owned Business and Director of the Institute for Entrepreneurship, Richard Ivey School of Business, University of Western Ontario;
- Daniel Sandler, Professor of Law and Director of the LLM Program, University of Western Ontario;
- Russell S. Sobel, Associate Professor of Economics and Director of the Entrepreneurship Center, West Virginia University;
- Lloyd Steier, Research Chair and Professor of Strategic Management and Organization, University of Alberta's School of Business; and
- Craig Wright, Vice President and Chief Economist, Royal Bank of Canada.

With the assistance of the advisory panel, the Centre's analysts identified four key areas for research: taxation, regulation, capital finance, and measurement.

The Centre was pleased to release its inaugural study in 2005: *Growing Small Businesses in Canada: Removing the Tax Barrier*. The study documented how the preferential income tax rates afforded small businesses actually create an enormous disincentive for them to grow and expand. The study also provided a clear solution: reduce general corporate income tax rates and increase the threshold for eligible small business income in order to eliminate, or at least reduce, the tax wall faced by small businesses as they expand. A number of major newspapers and radio shows across the country covered the study. Government officials and industry associations also received it favourably.

The Centre will build on the success of its inaugural study in 2005 with the release of a substantially revised *Provincial Investment Climate Index* in early 2006. In addition, a number of other studies are slated for 2006. Professor John Chant of Simon Fraser University will be undertaking research on small business finance. Internal researchers working with Professor Gary Mauser, also of Simon Fraser University, will begin the first of a series of surveys investigating attitudes towards business and business success.

ECONOMIC FREEDOM

The *Annual Economic Freedom of the World Report* once again received extensive global media coverage in 2005. It was promoted internationally by independent research and educational institutions belonging to the Economic Freedom of the World Network in 71 nations.

The Economic Freedom Index seeks to quantify objectively the extent of government restrictions on the ability of individuals to engage freely in economic activity. The foundations of economic freedom are personal choice, voluntary exchange, the right to keep what one earns, the rule of law, and property rights. Economic freedom is essential to political reform, since it frees individuals and families from government dependence and allows them to take independent political roles without fear of loss of livelihood or privilege. Work on the index began in 1986 when Institute Executive Director Michael Walker and Nobel Laureate Milton Friedman initiated a comprehensive research project on economic freedom and its consequences. About 60 leading scholars, including several Nobel laureates, participated in the project. The annual *Economic Freedom of the World Report* grew out of this work.

The Fraser Institute's Economic Freedom project continues to gain in influence globally. In 2005, The Economic

Freedom Network welcomed free market institutes from six nations—Mongolia, Portugal, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Norway, and Oman. A tremendous new venture is the new *Economic Freedom of the Arab World* project, discussed elsewhere in this report.

Michael Walker, Fred McMahon, director of The Fraser Institute's Globalization Centre, and Amela Karabegović, senior economist in the department, made presentations around the globe on economic freedom. All three addressed a special conference in Montenegro on increasing economic freedom throughout the former Yugoslavia. The conference was attended by representatives from the private sector and government officials from Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Kosovo, and Romania.

The Fraser Institute published the third edition of the *Economic Freedom of North America* in 2005. The report, by Amela Karabegović and Fred McMahon, has now been used in a number of economic research projects in North America and as far afield as Europe. The interest in economic freedom continues to grow. Based on the prestigious world report, there are now economic freedom reports on the states of Europe, the provinces of China, the Indian states, and Argentinean provinces.



M. Chandran

*Fred McMahon (left), Salem Al Ismaili, Executive President of OCIPED, the Omani Centre for Investment Promotion and Export Development, and Michael Walker attend the **Economic Freedom of the Arab World** celebrations in Oman in November, 2005.*

Participants in the Economic Freedom of the World event meet in Muscat, Oman in 2005.



Hakan Gergils

STUDIES IN RISK, REGULATION, AND ENVIRONMENT

In 2005, the Vancouver-based Centre for Studies in Risk, Regulation, and Environment, under the direction of Dr. Kenneth Green, contributed to a number of important policy debates in Canada and the United States. The centre promotes market-friendly policy approaches for solving real environmental problems and for managing people's exposures to risk. It also focuses on refuting alarmist claims about risks to human health and the environment, as well as rebutting calls for unnecessary, and even harmful regulatory initiatives.

As part of the centre's on-going outreach, staff were involved in debates over climate change policy; environment and health risk management; fishery management; the causes of cancer; environmental sustainability; private stewardship of environmental resources; the transportation/environment interface; and the accuracy of science reporting in the media; and more.

Although Dr. Green left the Institute in 2005, the centre released a number of successful publications during the year. In January, Dr. Green and senior fellow Professor Ross McKittrick published *Pain Without Gain: Shutting Down Coal-Fired Plants Would Hurt Ontario* which examines Ontario's decision to close the province's coal-fired power plants by 2007. Since fully 25 percent of the province's power supply is provided by coal, Ontario runs the risk of jeopardizing the province's economic growth, increasing energy costs, and reducing the reliability of the electricity supply.

Policy analyst Sylvia LeRoy contributed to *Can the Markets Save Canada's National Parks?* which recommends market-based policies, including user fees, outsourcing, and private management as the best hope for the long-term maintenance and protection of Canada's treasured national parks. The paper discusses the poor maintenance record of the federal government with regard to protecting our national parks and explains how private conservation initiatives eliminate "park barrel" politics, reduce conflict, and provide better environmental outcomes.

In November, analyst Jeremy Brown published the *State of Urban Air* which uses Environment Canada's own data to examine the real state of environmental progress in Canada. The authors studied the underlying pollutants that degrade air quality and provided an analysis of these pol-

lutants to illustrate trends in air quality across Canada and North America. They found that contrary to alarmist claims, air quality in Canada has been improving steadily for the past three decades and the air we breathe is far cleaner now than it was just two decades ago. In particular, they found that the greatest success story has been a 94 percent reduction in the levels of ambient lead since 1974.

The CANSTATS project

The Centre for Studies in Risk, Regulation, and Environment is also the home of The Fraser Institute's CANSTATS project. CANSTATS was established in mid-2002 and since then it has established itself as a valuable resource upon which the media and public can rely to take a second look at how statistics and scientific information get used in public policy debates (see more at www.canstats.org).

In 2005, 30 CANSTATS bulletins were published on a broad range of environmental and social science issues, from the misguided promotion of ethanol as an alternative to fossil fuels, through to climate change alarmism and ornamental pesticide bans.

Although the project ended 2005 on a note of transition with the departure from the Institute of Jeremy Brown, who oversaw the project, the archived material on the canstats.org site remains a valuable repository of statistical and scientific information.



Vanessa Schneider

Policy analyst Jeremy Brown leads a discussion group at the seminar for high school students in Vancouver on April 20, 2005.

EVENTS

In 2005, The Fraser Institute organized over 60 events including Round Table Luncheons, Policy Briefings, conferences, supporter events, open houses, awards celebrations, and gala dinners. A special highlight of the year was a gala “roast” in honour of Michael Walker to mark his retirement from the position of Executive Director at The Fraser Institute. This lively dinner featured several celebrity roasters: Terence Corcoran, Ezra Levant, Preston Manning, Mike Harris, Andrew Coyne, and Dr. Brian Day. Admirers from around the world also sent in video tributes which were incorporated as the basis of a 15-minute video that included stories, well-wishes, and a few forgotten photos.

The Fraser Institute’s 2005 Annual General Meeting held in Calgary attracted an audience of 600 to hear the then-Leader of the Official Opposition, Stephen Harper.

Based on the success of our first excursion, the Institute organized a second trip to Washington, DC, during which 30 delegates met with Vice-President Dick Cheney, Federal Reserve Governor Mark Olson, Canada’s Ambassador to the United States Frank McKenna, Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns, First Deputy Managing Director at the IMF Anne Krueger, and the Department of State’s Deputy Secretary Robert B. Zoellick. Alan Reynolds from the Cato Institute provided our guests with some colourful insights into American politics and Rear-Admiral Ian D. Mack, Commander, Canadian Defence Attaché highlighted some important aspects of the Canada/US relationship in terms of military cooperation.

On the invitation of President Vaclav Klaus of the Czech Republic, in October Fraser Institute supporters visited Prague Castle. The excursion also included historical visits to sites of interest and a dinner with former Canadian politician Otto Jelinek.

The year also saw the launch of the first volume of *A Canada Strong and Free/Pour un Canada fort et prospère* in Ottawa featuring co-authors Mike Harris and Preston Manning. They gained widespread media attention for their vision of Canada, and impressed another audience at the launch of the second volume in the series, *Caring for Canadians in a Canada Strong and Free/Au service des Canadiens dans un Canada fort et prospère* at a gala dinner in Toronto in the fall.

Other programs throughout the year featured an array of internationally acclaimed economists, politicians, and influential policy figures including Stephen Harper, the infamous Danish environmentalist Bjørn Lomborg, and the controversial Peter C. Newman.

The Institute’s popular policy briefing program continued to grow in scope and attract new and larger audiences in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, and Victoria.



Kennedy Hong

Executive Director of the Pacific Research Institute, Sally Pipes, at a promotional launch for her book, *Miracle Cure*, co-published by The Fraser Institute.



Rita Rubio

Mario Dumont, leader of the Action Democratique du Quebec, speaks to the media following a policy briefing in Vancouver in March.



Kennedy Hong

After Senior Fellow Ross McKittrick’s lecture, “The Hockey Stick Debate: What Does it Mean for Climate Policy?” Prof. Glenn Fox (left) presents him with a “corrected” hockey stick.

EVENT CALENDAR

Date	City	Speaker	Event Name
January 14	Vancouver	Gilles Duceppe, Leader of the Bloc Quebecois	Federal/Provincial Spending: Offsetting the Fiscal Imbalance
January 21	Toronto	Wendell Cox, Principal, Wendell Cox Consultancy	Myths About Urban Growth and the Toronto “Greenbelt”
January 24	Vancouver	Bjørn Lomborg, Best-Selling Author, Statistician and Environmentalist	Global Crises: Global Solutions**
January 27 and February 8	Vancouver and Calgary	Ken Boessenkool, Vice President, Hill & Knowlton Canada, and Former Senior Policy Advisor to the Leader, Conservative Party of Canada	The New Reality in Ottawa: Policy by a Minority Government
February 1	Toronto	Sally Pipes, President and CEO, Pacific Research Institute	Miracle Cure: How to Solve America’s Health Care Crisis & Why Canada Isn’t the Answer
March 1 and March 3	Calgary and Vancouver	Mario Dumont, Leader, Action Democratique du Quebec (ADQ)	Overcoming the Fear Factor: Moving Canadians from Ideology to Results in Health Care
March 3	Toronto	Peter Cowley, Director of School Performance Studies, The Fraser Institute	The Garfield Weston Awards for Excellence in Education****
March 9	Toronto	Peter Shawn Taylor, Leading Commentator & Contributing Editor, <i>Canadian Business Magazine</i>	National Day Care, Pay Care or No-Way Care?: Considering the Federal Government’s New Plan
March 12-13	Vancouver		Liberty, Free Markets and the Welfare State: An Historical Perspective****
April 7	Toronto	Brett Skinner, Director of Pharmaceutical and Health Policy Research, The Fraser Institute	Canada’s Drug Price Paradox: Costly Government Interference in Drug Markets
April 13	Ottawa	Mike Harris and Preston Manning	The 1 st Annual Fraser Institute Canada Strong & Free Ottawa Event**
April 14-17	Vancouver		Liberty, Free Markets and Government****
April 22, April 28, and June 8	Calgary, Vancouver, and Toronto	Dr. Ross McKittrick, Senior Fellow, The Fraser Institute, and Associate Professor of Economics, University of Guelph	The Hockey Stick Debate: What Does it Mean for Climate Policy?
April 28	Calgary	John Fund, Editorial Writer, <i>Wall Street Journal</i> *	
April 29	Calgary	Stephen Harper, Leader of the Official Opposition	The Fraser Institute 2005 Dr. Harold Walter Siebens Lecture & AGM Luncheon**
May 18 and June 23	Calgary and Vancouver	Sylvia LeRoy, Policy Analyst, The Fraser Institute	Child Care Myths and Realities
June 15	Toronto	Nadeem Esmail, Senior Health Policy Analyst, The Fraser Institute	How Good is Canadian Health Care? And How Good Could It Be?

EVENT CALENDAR

Date	City	Speaker	Event Name
June 15-17	Washington, DC	Vice President Richard B. Cheney, Federal Reserve Governor Mark W. Olson, Ambassador Frank McKenna, Deputy Secretary of State Robert B. Zoellick, Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns, First Deputy Managing Director, <i>IMF</i> , Dr. Anne O. Krueger, and Rear-Admiral Ian D. Mack	Washington Briefing****
July 13	Vancouver	His Excellency Maqbool Sultan, Minister of Commerce, Oman*	
September 7	Toronto	Dr. James Tooley, Professor of Education Policy, University of Newcastle, UK	Does Private Education Work for the Poor?
September 8	Toronto	Fred McMahon, Director of Centre for Globalization Studies, The Fraser Institute	Economic Freedom: The Key to Peace and Prosperity?
September 13	Vancouver	Dr. Ding Lu, Professor of Economics, Sophia University (Japan)	China's Dragon: Why All Provinces Are Not Breathing Fire
September 15	Vancouver	Nadeem Esmail, Senior Health Policy Analyst and Manager of Health Data Systems, The Fraser Institute	How Good is Canadian Health Care? An International Comparison of Health Care Systems
September 20 & October 25	Vancouver and Calgary	Dr. Mark Mullins, Executive Director, The Fraser Institute	Meet 'n' Greet Open House
September 20	Calgary	Peter C. Newman, Author	The Mulroney Record: Policies and Accomplishments**
September 22	Vancouver	Jason Clemens, Director of Fiscal Studies, and Niels Veldhuis, Senior Research Economist, The Fraser Institute	Two Pillars of Canadian Prosperity: Taxation and Labour Laws
September 28	Vancouver	John Carpay, Executive Director, and John Weston, Founder, The Canadian Constitution Foundation	Public Interest Litigation: A Monopoly of the Left?
October 3 and October 7	Calgary and Toronto	Robert R. Amsterdam, Senior Partner, Amsterdam & Peroff	Global Effects of Russian Authoritarianism: The Case of YUKOS Oil
October 4	Vancouver	Jayant Bhandari, Entrepreneur and Author	Collectivism: How to Create Immoral & Characterless Individuals
October 11-15	Prague, Czech Republic	President Vaclav Klaus and Otto Jelinek, Deloitte & Touche*****	
October 11	Vancouver	Mark W. Olson, Governor of U.S. Federal Reserve Board*	
October 12	Vancouver	Governor Mark W. Olson, U.S. Federal Reserve Board	Update on the U.S. Economy**
October 17	Vancouver	Jason Clemens, Director of Fiscal Studies, and Niels Veldhuis, Senior Research Economist, The Fraser Institute	Beyond Self-Interest & Sponsorships: Why Governments are Failing and How to Fix Them

EVENT CALENDAR

Date	City	Speaker	Event Name
October 20 & November 10	Toronto and Calgary	John Carpay, Executive Director, The Canadian Constitution Foundation	Public Interest Litigation: A Monopoly of the Left?
October 21	Vancouver	Dr. Tim Ball, Climatologist, Author, and Environmental Consultant	The Unusual Weather: More Usual Than Unusual?
October 25	Vancouver	Fred McMahon, Director of Centre for Globalization Studies	Economic Freedom: The Key to Peace and Prosperity?
October 26, 27, and 28	Calgary, Vancouver, & Victoria	John Ibbitson, Author and Columnist, <i>The Globe & Mail</i>	The Polite Revolution: Perfecting the National Dream
November 1	Toronto	Mike Harris, Preston Manning	A Canada Strong and Free Celebration Dinner****
November 2 and 3	Toronto and Vancouver	Mark Mullins, Executive Director, The Fraser Institute	Accounting for Gomery: The Money Links Between the Federal Government, Political Parties, and Private Interests
November 8 and 9	Vancouver and Calgary	Peter Cowley, Director of School Performance Studies, The Fraser Institute	The Garfield Weston Awards for Excellence in Education****
November 15	Vancouver	Michael Walker	A Roast for Michael Walker****
November 20-21	Muscat, Oman		Economic Freedom of the World Annual Meeting****
November 22	Toronto		Celebration of Donner Awards Finalists****
November 23	Toronto		Donner Canadian Foundation Awards for Excellence in the Delivery of Social Services**
November 30	Calgary	Nadeem Esmail, Senior Health Policy Analyst and Manager of Health Data Systems, The Fraser Institute	How Good is Canadian Health Care? An International Comparison of Health Care Systems
December 2	Vancouver	Dr. Herb Grubel, Senior Fellow, The Fraser Institute	Immigration & the Welfare State in Canada: Growing Conflicts, Constructive Solutions
December 7	Calgary	Gwyn Morgan, President & Chief Executive Officer of EnCana Corporation	T.P Boyle Founder's Awards and Lecture Gala Dinner****
December 8	Toronto	Brett J. Skinner, Director of Pharmaceutical and Health Policy Research, The Fraser Institute	Paying More, Getting Less: Measuring the Sustainability of Provincial Public Health Expenditure in Canada (2005)

Note: All events are Policy Briefings unless otherwise indicated.

*Private Donor Dinner

**Round Table Luncheon or Round Table Breakfast

***AGM

****Special Event

What students say about our Student Seminars ...

*The best way to invest a
Saturday—intellectually
challenging!*

—Rodrigo Rodero
Vancouver seminar

*Excellent chance to hear
a side that you don't hear
from politically left profs
at school.*

—Anonymous
Vancouver seminar

*I truly enjoyed the whole
day. I think students are
not as informed as they
should be and I strongly
recommend more seminars
like this.*

—Katie Soltis
Vancouver seminar

*As a “super beginner” of
economics study, I found
this seminar fascinating
and inspirational. Thank
you.*

—Hanyia Bian
Victoria seminar

STUDENT PROGRAMS

The Student Programs Department is based in **Vancouver** and has a staff of two: Annabel Addington, Director of Education Programs and Vanessa Schneider, Associate Director of Student Programs. The department continued to expand its student programs in 2005, offering seminars, colloquia, student newsletters, essay contests, event bursaries, and internships in an effort to encourage students and young people to study competitive markets.

Student seminars

During 2005, the Institute hosted 11 one-day seminars attracting nearly 1,300 registrants. The programs were held in Vancouver (3), Victoria, Prince George, Kelowna, Edmonton, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Toronto, and Montreal. The objective of the student seminar program is to involve university, college, and senior high school students in structured discussions of economic policy issues and competitive markets, and to give them the opportunity to interact and debate with their peers on important themes.

The high school student seminars held in Vancouver in the Spring and Fall continued to be very popular, “selling out” in a number of days. The program features a combination of short lectures, activities, and simulations to learn about economic principles and how to apply them to decision making.

We would like to thank our members and the major sponsors for these seminars: the Lotte & John Hecht Memorial Foundation, George Weston Limited, and EnCana Corporation.

Student Leaders Colloquium

This annual weekend conference for advanced-level students focuses discussion and debate on complex economic policy issues. Institute policy staff join the 20 student participants in a relaxed atmosphere where free, open, and thoughtful discussions are encouraged. Although the Student Leaders Colloquium has a degree of structure with assigned session topics, the interests of the participants themselves determine the direction of the conversation. In 2005, the attendees from across Canada were selected through a competitive process in which over 120 keen students from the Institute's one-day seminars were invited to apply to the program.

Canadian Student Review

The *Canadian Student Review* is a quarterly newsletter that contains articles written for and by students, sponsored by the Lotte & John Hecht Memorial Foundation. Each edition includes hard-hitting articles on various economic issues that are unlikely to be found in the typical campus newspaper. In 2005, the *Review* was completely updated and re-designed, making it more attention-grabbing and easy to read. Subscription options were also expanded, and an improved online version was launched. Approximately 14,000 copies of each issue of the *Review* were distributed in 2005 to print and digital subscribers, including bulk copies of the magazine that were dis-

tributed free of charge on Canadian campuses through a network of professors and student organizations.

Student Essay Contest

The topic for our annual student essay contest in 2005 was “How Can Property Rights Protect the Environment?” and cash prizes were awarded to students in secondary and post-secondary school. This year’s contest was sponsored by the W. Garfield Weston Foundation. The entries were judged on several criteria including understanding of competitive markets, originality of ideas, understanding of the issue, and clear expression of ideas. The winners were:

- **1st Place: \$1,000**
Managing Nutrients with Property Rights: An Evaluation of Nutrient Management Under Central Planning and the Market
by Maria Klimas, Guelph, ON, University of Guelph, BSc in Environmental Sciences, 2005, Commencing MSc Program in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Business, September 2005
- **2nd Place: \$500**
Washing a Rented Car: Property Rights and Environmental Protection
by Ron Podolny, Richmond Hill, ON, York University, BA Honours, Religious Studies and History, 2005, Osgoode Hall Law School, LL.B Candidate, 2008
- **1st Place, high school category: \$250**
Putting our Future in the Right Hands
by Michael Beeler, Dartmouth, NS
Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific, International Baccalaureate, 2006



Vanessa Schneider

Some of the 2005 Student Interns, from left: Rena Menaker, Carl Shulman, Reza Hasmath, Keith Godin, Jonathan Hayes, Michael Cust, Milagros Palacios, Todd Gabel, and Lindsay Donders.

Fraser Institute Student Interns, 2005

- Michael Cust,
University of Waterloo
- Laurence Dare,
University of Chicago
- Lindsay Donders,
Simon Fraser University
- Todd Gabel,
Simon Fraser University
- Sophia Genyk,
University of Waterloo
- Keith Godin,
Simon Fraser University
- Reza Hasmath,
University of Cambridge
- Jonathan Hayes,
University of Victoria
- Peter Jaworski,
University of Waterloo
- Rena Menaker,
University of Toronto
- Ryan O'Connor,
Dalhousie University
- Milagros Palacios,
University of Concepcion
(Chile)
- Carl Shulman,
Harvard University
- Debi Chakrabarty,
University of Waterloo

What our interns say about their experience ...

The part of my internship I enjoyed the most was working on a challenging, ground-breaking project and working closely with senior policy staff.

—Rena Menaker

University of Toronto

It was an awesome experience—not only to do research and produce something that will have an impact, but to interact with and meet some very influential people.

—Lindsay Donders

Simon Fraser University

The Fraser Institute is the centre for free market ideas in Canada. It seems all of the country's free marketeers have passed through here. Thank you for this excellent opportunity.

—Michael Cust

University of Waterloo

Student internship program

Thanks to sponsorship from the Donner Canadian Foundation, in 2005 The Fraser Institute was able to hire 14 student interns to join its offices for training as junior policy analysts. The students were selected through a competitive hiring process that involved over 300 applicants from across Canada. Paired with Fraser Institute analysts, the young scholars were given the opportunity to make a tangible and worthwhile contribution to the Institute's work. They represent a growing network of people who are informed and passionate about ideas and who are willing to translate the knowledge they have gained into a force to be reckoned with by policy makers and opinion leaders.

Student bursaries

It is the Institute's aim to reach as many students as possible with our policy events. To this end, we routinely offer student bursaries for each of our Round Table Luncheons and policy conferences to local scholars who might otherwise find the registration fees prohibitive. In 2005, bursaries were awarded to 33 students for events in Vancouver, Calgary, and Toronto. The total value of the awards was over \$8,800. Institute members who recognize the benefit of exposing students to these important policy events sponsored many of these students.

Vanessa Schneider



Students participate in the popular "trade game" at the seminar for high school students in Vancouver in April.

PROGRAMS FOR TEACHERS

Since 2000, The Fraser Institute has been offering teacher workshops on economic principles as well as a teacher resource section on the Institute's web site.

Teacher training workshops

In 2005, the Institute significantly expanded its programs for secondary school teachers, hosting five economic workshops focusing on topics including environmental issues, fisheries issues, and basic economic principles. The most important part of this development has been the partnerships that The Fraser Institute has forged with other like-minded organizations interested in encouraging economic awareness through education.

This year, a new program was held with Liberty Fund, Inc. providing Canadian high-school teachers with an historical context for understanding modern debates about free markets, individual liberty, and the role of the state. The conference included readings from some important texts from the western tradition of liberty, showing how liberal arguments for individual rights, limited government, and free markets developed in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, were implemented in the nineteenth century, were fundamentally challenged in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and were then revived in the mid-twentieth century.

The Fraser Institute continues to host programs in collaboration with the Foundation for Teaching Economics, holding programs in Toronto and Vancouver in 2005. The programs focus on environmental issues using an economic analysis. Teachers in the Toronto program helped the Nature Conservancy of Canada prepare a protected woodland for a prescribed burn by clearing scrub brush. Teachers in the Vancouver program visited protected areas managed by the Nature Conservancy on Swish Swash Island.

Our special thanks go to the sponsors of these programs: the Lotte & John Hecht Memorial Foundation, the London Drugs Foundation, the Foundation for Teaching Economics, Liberty Fund Inc. and the Washington Council on Economic Education.

Teaching resources

Visits to the *Teacher Centre* on the Institute's web site are increasing. On the site, teachers and the general public can find economic glossaries, lesson plans, video recommendations, and other classroom resources. Strong endorsements of the site have come from educators who find the format and content useful.

What teachers say
about our
Workshops...

Thank you and The Fraser Institute for the opportunity to attend your sponsored workshop, yesterday. It was very useful and enjoyable.

I will definitely implement the information and resource material obtained into my classroom teaching.

—George Tylor

*Sir Charles Tupper
Secondary*

I have had the privilege of attending sessions covering economics, free trade, and marketing in various settings. I find your publications and support materials to be both useful and thought provoking.

—Richard Thompson

*Fleetwood Park
Secondary*

2005 TEACHER TRAINING WORKSHOP CALENDAR

February 25-March 1, Toronto, ON
 “The Environment and the Economy” with the
 Foundation for Teaching
 Economics (FTE)

March 10-13, Vancouver, BC
 “Liberty, Free Markets, and the Welfare State:
 An Historical Perspective”
 conference with Liberty Fund, Inc.

September 22, Surrey, BC
 “The Wide World of Trade” with the
 Washington Council on Economic Education

October 1-4, Vancouver, BC
 “The Environment and the Economy” with the
 Foundation for Teaching
 Economics (FTE)

December 8, Vancouver, BC
 Teacher Training Workshop on
 Economic Principles

2005 STUDENT EVENTS CALENDAR

January 29, Edmonton, AB
Explore Public Policy Issues

February 12, Montreal, QC
*Explore Public Policy
 Issues/Explorer les politiques
 publiques*

March 4, Saskatoon, SK
Explore Public Policy Issues

March 11, Winnipeg, MB
Explore Public Policy Issues

April 20, Vancouver, BC
 Seminar for high school students
*Why Do People Behave the Way
 they Do? An Introduction to Eco-
 nomic Reasoning*

May 12-14, Vancouver, BC
 14th Annual Student Leaders
 Colloquium

October 14, Vancouver, BC
 Seminar for high school stu-
 dents

*Why Do People Behave the Way
 they Do? An Introduction to
 Economic Reasoning*

October 22, Vancouver, BC
Explore Public Policy Issues

October 29, Victoria, BC
Explore Public Policy Issues

November 5, Toronto, ON
Explore Public Policy Issues

November 9, Prince George,
 BC
Explore Public Policy Issues

November 19, Kelowna, BC
Explore Public Policy Issues

B. Smith



As part of the field trip at the Toronto workshop hosted by the FTE in partnership with The Fraser Institute, 27 teachers participated in the Nature Conservancy’s “Volunteer for Nature” program at Turkey Point, in Southern Ontario, February 28th, 2005.



Annabel Addington

During the Toronto workshop session, Florida economist Dr. Donald Fell explains why property rights are important in protecting the environment.

PUBLICATIONS

Each year, the publications department turns out an astonishing number of Fraser Institute documents. Editing, typesetting, and design are handled almost entirely internally to ensure that publications are produced in the most cost-effective way possible. In 2005, this two-person department under the direction of Kristin McCahon and with the assistance of Lindsey Martin produced 36 publications, along with 10 issues of the Institute's magazine, *Fraser Forum*, and 4 issues of *Canadian Student Review*.

The department continues to incorporate current technology and has increased its production of digital-only publications for electronic distribution as an additional cost-saving measure.

Fraser Forum

Fraser Forum is one of the Institute's main vehicles for communicating with its members and the media. Policy analysts from within the Institute as well as external writers contribute the 12 to 15 articles that comprise each issue. Each issue of *Fraser Forum* has a specific focus and contains three to six articles on the focus topic. Some of these focuses have included taxation, the environment, national security, globalization, pharmaceutical policy, education, aboriginal issues, families, welfare, and insurance. Many of the articles contain original research and are frequently reprinted in media outlets across Canada. The 6,000 *Fraser Forum* copies printed monthly are distributed to our members, the media, academic exchanges, politicians and selected news stands in British Columbia.

Books

The Fraser Institute published three books in 2005. They are:

***A Canada Strong and Free/Pour un Canada fort et prospère* by Mike Harris and Preston Manning**

Harris and Manning present a vision to make Canada the best democratic federation in the world, offering its citizens the highest quality of life and economic performance, and setting a new standard of international citizenship and leadership. This vision expands freedom of choice and acceptance of personal responsibility in every area of national life.

***Economic Freedom of the World: 2005 Annual Report* by James Gwartney and Robert Lawson with Erik Gartzke**

In this eighth edition of *Economic Freedom of the World*, the authors present an economic freedom index for 127 countries. The economic freedom index correlates positively with measures of income per capita, economic growth, the United Nations Human Development Index, and longevity, and negatively with indexes of corruption and poverty. The book provides a reflection of cross-country differences in the freedom to contract and compete in business activities and labour markets.

***Caring For Canadians in a Canada Strong and Free/Au service des Canadiens dans un Canada fort et prospère* by Mike Harris and Preston Manning**

The authors tackle the goal of giving Canadians the highest quality of life in the world. Key recommendations include expanding freedom of choice in K-12 education via educational vouchers issued to parents by provincial governments; expansion of the shift from "welfare to workfare"; getting the federal government out of the child care field by ending federal spending initiatives in this area and ceding the equivalent tax room to the provinces. With respect to health care, they recommend strengthening universal access regardless of the ability to pay while offering a "mixed approach" (public and private) to health care delivery, payment, and insurance.



Gary Wildman

Peter Cowley, Director of School Performance Studies, produces The Fraser Institute's school report cards.

Monographs

The Institute released 33 single-issue studies in 2005:

- *The 2005 Non-profit Performance Report: An Analysis of Management, Staff, Volunteers, and Board Effectiveness in the Non-Profit Sector*
- *Accounting for Gomery: The Money Links Between the Federal Government, Political Parties, and Private Interests* (Digital Document)
- *Buying Health Change? The 2005 Survey of High Earner Pay in Ontario's Hospitals* (Fraser Alert)
- *Canada's Drug Price Paradox: The Unexpected Losses Caused by Government Interference in Pharmaceutical Markets* (Digital Document)
- *The Canadian "Garrison Mentality" and Anti-Americanism at the CBC* (Studies in Defence and Foreign Policy)
- *Canadian Participation in North American Missile Defence* (Fraser Alert)
- *Canadian Pharmacare: Performance, Incentives, and Insurance* (Digital Document)
- *Can Markets Save Canada's National Parks?* (Digital Document)
- *Celebrating Freedom* (Czech President Vaclav Klaus's 2004 North American speeches)
- *Economic Freedom of the Arab World: Report and Index, 2005* (Digital Document)
- *Economic Freedom of North America: 2005 Annual Report*
- *Explaining Canada's High Unionization Rates* (Fraser Alert)
- *The Fraser Institute Annual Survey of Mining Companies, 2004-2005*
- *Government Failure in Canada, 2005 Report* (Public Policy Source)
- *Growing Small Businesses in Canada: Removing the Tax Barrier* (Studies in Entrepreneurship and Markets)
- *How Good is Canadian Health Care? 2005 report* (Critical Issues Bulletin)
- *Immigration and the Welfare State in Canada: Growing Conflicts, Constructive Solutions* (Public Policy Source)
- *A Lethal Guardian: The Canadian Government's Ban on Prescription Drugs* (Digital Document)
- *Money and Monetary Policy for the 21st Century* (Critical Issues Bulletin)
- *The Need for Canadian Strategic Lift* (Studies in Defence and Foreign Policy)
- *Network Centric Security for Canada/US Supply Chain* (Digital Document published with the US-based Center for Strategic and International Studies)
- *Pain Without Gain: Shutting Down Coal-Fired Power Plants Would Hurt Ontario* (Digital Document)
- *Paying More, Getting Less 2005: Measuring the Sustainability of Provincial Public Health Expenditure in Canada* (Digital Document)
- *Report Card on Alberta's Elementary Schools: 2005 edition* (Studies in Education Policy)
- *Report Card on Alberta's High Schools: 2005 edition* (Studies in Education Policy)
- *Report Card on British Columbia's Elementary Schools: 2005 edition* (Studies in Education Policy)
- *Report Card on British Columbia's Secondary Schools: 2005 edition* (Studies in Education Policy)
- *Report Card on Ontario's Elementary Schools: 2005 edition* (Studies in Education Policy)
- *Report Card on Quebec's Secondary Schools: 2005 edition* (English) and *Bulletin des écoles secondaires du Québec: édition 2005* (French) (Studies in Education Policy)
- *Seniors and Drug Prices in Canada and the United States* (Digital Document)
- *The State of Urban Air in Canada* (Public Policy Source)
- *The Transparency of Labour Relations Boards in Canada and the United States* (Studies in Labour Markets)
- *Universal Drug Benefits for Seniors: Unnecessary, Unsustainable, and Unfair* (Digital Document)
- *Waiting Your Turn: Hospital Waiting Lists in Canada* (15th ed.) (Critical Issues Bulletin)

Fraser Frontline

Each year, development staff produce four issues of *Fraser Frontline*, a newsy update that gives our supporters the inside scoop about Institute goings-on. The 4-page newsletter profiles analysts and highlights details of speeches staff have given, or particularly memorable or significant events that the Institute has hosted. To get your copy, contact John Maus, Manager of Annual Giving, at (416) 363-6575 ext. 232.

COMMUNICATIONS

Under the direction of Suzanne Walters, the communications department continues to work with the research and events departments to increase the Institute's presence in the public eye and to generate media coverage for the Institute's many varied activities. As always, the year was a busy one for the Institute with 141 publications and events produced in 2005.

The communications department recorded over 4,500 media stories on The Fraser Institute in 2005. Our Canadian media coverage translated into nearly \$8 million in direct advertising equivalency for the year and made over 266 million potential "impressions" in Canada (impressions are the cumulative number of potential readers and listeners reached by media stories). To reach opinion leaders across Canada and the US, 197 Fraser Institute opinion pieces ran in newspapers across North America.

The Institute also continues to increase the reach of our media coverage in the United States and internationally. Media as varied as the *New York Times*, the *Jakarta Post*, the *Times of India*, the *Economist*, and the Russian news agency Prime-Tass all covered the Institute's work in 2005. Overall, the Institute's media coverage in 2005 was strong with consistent performers like *Waiting Your Turn*, *How Good is Canadian Health Care?* and *Tax Freedom Day* achieving considerable coverage. Coverage for *Waiting Your Turn*, and for our health research in general, reflected the media's focus on health care issues during the year. *Waiting Your Turn* was also widely discussed by US media.

Our school report cards continued to be an important resource for educators and parents in the provinces in which we produce them. Keen media interest in the report cards is the result, particularly because of our relationships with media partners such as the *Calgary Herald*, *Edmonton Sun*, *National Post*, and the *Vancouver Sun* and *Province* which publish specific report card releases.

Another highlight in the year was the publication of Preston Manning and Mike Harris's *A Canada Strong and Free*. The first volume was released at a luncheon event in Ottawa, co-hosted with the Ottawa Centre for Research and Innovation, with a press briefing following. The afternoon was filled with interviews with key Ottawa media, and the following day was spent meeting with editorial boards in Toronto. News stories and editorials focused on the health care proposals contained in the publication and coverage was widespread across the country. A second volume, *Caring for Canadians*, was released later in the year, with a series of exclusive stories in Canwest newspapers. Two more volumes in this series are planned for release in the spring and fall of 2006, which we expect will continue to generate media interest.

Thanks go to Raeann Co, communications co-ordinator and Cheryl Rutledge, publications co-ordinator, for their hard work throughout the year.

THE FRASER INSTITUTE ONLINE

Our web sites continue to be a key vehicle for communicating The Fraser Institute's research to as wide an audience as possible.

The Fraser Institute's main web site, www.fraserinstitute.ca, continues to make all of the Institute's latest publications, commentaries, and news releases available on line. Visitors can also register for events or donate to the Institute on-line. With millions of files downloaded and hundreds of thousands of visitors every year, the site is a valuable resource and one of the Institute's most effective communications tools. In 2005, we began adding video clips from some of our larger events and plan on expanding the site's interactivity in 2006.

Sign up for our periodic email updates at <http://lists.fraserinstitute.ca/fraser/list.php> or receive event notifications for a number of Canadian cities by signing up at www.fraserinstitute.ca/events.

In addition, Children First: School Choice Trust, CANSTATS, and our Economic Freedom of the World network each currently have their own dedicated web sites, all of which can be reached through www.fraserinstitute.ca.

To further strengthen our commitment to the web specifically and new technologies generally, in 2005 we created a new position in the department: Internet Content Manager. The role was created to focus on the redevelopment of The Fraser Institute's main web site and to expand our web site presence in general. In August, we were pleased to welcome Wendy Mills to this new position.

The 2005 Fundraising Program

Total income for The Fraser Institute including donations, sales of publications, interest, and other income for the year 2005 amounted to \$8,158,659.

Support

As of December 31, 2005 the Institute recorded 3,266 supporters from Canada, the US, and around the world. Individuals and organizations are invited to support the Institute's work through tax-receiptable contributions in one of six support categories.

Special projects

During the year the Institute approached prospective donors to support over 50 specific projects including student seminars, teacher workshops, the elementary and secondary school report cards, environmental studies, aboriginal studies, globalization studies, the Kyoto protocol, fiscal studies, entrepreneurship studies, economic freedom, managing risk and regulation, pharmaceutical and health care studies, Canada-US relations, insurance studies, and democratic reform.

Sponsorships

Thanks to generous sponsors, the Institute was able to present prominent speakers at round table luncheons, dinners, and conferences across the country in 2005. Sponsors and advertisers are invited to support special Institute

events and activities including Circle Dinners, Policy Briefings, special events, and *Fraser Forum*.

Publications

In 2005 the Institute released 50 publications in print and digital format. Digital publications are available free of charge on the Institute's web site. Institute hard copy publications are available for purchase; these revenues go towards further research. Special large volume discounts are available for stores, libraries, and universities. For details call Cheryl Rutledge at 1-800-665-3558 ext. 580, or e-mail sales@fraserinstitute.ca.

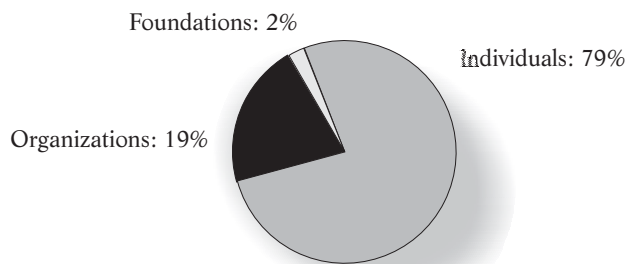
Direct mail campaigns

In 2005 the Institute's direct mail campaigns brought in 360 new supporters.

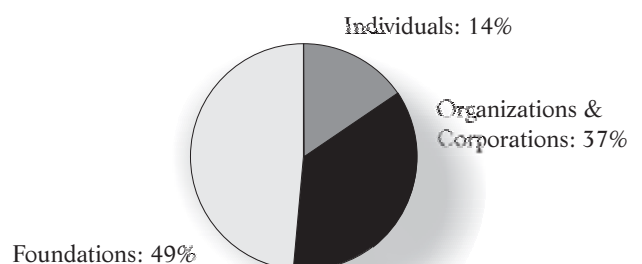
Frontline

In 2005 the Institute published four editions of *Frontline*, a periodic newsletter for supporters designed to demonstrate the impact of their contributions in helping to improve public policy in Canada and around the world. Institute friends generously contributed an additional \$98,985 in support of programs highlighted in *Frontline*.

**Fraser Institute Members
(December 31, 2005)**



**Fraser Institute Dollar Contributions
(December 31, 2005)**



Bequests

Several long-time supporters have notified the Institute that they have made provision for the Institute in their wills. Institute supporters are encouraged to remember the Institute in their estate planning through remainder trusts, life insurance, or bequests. To discuss how you can provide for the Institute's long term success, please contact Anthony Stewart, Development Associate, The Fraser Institute Foundation, at (604) 688-0221, or e-mail him at anthonys@fraserinstitute.ca.

Special funds

Barbara and Bob Mitchell Endowment

The Institute is honoured to have been chosen by the family of the late Barbara and Bob Mitchell as the recipient of a five-year endowment totaling \$2,000,000, including grants from The W. Garfield Weston Foundation, Barwest Enterprises Limited, and family members. The family made this pledge to reflect the interests and beliefs of the late Dr. and Mrs. Mitchell and to recognize The Fraser Institute's lengthy commitment to the cause of economic freedom in Canada.

How You Can Help

For information on how you can support the Institute's research, please e-mail development@fraserinstitute.ca or call toll free: 1-866-716-7175 or directly: **Sherry Stein**, Director of Development (604) 714-4590; **Barry McNamar**, Associate Director of Business Development (403) 216-7175, ext. 223; **John Maus**, Manager of Annual Giving (416) 363-6575 ext. 232.



Cristián Larroulet, Executive Director of Chile's Instituto Libertad y Desarrollo (centre) and Atlas President Alex Chafuen (right) with Former Executive Director Michael Walker, who was presented with a special award celebrating his 30 years of contributions to the promotion of public policies based on freedom.



In Memoriam

Michael Robert Hopkins

January 11, 1957-October 19, 2005

After a long battle with illness, on October 19, 2005, the staff and trustees of The Fraser Institute lost a trusted colleague and good friend—Michael Hopkins, Director of Finance and Administration, and Secretary Treasurer of the Institute.

Mike joined the Institute in 1997 and quickly made his mark introducing new systems and protocols to ensure the fiscal integrity and efficiency of the organization. He oversaw human resources at the Institute and as a testament to his compassion and professionalism, he was the go-to person for Institute staff with any number or kind of concerns. Mike was an empathetic and trusted ear.

We will fondly remember Mike's ritual of afternoon tea, morning toast with marmalade, his smart suits, his passion for the games of hockey and soccer, his neat desk and impeccable books, his pride and joy in his sons James and Matthew, his love for his wife Allison, and his delight at a job well done.

The last few years were difficult for Mike as he battled cancer, and while his illness took a terrible toll on his body, his spirit remained intact. Mike was a kind, gentle, warm human being to the very end. He is deeply missed.

FINANCIAL POSITION, 2005

In 2005, the net assets of The Fraser Institute increased by \$185,814 to \$6,863,194.

Gross revenues amounted to \$8,158,659, representing an increase of 16.7% over 2004. Gross expenditures amounted to \$8,113,683, representing an increase of 16.4% over 2004. The net operating surplus and net foreign exchange loss amounted to a surplus of \$23,115 for the year. The Institute's financial position is summarized as follows:

Statement of Operations for the Year Ending 2005	\$
<i>Income</i>	
Donations, Sales of Publications, Interest and Other Income	8,158,659
<i>Departmental Expenditures including Salaries, Research, and Publications Costs</i>	
Risk Policy, Environment Policy, and Canadian Statistical Assessment Service (CANSTATS)	408,013
Fiscal Policy, Non-Profit, and Social Studies	807,391
Globalization, Trade, and Economic Freedom	439,305
Outreach	961,894
High School and University Student Seminars	726,007
Health Policy	315,934
Pharmaceutical Policy	268,234
Senior Fellows and Common Sense Vision for Canada Project	824,787
School Report Cards	742,423
Education Policy and Children First Program	1,716,255
Ontario Policy	492,759
Governance, Defence, and Foreign Policy	410,682
Total Expenditures	<u>\$8,113,684</u>
Net Operating Surplus	<u>44,975</u>
<i>Change in Unrestricted Net Assets</i>	
Net Operating Surplus	44,975
Foreign Exchange Loss	<u>(21,860)</u>
Net Decrease in Unrestricted Net Assets	<u>23,115</u>
Statement of Financial Position as at December 31, 2005	
Current Assets	4,654,967
Investments	7,230,065
Property and Equipment	233,946
Total	<u>12,118,978</u>
Liabilities	5,255,784
Net Assets	<u>6,863,194</u>
Total	<u>12,118,978</u>

Complete audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2005, are available on request.

FRASER FACES

Board changes in 2005

In 2005, three new trustees joined the Board:

- Robert Schultz, Rockwater Capital Corporation, Toronto
- Arni C. Thorsteinson, Shelter Canadian Properties Ltd., Winnipeg
- James W. Davidson, First Energy Capital Corp., Calgary

Staff changes in 2005

Two staff left the Institute to pursue other opportunities:

- Jeremy Brown, Policy Analyst
- Ken Green, Director of Environment and Regulatory Studies

Staff relocations in 2005

In 2005, two staff relocated to other offices:

- Nadeem Esmail, Director of Health System Performance Studies, moved from the Vancouver to the Alberta office
- Fred McMahon, Director of the Centre for Globalization and Trade Studies, moved from the Vancouver to the Ontario office.

New appointments in 2005

Michael Walker, Executive Director of The Fraser Institute for 31 years, retired and assumed two new Institute positions: President of The Fraser Institute Foundation and Fraser Institute Senior Fellow.

Mark Mullins, Director of Ontario Policy Studies of The Fraser Institute, was appointed Executive Director of The Fraser Institute.

New Staff

Nadia Z. Hasan, Program Manager with Children First School Choice Trust, completed an internship with the

Child Labour Education Program in Karachi, Pakistan, where she assisted in analyzing the effectiveness of providing educational opportunities to child labourers in the province of Sindh. Nadia also mentored special needs inner-city students at Nelson Mandela Park Public School in Toronto, where she helped learners achieve higher reading levels. As well, she worked on international development projects focused on microfinance, health, and education. Nadia has an Honours BA in economics and international relations from the University of Toronto.

Aminah Husain joined The Fraser Institute as a Program Assistant for Children First: School Choice Trust after graduating from Trinity College at the University of Toronto in June 2005 with an Honours BA in International Relations/Peace & Conflict Studies and a Minor in French.

Rena Menaker, Health Policy Analyst, has worked as a Research Associate at the Hospital for Sick Children and the Toronto General Hospital. Her research on bacteria-caused gastrointestinal diseases has been published in numerous peer-reviewed journals and has been presented at national and international conferences. Rena has a BSc in Physiology from McGill University and an MSc in Physiology from the University of Toronto. Rena is in the Health System Performance Studies department, currently working on the Ontario Hospital Report Card. The report is a new Fraser Institute initiative annually ranking the performance of acute care hospitals in Canadian provinces in order to provide patients and policy makers with more information about their hospitals and to create a competitive environment for performance outcomes.

Wendy Mills, Internet Content Manager in The Fraser Institute's Communications Department, manages our web site projects. She graduated from the University of British Columbia with a certificate in Multimedia and Web Development and is a member of Content Management Community of Practice, as well as the Society for Technical Communication.

Milagros Palacios is a Research Economist in the Fiscal Studies Department at The Fraser Institute. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Industrial Engineering from the

Pontifical Catholic University of Peru and a MSc in Economics from the University of Concepcion, Chile. During her time at the University of Concepcion, she spent several years researching environmental issues, such as the enforcement and compliance of the emissions' trading program in the Santiago de Chile Capital Region, which resulted in articles published in two academic publications: *Estudios Publicos* (2002) and *Environment and Development Economics* (2005). Since joining the Institute, Milagros has written on a wide range of topics including charitable giving, labour regulation, and a host of environmental issue such as air quality, Kyoto, and water transfers.

Venia Tan joined the Institute's Vancouver office in December as an Accounting Assistant. She is an accounting professional with over 9 years accounting experience in the Philippines. She is currently enrolled in CGA pro-

fessional studies to enhance her accounting skills and qualifications.

Michael Thomas is the Program Director for Children First: School Choice Trust. Before joining Children First, Michael Thomas served as a policy advisor in the Ontario Ministry of Education, where his files included adult education, students at risk of not meeting their graduation requirements, the new curriculum, student health initiatives, and the community use of schools. Michael is a former public school trustee, who served on the Toronto District School Board from 1997 to 2000. Michael has also held positions with the City of Toronto and the Ontario Ministries of Tourism and Recreation, and Citizenship. He attended Centennial College and York University, graduating with a BA in Political Science.

ONTARIO OFFICE

The Fraser Institute's Ontario office grew dramatically in 2005. The office began the year with six permanent staff, and over the course of the year grew to nine permanent staff. The office also hosted seven interns among the various departments of education, health, pharmaceutical policy, and at Children First, as well as three student volunteers who helped tremendously with the growing program of events, research, and Children First.

In order to accommodate this growth, the office space in mid-town Toronto was enlarged. An intern area was added that can accommodate six interns and volunteers, along with a meeting room that seats 12.

In 2005 the number of Ontario-focused events grew, as did the size of audience. The office hosted six major events including the Toronto gala, 11 policy briefings, and 8 Children First "Meet 'n' Greets," gatherings of Children First parents and staff, where they can learn more about school choice and how they can get involved.



Ontario office, seated, from left: Michael Thomas, Aminah Husain, Debi Chakrabarty (intern), Courtney Glen (intern). Standing, from left: Fred McMahon, Brett Skinner, Nadia Hasan, Kennedy Hong, Claudia Hepburn, John Maus, Rena Menaker.

ALBERTA POLICY RESEARCH CENTRE

The year was one of growth for the Alberta Policy Research Centre. The Calgary office continued to be home to the *Donner Canadian Foundation Awards for Excellence in the Delivery of Social Services*, overseen by Policy Analyst and Donner Awards Program Manager Sylvia LeRoy. Also active in the office were Senior Fellow Barry Cooper; Associate Director of Business Development Barry McNamar; and Office Manager Mirja van Herk. During the year, the Alberta Policy Research Centre welcomed the arrival of the Health System Performance Studies department, overseen by Senior Health Policy Analyst Nadeem Esmail.

The office staff are looking forward to 2006, when the office will be substantially renovated in its existing space in the Grain Exchange Building, a heritage structure in downtown Calgary. The Centre will also be welcoming several new staff members in 2006 as a part of this planned expansion.



Magelles Photographics

Alberta office staff are, from left: Mirja van Herk, Nadeem Esmail, Sylvia LeRoy, Barry McNamar, Dominika Wrona (intern).



Gary Wildman

Fraser Institute Vancouver staff. Front row, seated, from left: Rita Rubio, Wendy Mills, Michael Walker, Kristin McCahon, Mark Mullins, Annabel Addington, Martin Collacott, Milagros Palacios, Csaba Hajdú. Middle row, standing, from left: Marie Morris, Raeann Co, Cheryl Rutledge, Vanessa Schneider, Peter Cowley, Sherry Stein, Suzanne Walters, Amela Karabegovic, Margaret Kerr, Pauline Collyer, and Deborah Ng. Back row, standing, from left: Leah Costello, Venia Tan, Chris Howey, Brian April, Darlene Savoy, Niels Veldhuis, Evan Rodwell, Mark Peel, Lindsey Martin, Herbert Grubel, and Gregory O'Keefe (intern). Missing: Jason Clemens.

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***Withdrawn*

+Nobel Laureate

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NUMBERS TELL THE 2005 FRASER INSTITUTE STORY

267,000,000	combined circulation and listenership of Canadian media coverage for The Fraser Institute
3,148,879	files downloaded from The Fraser Institute web sites
3,000,000	students attend 5,700 schools rated in <i>Fraser Institute School Report Cards</i>
949,106	visits to Fraser Institute web sites
60,700	copies of monthly magazine <i>Fraser Forum</i>
44,000	copies of <i>Canadian Student Review</i> distributed at 555 Canadian colleges & universities
21,026	inquiries from around the world handled by Fraser Institute staff
14,212	inquiries from Ontario families about Children First: School Choice Trust tuition grants
9,987	high school, college, and university students on Student Program mailing list
8,697	high school students affected by their teachers' participation in Fraser Institute Teacher Workshops
5,557	people attended Institute events across the country
4,572	media stories with ad equivalency of \$7.7 million and \$27 million in adjusted editorial impact
4,369	applications from lower-income Ontario families for the 225 Children-First tuition grants
3,938	subscribers to Fraser Institute <i>E-mail Updates</i>
3,583	inquiries about the Donner Awards for Non-Profit Excellence
3,366	Fraser Institute members and supporters from Canada, the US, and around the world
3,234	physicians respond to <i>Waiting Your Turn</i> surveys
1,500	new Student Program participants from 190 schools across Canada
842	applicants for 11 prizes in the Donner Awards for Non-Profit Excellence
800	Ontario children enrolled in Children First Program
742	new members joined The Fraser Institute
279	applications received for 9 summer intern positions
200	requests to reprint or post Fraser Institute material
197	commentaries published across North America
190	presentations given around the world by Fraser Institute staff
128	<i>Fraser Forum</i> articles on wide variety of public policy issues
127	countries' governments rated in <i>Economic Freedom of the World</i> report
78	events and student and teachers seminars held across Canada
71	country members of the Economic Freedom Network coordinated by The Fraser Institute
50	publications released in print and digital format
45	Fraser Institute employees across Canada
24	languages in which Fraser Institute books have been published
22	esteemed Senior Fellows from across Canada
3	strategic Fraser Institute office locations to best influence the policy debate in Canada
1	of the most influential think tanks in the world