

Fraser Institute

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

*Policies that work,
today and tomorrow*

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Our vision is of a free and prosperous world where individuals benefit from greater choice, competitive markets, and personal responsibility. Our mission is to measure, study, and communicate the impacts of competitive markets and government interventions on the welfare of individuals.

Founded in 1974, we are an independent research and educational organization with locations throughout North America and international partners in over 70 countries. Our work is financed by tax-deductible contributions from thousands of individuals, organizations, and foundations. In order to protect its independence, the Fraser Institute does not accept grants from government or contracts for research.

Nous envisageons un monde libre et prospère, où chaque personne bénéficie d'un plus grand choix, de marchés concurrentiels et de responsabilités individuelles. Notre mission consiste à mesurer, à étudier et à communiquer l'effet des marchés concurrentiels et des interventions gouvernementales sur le bien-être des individus.

Fondé en 1974, l'Institut existe en tant qu'organisme de recherche et d'éducation indépendant. Nous avons des bureaux en Amérique du Nord ainsi que des associés internationaux dans plus de 70 pays. Notre œuvre est financée par la contribution déductible d'impôt de milliers de personnes, d'organismes et de fondations. Pour protéger son indépendance, l'Institut Fraser n'accepte ni subvention gouvernementale ni recherche sous contrat.

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2008 Annual Report

Policies that work, today and tomorrow

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

I am very pleased to report to you on the Institute's activities in 2008, our 34th consecutive year of success in improving public policies here in Canada and around the world.

However, I must begin on a sad note. Ray Addington, my predecessor as a trustee and Chairman of the Institute's Board for 22 years, passed away in December. He was an exceptional individual and a driving force behind the Institute from its very early days. Those who knew him well know that Ray was successful in all aspects of his life: his family, his friendships, his business relationships, and his charitable activities. And he always had a special interest in one charity in particular: the Fraser Institute, devoting much of his considerable intellectual talent and energy to our common cause.

Part of Ray's legacy is his contribution to this wide-ranging and influential think tank and, in particular, our



Hassan Khosrowshahi
Chairman, Board of Trustees

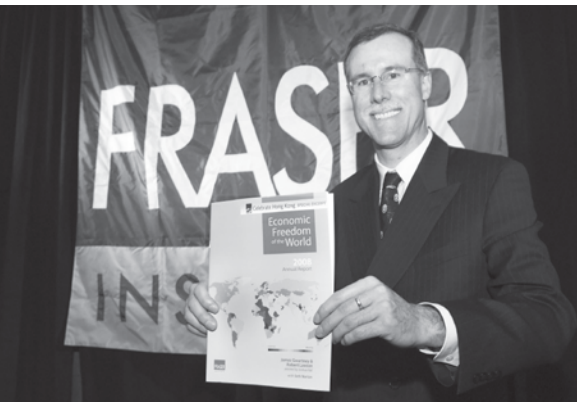
newly established R.J. Addington Centre for Measurement, which was set up in his name to apply measurement concepts to public policy. We are all sadder and poorer in his absence, but I am comforted knowing that his strength of character and determination will live on in the Institute's accomplishments for many years to come.

Over the past year, Ray witnessed the Institute increase and broaden the scope of its activities to new record levels of achievement. The heart of the

Institute remains its unwavering focus on measurement: as our motto states, "If it matters, measure it." Accordingly, the set of measures for success in 2008 shows substantial progress in achieving our mission to study, communicate, and educate the public about markets and optimal public policies.

We continued with our geographic expansion last year, opening a new office in Ottawa to provide outreach to local media, policy makers, and the general public. The Institute now has activities in Canada's five largest cities. In addition, we hired two US-based researchers and developed our Fraser America website www.fraseramerica.org, which houses hundreds of new and vintage research publications that are relevant to audiences within the United States. We intend to leverage both of these newer markets and potential audiences in 2009 by continuing to produce policy ideas that set the agenda and resonate with current issues and public concerns.

Our strength remains our people. In 2008 we hired more staff to produce and distribute more and better policy ideas. These new recruits are helping



Executive Director Mark Mullins releases the 2008 *Economic Freedom of the World* report in Hong Kong.

us to fill gaps in our research, program, development, production, and administrative areas. With economic uncertainty gathering pace during the autumn, we turned from net hiring to the effective use of these capable people. That restructuring will continue into the first part of 2009.

Much of our research is new and is a response to rising policy challenges

We intend to maintain our staffing at present levels until such a time as it is again prudent to resume expanding the Institute's activities.

With this complement of professionals, we were able to significantly lift the number of research publications and articles to well over 200, a record number. On top of this, we launched *Perspectives*, a French-language companion magazine for our flagship *Fraser Forum*, that is targeted at our growing Quebec-based audience. Both magazines, along with *Canadian Student Review*, have been given a fresh look and are carrying original research articles, summaries of our other publications, updates on events and

programs, interviews with featured speakers from our cross-country podiums, and links to material on our websites. Additionally, we launched *Insight*, an electronic newsletter, for our American readership. *Insight* informs readers about the work and impact of the Fraser Institute's US-based researchers, highlights important Institute publications, and provides links to a storehouse of our research on free market ideas and recommendations for public policy solutions of interest to US citizens.

We also launched a multimedia initiative in the fourth quarter of 2008, *Fraser TV*, which created more than 20 short, online videos based on our research and events. In just a few months, *Fraser TV* videos have attracted more than 15,000 views on Fraser Institute websites and YouTube. We expect to dramatically expand this mode of idea transmission in the years ahead.

Much of our research is new and is a response to rising policy challenges, including work on the credit crisis, the "economic stimulus," tax reform, North American free trade, immigration and terrorism, Arab economic freedom, environmental regulation, corporate welfare, entrepreneurship, medical technology, policies of the new US administration, electricity supply, regulation of the internet, and transportation infrastructure.

We are also remaining loyal to our model of replication and repetition, in order to track policy performance over time and build support with the general public for market-based solutions. These research products include work on health care, pharmaceuticals,



Washington, DC excursion participants after their visit with Justice Antonin Scalia at the US Supreme Court.

education, government spending, mining, taxation, energy, labour markets, and economic freedom. I invite you to read much more about the vital research core of the Institute in the rest of this annual report.

We published more than 260 commentaries in the print media based on this body of exceptional research, with an increasing number being repeated on the internet and reprinted outside Canada. As in past years, government tax and spending issues proved to be especially popular with editorial staff at newspapers across Canada.

On top of this significant drive to produce more quality research, we left our offices and hit the streets with a record number of events: more than 130, which was an increase of almost 20 percent from the prior year. Through our events programs, we can better communicate our ideas in person and by hosting compelling speakers, we have generated additional media coverage, totaling 365 media mentions for Institute events in 2008.

Our events ranged from intimate luncheon policy briefings (with people

like Ezra Levant, Senator Hugh Segal, Calvin Helin, and others) to our *Behind the Spin* wine and cheese series (with Pamela Wallin, David Frum, Chief Manny Jules, Ambassadors Wilkins, Ziad, and Samad, Alan Dubuc, BC Supreme Court Chief Justice Brenner, and many others) to our gala *Illuminismo* and *Dialogues* series (with Richard Dawkins, Karl Rove, Zbigniew Brzezinski, and Mark Steyn).

Our policy excursions took small groups to New York, Washington, and the Gulf states of Oman, UAE, and Qatar to better understand economic drivers and policy developments there. Elsewhere around the world, we launched our annual *Economic Freedom*

Participants in the Institute's Gulf policy excursion stand before the main gate of the Grand Mosque in Muscat. The excursion also included visits to Abu Dhabi, Dubai, and Doha.



of the World publication in Hong Kong with Chief Executive Donald Tsang as the featured speaker, and undertook our annual Arab economic freedom awards in Doha and a country audit in Jordan under royal patronage. In total, almost 6,500 people attended Institute events in 2008.

We continue to focus on getting our ideas and our message directly out to students, teachers, and others who can benefit from such information. Our student seminars had record audiences and several sellouts in 2009. We also held our second journalism seminar, a week-long education program that provides working journalists with background and insight into the interaction of economics, markets, and public policy.

Media coverage of the Institute reflects our growth and energy with a large jump of 1,000 media mentions to just over 7,200 for the year. Notable in that total was global media interest in our work on economic freedom, health care reform, and mining and energy policy. At home in Canada, our tax studies and school report cards remained as popular as ever and we saw new media interest in Institute events, immigration, and labour markets issues. The internet remains a significant way for us to get our work out to the general public; media mentions in that medium essentially doubled in 2008.

Once again, our base of supporters sustained our efforts and we saw another year where more than 800 new people chose to make a donation to our essential work. Our development staff people are now locally based across the country and we have diversified our funding sources. Though the soft economy will make 2009 a challenging year, we are staying close to our supporters and continuing to create and communicate the positive policy impact that they desire to see. To help achieve this, our quarterly

Frontline publication has been revamped and is delivering the news on the Institute's progress to our 3,700 supporters world-wide.

All of this effort and accomplishment moves the Institute steadily closer to its goal of a free and prosperous world. I want to again thank the dedicated people affiliated with the Institute who make it all happen, as we have continued our tradition of punching above our weight over the past year. I know

We left our offices and hit the streets with a record number of events

that our research is absolutely essential for the future, as our world seems to have fallen prey to loose thinking and impatient and ill-advised policy interventions.

You can help us work towards this goal by continuing your support. I know that together, we can have a significant impact on current events and ensure that future policy is as good as it possibly can be. To get there, we will continue to provide sound measurement, dispassionate analysis, and a very public discussion. I look forward to working with each of you to continue our success in the year ahead. ■

Hassan Khosrowshahi
Chairman, Board of Trustees

ABOUT THE FRASER INSTITUTE

The Fraser Institute is Canada's leading economic research and public education organization. Founded in 1974, the Institute's mission is to measure, study, and communicate the impact of competitive markets and government interventions on the welfare of individuals. The Institute's work is inspired by famed economist Milton Friedman. The Institute envisions a free and prosperous world where individuals benefit from greater choice, competitive markets, and personal responsibility.

The Fraser Institute's activities are administered by the Executive Director with the assistance of a management committee composed of senior Institute staff. The Institute's overall performance is monitored by a Board of Trustees and an Executive Advisory Board composed of selected Trustees who meet monthly.

The Fraser Institute has registered charitable status in both Canada and the United States and the majority of its revenues are derived from donations from individuals, organizations, and foundations. Revenue is also generated from the sale of publications, paid attendance at events, and interest on invested endowment funds. The Institute does not accept government funding or contract research and it strives to minimize its dependence on any single source of



Mark Mullins, Fraser Institute executive director, addresses the Institute's 2008 AGM.

funding or group of supporters. The Institute is non-political and does not undertake lobbying activities.

Research

The Institute maintains an independent research agenda, determined by Institute staff at an annual planning session and later confirmed during a mid-year review. Donors are not

involved in this planning process or in any other research activities. Ongoing projects are reviewed for their continuing relevance and potential new projects are assessed on the basis of importance and timeliness. The aim of this planning process is to produce a research and education plan that will maximize the Institute's contribution to improving public policy.

Research is carried out by Institute staff and associated scholars, academics, economists, and policy analysts from around the world. The Institute's list of researchers has grown to include more than 350 authors (including six Nobel Laureates) from 22 countries. All new research is subject to an extensive peer review process with final recourse

The Institute has helped bring about a considerable shift in public opinion

The fundamental objective of all Institute research programs is to show the benefits of market-based alternatives

being provided by the Institute's Editorial Advisory Board of leading international economists.

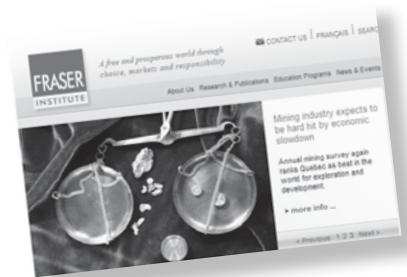
The fundamental objective of all Institute research programs is to show the benefits of market-based alternatives to well-intentioned but misguided and conventional views about the appropriate roles of government.

Public outreach

The Institute's products—its ideas—are packaged in a number of different formats to reach the public, the media, students, academics, Institute supporters, policy makers, and politicians from all parties across Canada and abroad. The Institute's 300-plus publications have been sold in more than 50 countries and translated into 22 languages. Our website at www.fraserinstitute.org, hosts most of our publications where they can be downloaded for free of charge.

The Institute also works hard to reach students and provide them with a broad understanding of economic principles. Many of our publications have been adopted for courses at colleges and universities in Canada and around the world. The Institute conducts seminars for students, workshops for teachers, publishes the *Canadian Student Review* newsletter, and offers public policy research internships.

The Institute promotes its research and policy ideas to a wide audience through the mass media. Institute staff members 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



Our websites, publications, and guest speakers such as Mark Steyn, are just some of the ways the Fraser Institute reaches out to the public.

Canadian cities, and Institute staff make speeches and participate in public forums on a regular basis. Institute staff also make regular submissions to parliamentary committees on a variety of policy issues.

Results and impact

When the Fraser Institute was founded in 1974, many Canadians believed that government should be the principal source of growth and development in the economy. The Institute has since helped bring about a considerable shift in public opinion in recognition of the importance of market competition. Many of the Institute's innovative ideas about market solutions to economic problems are now the consensus view on topics that are crucial for the economic well-being of Canadians. Indeed, the current public policy agenda in Canada reads like an index of past Fraser Institute publications. As the Institute's reputation for quality work has grown, its influence has also grown internationally. Its research and recommendations now command the attention of policy makers around the globe.

Where we are

In order to support the activities of Institute staff and senior fellows in Canada, the US and around the world, we maintain five offices. Four of them—those in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, and Montreal—house research, events, and development personnel. The Ottawa office, which was opened in 2008, provides events and other outreach services. The office addresses are listed on the inside front cover of this report. ■

R.J. Addington

Chairman of the Fraser Institute's Board of Trustees, 1984-2006

by MICHAEL A. WALKER

Ray Addington joined the Fraser Institute 33 years ago. From that first day there has never been a more enthusiastic, loyal, and totally committed supporter of the Institute's work. Ray immediately joined the board of the Institute and brought his considerable knowledge and enthusiasm to its deliberations. He was soon made a vice-chairman, and for 22 years was the Institute's chairman. In my role as the Institute's chief executive officer, I could not have hoped for a better chairman. Ever sensitive to the difference between providing good advice and meddling, Ray taught me everything I know about how a business should be run.

One memorable example of Ray's insight came in 1982 in the midst of the greatest Canadian recession since the 1930s (the unemployment rate that year was 11 percent), when the Institute was facing a deep contraction—if not annihilation. While we had great difficulty raising money because the business sector and individuals alike were strapped, the opportunity to market a business board game called *Poleconomy* saved the day. I showed the mockup of the game to Ray, he thought about it for a few minutes, then told me that each of the 50

squares on the board could be sold as advertising space, and what the price of each square should be, and that he would take responsibility for selling three of the squares. The end result was the most successful business board game in Canadian history. For the first time, the Institute had money left over at the end of the year and the beginnings of an endowment that would insulate it from future financial shocks.

While he was a very effective chairman, Ray's main job was to run one of the largest grocery operations on the continent. And while he was helping the Fraser Institute grow to new heights, Ray's companies were remaking the retail and wholesale grocery business in Western Canada. The Real Canadian Superstore, which they pioneered, has changed the way the grocery business is conducted. The first Superstore opened in Saskatoon in 1979. I remember how proud Ray was that by opening the store, they had managed to reduce the overall consumer price index in Saskatchewan. Our conversations about business problems and solutions taught me much about how an economy actually functions, and how the magic of the market produces huge benefits, particularly for low-income consumers.

We were not surprised when the Queen awarded Ray the Order of the British Empire for his efforts on behalf of his former country. With characteristic modesty, he noted that the OBE really stood for "Others' Bloody Efforts." Of course his many friends around the world knew better.

As chairman, Ray Addington presided deftly over the meetings of the Fraser Institute Board; he dealt skillfully with differences of opinion and showed patience in dealing with new Trustees struggling to understand the business of the Institute. But Ray's character really shone when student interns and junior staffers made periodic presentations to the Board. They often came to the meetings with misgivings and a measure of trepidation, but soon sang like budgies as Ray encouraged and coaxed them with one leading question after another.

Prior to his sudden passing, Ray donated \$250,000 toward the establishment of the R.J. Addington Centre for the Study of Measurement. The centre will commemorate Ray by annually awarding a prize for the paper which, in the judgment of the centre, best exemplifies the application of measurement to the improvement of public policy in the world. ■



FISCAL STUDIES

The Fiscal Studies department, which is based in Vancouver, includes Niels Veldhuis, director; Milagros Palacios, senior economist; Charles Lammam, policy analyst; and Alex Gainer, research economist. The department had another exceptional year in 2008. It published 15 studies and garnered nearly 1,400 media hits, a 24 percent increase from 2007 (itself a record-setting year).

Tax Freedom Day, the day in the year when the average family has earned enough money to pay the tax bill imposed on it by all levels of government, continues to be a hallmark release for Fiscal Studies. Tax Freedom Day garnered significant media attention with nearly 260 media mentions in 2008. The 15th edition of the Institute's biennial book, *Tax Facts*, was also released in 2008. The book provides Canadians with easily accessible statistics on the depth and scope of the tax burden they face. The release of *Tax Facts* received nearly 80 mentions in Canadian media.

The department also released the 2008 edition of *Canadian Government Debt*, a study that provides estimates of total government liabilities including the Institute's own unique estimate of the unfunded liabilities of public pension plans (Old Age Security) and Medicare. *Canadian Government Debt* garnered more than 70 media mentions in 2008.

Empirical evidence that tax cuts work

Fiscal Studies published a technical study co-authored by one of Canada's leading economists, Professor Bev

Dahlby of the University of Alberta, assessing the economic impacts of the tax cuts British Columbia instituted in 2001. That year, after a decade of dismal economic performance, the province enacted a series of bold, incentive-based tax cuts, including personal income and business tax relief. The study, *Assessing British Columbia's Incentive-Based Tax Cuts*, found that the economic fortunes of BC changed dramatically following the 2001 tax cuts.

The Institute has received positive feedback from all over North America about the importance of the study in terms of documenting and empirically measuring the results of these tax cuts. In addition, like-minded organizations across Canada and the United States

are using the study to help educate people about the benefits of incentive-based tax relief.

Flat tax

In 2007, the department embarked on a comprehensive evaluation of the economic cost of taxation in Canada, which culminated in 2008 with the publication of the book, *The Impact and Cost of Taxation in Canada: The Case for Flat Tax Reform*. The book includes five chapters from some of North America's leading experts in the field and provides a persuasive, compelling case for tax reform in Canada.

The book's final chapter, "A Flat Tax for Canada," was written by Alvin Rabushka, a renowned professor of economics at Stanford University, and Niels Veldhuis, director of fiscal studies at the Institute. The chapter, which was released prior to the book, presents a detailed flat tax proposal for both the federal and provincial levels of government. Specifically, the authors calculate that without reducing revenues to the federal government, a flat tax of 15.0 percent could be implemented. And equally as important, the authors propose straightforward, postcard-sized tax returns for both individuals and businesses. The book and flat tax proposal generated nearly 100 media mentions in 2008.

Budgets

In 2008, Fiscal Studies continued to respond to a number of government budgets including the federal, British Columbia, Alberta, and Ontario budgets. The budget series garnered valuable media coverage in the



The book and flat tax proposal generated nearly 100 media mentions in 2008

Vancouver Sun, *Montreal Gazette*, *Calgary Herald*, and *Toronto Sun*, among others. Department director Niels Veldhuis also presented his recommendations for the federal budget at Minister of Finance Jim Flaherty's January pre-budget roundtable in Fredericton, New Brunswick.

Transportation infrastructure

In 2008, the department published a comprehensive study on the transportation system in Canada. Entitled *Transportation Performance of the Canadian Provinces*, the study examines five modes of transportation (highway, transit, rail, air, and marine service)

in each province using 23 measures including condition, costs, congestion, travel times, safety, and accessibility. The report received nation-wide attention on CTV, Global TV, and CBC, and has already established itself as a catalyst for discussion and debate across the country. Since its late October release, the study has garnered more than 135 media mentions.

Commentaries

Staff in the Fiscal Studies department wrote an exceptional number of commentaries during the year, completing more than 20 opinion pieces. Those commentaries were published a total of 121 times in

newspapers such as the *National Post*, *Ottawa Citizen*, *Vancouver Sun*, *Calgary Herald*, *Montreal Gazette*, *Saskatoon Star Phoenix*, *Winnipeg Free Press*, and many others.

Staff departure

During the year our long-time colleague and former director of Fiscal Studies, Jason Clemens, left the Institute to take over as director of research at the Pacific Research Institute in California. Jason, who received one of "Canada's Top 40 under 40" awards in 2006, was at the Institute for nearly 10 years and developed fiscal studies into the largest research department at the Institute. ■

LABOUR MARKET STUDIES

The Centre for Labour Market Studies, a division of the Fiscal Studies department, expanded its profile in 2008 with the release of a major study and publication of several high-profile commentaries.

In late August, the centre released *Measuring Labour Markets in Canada and the United States: 2008 Report*, an empirical assessment of labour market performance in the 10 Canadian provinces and 50 US states. The study received more than 100 media mentions, including high-profile coverage in the *National Post*, *Globe and Mail*, and ABC syndicated television in United States.

The centre's research team also placed several high-profile commentaries in newspapers across the country, including pieces on apprenticeships, worker mobility, replacement worker legislation, labour laws, and union financial disclosure requirements.

Niels Veldhuis, director of Fiscal Studies and the Centre for Labour Markets at the Institute, also participated in several roundtable discussions on labour market issues during the year with senior government officials including Monte Solberg, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development, and Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance. In addition,



Veldhuis delivered eight presentations across Canada to various audiences on the need for more flexible labour markets.

The centre's research team also spent much of 2008 working on numerous projects to be published and released in early 2009, including a study examining the economic effects of increasing minimum wages. ■



Joanne Bernard, executive director of Alice Housing in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia (left) and Darlene Evans, executive director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Peterborough, Ontario (right), receive the William H. Donner Award for Excellence in the Delivery of Social Services from Allan Gotlieb, Donner Canadian Foundation chairman (centre) at the annual Donner Awards in Toronto.

NON-PROFIT AND SOCIAL POLICY STUDIES

The largest initiative in the Centre for Non-Profit and Social Policy Studies remains *The Donner Canadian Foundation Awards for Excellence in the Delivery of Social Services*, Canada's largest and most prestigious awards program for non-profit organizations. A total of \$70,000 and 11 awards are presented annually.

This past year, 574 non-profit organizations from across the country submitted 601 unique social service programs for the Fraser Institute to evaluate. In addition, nearly 60 representatives from these non-profits participated in the Donner Awards Program's "Idea Exchange" workshop, where they shared best practices in non-profit management and service delivery with their peers in the sector. In 2008, the Donner Awards Program again published *Profiles in Excellence*, which tells the stories of some of the exemplary organizations competing for the awards, and highlights some of the success they have achieved by applying the best practices promoted through the Donner Awards.

An important feature, "Guidelines for Giving," which is based on the 10 performance areas evaluated in the Donner Awards, assists foundations, corporations, and individuals looking for ways to identify effective and efficient non-profit organizations that deserve their charitable contributions. In 2008, the *Non-Profit Performance Report*,

which is published each year and gives charities a detailed breakdown of the data compiled from the applications for the Awards Program, was for the first time produced in French as well as English.

The Donner Awards Program culminated with a celebratory luncheon in November at the Marriott Hotel in Toronto, where friends and supporters of Canada's non-profit sector celebrated the success of the 2008 Donner Awards finalists. During the luncheon, \$70,000 in awards were presented to the winning organizations by Allan Gotlieb, Donner Canadian Foundation chairman.

The Centre for Non-Profit and Social Policy Studies also published *What is Poverty? Providing Clarity for Canada*, a study by noted poverty researcher Professor Chris Sarlo of Nipissing University. The study found that poverty, whether measured by income or consumption, has remained in the range of four to six percent since 1996. The centre ended the year with the release of the *2008 Generosity Index*, which continues to attract strong media attention across the country. ■



ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND MARKETS

The Institute's Centre for Entrepreneurship and Markets had an active and influential year in 2008. The centre published and released its first study in a longer-term project to develop a comprehensive measurement of entrepreneurship. *Measuring Entrepreneurship: Conceptual Framework and Empirical Indicators* examines six indicators of entrepreneurship and presents results and rankings for the 10 Canadian provinces and 50 US states on each indicator. The study shows that Canadian provinces are failing to keep up with US states on some of the most important measures of entrepreneurial activity. The study will be published in the *Journal of Private Enterprise* in 2009.

The centre also released a study by John Chant, professor emeritus of economics at Simon Fraser University. *Bank Lending and Entrepreneurial Finance: The Performance of Canadian Banks*, received significant media attention including prominent placement in the *National Post*.

The 2008 edition of the *Provincial Investment Climate Report*, which objectively evaluates public policies that create and sustain positive investment climates, was also released and received nearly 45 mentions in the media.

Finally, the centre began working with Professor Douglas Cumming of York University on an empirical study assessing the determinants of business creation. This study will be published in 2009. ■

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE REPORT CARDS

Each Fraser Institute report card collects a variety of relevant, objective indicators of school performance into one, easily accessible public document so that anyone can analyze and compare the performance of individual schools. By doing so, the report card assists parents when they choose a school for their children and encourages and assists all those seeking to improve their schools.

In 2008, under the direction of Peter Cowley, the School Performance Studies department published annual report cards on school performance for elementary and secondary schools in British Columbia (Yukon secondary schools are included in the BC edition), Alberta, Ontario, and secondary schools in Quebec. The school report cards ranked 6,265 public, separate, private, and charter schools serving some 3.25 million students.

Winning school teams at the Garfield Weston Awards for Excellence in Education in Vancouver received an inukshuk sculpture.



What's new?

During the year, the department successfully completed the transition to a new Microsoft SQL Server database management system. The new system will make the design, production, and testing of new editions of the report card easier and faster. Alexander Zakharyonok joined the department in August as senior data architect/data analyst. Alexander, who comes to us with many years of experience in SQL Server environments, will oversee all report card production after the old system is shut down in February 2009. We offer sincere thanks to Darlene Savoy who, after seven years as the department's senior data analyst, will leave the Fraser Institute to pursue other interests as soon as the changeover is complete.

Highlights of 2008

During 2008, the 11th year of the report cards' publication, the department's seven report cards generated a total of 1,156 media stories. This continuous and extensive media attention has kept the report cards uppermost in the minds of parents in Canada's four largest provinces. Partly as a result of this high level of coverage, the report card pages accounted for more than one-half of all page views on the Fraser Institute's website.

Ontario

The sixth edition of the *Report Card on Ontario's Elementary Schools* was released in February and was followed in March by the second edition of the *Report Card on Ontario's Secondary Schools*. In both cases print and on-line special features by the *Toronto Sun* and the *Ottawa Citizen* supported the



Peter Cowley, director, School Performance Studies, addresses the media in Montreal during the release of the Quebec secondary schools report card.

releases. In total, these two publications generated 339 media stories as well as enormous web traffic.

Quebec

The *Report Card on Quebec's Secondary Schools* was released in September with the *Journal de Montréal*, the *Journal de Québec* and over 40 allied regional newspapers serving as a combined lead media group. The groups strongly promoted special features—both in print and online—were comprehensive and impactful. Web traffic was also very strong.

Alberta

The seventh annual edition of the *Report Card on Alberta's Elementary Schools* was published in February. This publication, and the 10th edition of the *Report Card on Alberta's High Schools*, which was published in June, provided the province's parents with detailed comparative data on academic performance at almost 1,000 Alberta schools. Both publications enjoyed strong support from the *Calgary Herald* and *Edmonton Sun* newspapers; the *Edmonton Sun* produced an interactive on-line feature for each report card to complement their print presentations.

British Columbia

The 11th edition of the *Report Card on Secondary Schools in British Columbia and Yukon* and the sixth edition of the *Report Card on British Columbia's Elementary Schools* were published early in May. The *Vancouver Sun* and the *Victoria Times-Colonist* acted as lead media, publishing strong special features for the two releases.

The province's teachers' union continued its vigorous campaign urging parents to withdraw their children from the provincial Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) tests in an effort to

make it impossible for the Institute to continue producing its very popular elementary schools report card. The popularity among parents of the FSA and the report card was underscored by a March poll commissioned by the Fraser Institute and executed by Compass Inc. of Toronto. Based on responses from 1,010 BC parents, the poll showed that 70 percent of respondents agreed with Ministry of Education testing policy; 61 percent of parents believed that the Ministry did either enough or too little testing; and 66 percent of respondents believed that BC parents used the Institute's report cards' enough or too little. ■



SCHOOL CHAIN SHOWCASE

In 2008, the Institute completed the development of www.schoolchains.org.

This multi-lingual website, the only one of its kind in the world, offers profiles of a wide variety of successful school chains that are operating around the globe and are eager to expand. The website has unique, interactive features that will help those who are interested in establishing branches of these successful school chains in their own communities. Website development was directed by James Lombardi, coordinator, project design and development.

Among the profiles of school chains already on the site are those that serve specific types of students including girls, autistic children, generally under-achieving children, children in extreme poverty, and children of

recent immigrants. Other school chains specialize in serving inner cities or rural populations. Some school chains offer a particular focus. Among these are bilingual education and trades and technical training school chains. Parents, educators, investors, and policymakers can easily zero in on the kinds of schools they are interested in, and then directly contact the representative responsible for the expansion program of any school chain of interest.

Research efforts to identify school chains worldwide continued throughout 2008. More than 850 different school chains operating more than 88,000 schools have been discovered around the globe. The profiles of qualified chains are now being installed on the site. Public launch of the site will take place early in 2009. ■

Fraser Institute People



Annabel Addington
Vancouver



Gerry Angevine
Calgary



Ashley Astells
Vancouver



Denise Barnfield
Vancouver



Louis-Philippe Beland
Vancouver

WESTON AWARDS

The Garfield Weston Awards for Excellence in Education honour school teams—teachers, administrators, and support staff—who have made an outstanding contribution to the academic success of their students. Generously supported by the W. Garfield Weston Foundation, the program encourages educators to recognize the benefits of productive competition among schools and the identification and celebration of success, both of which are key to improving school performance.

Each year in British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario, and Quebec, the Fraser Institute analyzes objective, student results data to determine the top 30 schools in several different categories of academic performance. The Garfield Weston Awards winners are selected from this list.

The 2008 program—under the management of Lisa-Diane Fortier, associate director, outreach programs—

continued to break records in participation by invited schools, attendance by educators, and media attention. This year saw the expansion of the program to include an awards event honouring secondary school educators in Quebec.

Additionally, the program’s website was redesigned in 2008 to better reflect the prestige and the fun associated with the gala awards events. The new site, www.forexcellenceineducation.org, was launched just in time for the start of the 2009 awards season. It offers visitors quick access to information about the awards; provides an honour roll of previous winners, runners-up, and schools of distinction; and features an attractive photo gallery.

In the fall of 2008, the Institute produced its first ever Weston Awards video, which is prominently featured on www.forexcellenceineducation.org

Our team came away feeling great about what we have been able to do for our children

—Carla Danielsson, principal, Godson Elementary, BC

During the year, 1,160 educators from 223 schools were honoured in the four provinces. “This evening has become the highlight of the year for educators,” said Dave Rowan, executive superintendent of Toronto District School Board. And in a supportive thank you letter, Bob White, principal of Richmond Christian School’s Secondary Campus, wrote: “May I encourage you to keep this recognition event continuing as it impacts schools in a very positive way. The work that you are doing is important to what we do.” Media attention for the Weston Awards program surged ahead in 2008, generating 225 stories in print and electronic media, up 77 percent from 2007. ■

2008 Garfield Weston Award Winners

Overall Academic Achievement	Seneca Hill Public School	Toronto	ON
Improvement in Academics	St. Vincent de Paul School	Toronto	
Academic Achievement in Excess of Expectations	Howard Jordan Public School	Port Hope	
Overall Academic Achievement	École d’éducation internationale	McMasterville	QC
Improvement in Academics	Phoenix Alternative School	Laval	
Academic Achievement in Excess of Expectations	École Secondaire Notre-Dame	Rivière-du Loup	
Improvement in Academics—Elementary	Saint Mary of the Lake School	Slave Lake	AB
Improvement in Academics—High School	Millwoods Christian School	Edmonton	
Determination in Academic Achievement—Elementary	Mayfield School	Edmonton	
Determination in Academic Achievement—High School	Vauxhall Jr. and Sr. High School	Vauxhall	BC
Determination in Academic Achievement—Elementary	Corpus Christi School	Vancouver	
Determination in Academic Achievement—Secondary	Saint Patrick Regional Secondary School	Vancouver	
Improvement in Academics	Britannia Elementary Community School	Vancouver	

CHILDREN FIRST: SCHOOL CHOICE TRUST



Children First: School Choice Trust is the Fraser Institute’s award winning program that enables lower-income families in some parts of Canada to enrol their children in the private elementary schools of their choice.

Launched in Ontario in 2003 and in Calgary, Alberta in 2006, the program helped more than 1,000 children in Ontario and more than 100 in Calgary attend private schools in 2008. The program is generously supported by a growing number of donors and through the leadership gifts provided by the W. Garfield Weston Foundation and the Hunter Family Foundation.

Demand for the program remained high in 2008 with a waitlist of more

than 5,500 children. Website visitors for the year also surpassed previous records, nearly tripling to 78,181, up from 27,903 in 2007. The program owes particular thanks to the *Calgary Sun*, *Ottawa Sun* and *Toronto Sun* for helping promote the program through their media sponsorship.

Children First staff contacted parents, educators, the media, and the public throughout Ontario and Calgary by visiting schools, attending conferences and school fairs, and running our second annual donation campaign, “Put Yourself in a Child’s Shoes.” These activities continue to boost the recognition and appreciation for parental choice in education. ■

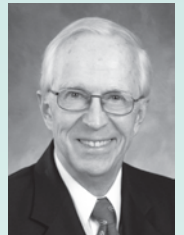
Children First: School Choice Numbers 2008

78,181	Unique visitors to our website
\$32,863	Average household income of participating families
6,047	Applications received from economically disadvantaged families for 1,059 spaces in Ontario and Alberta
\$5,592	Average tuition at participating Ontario private schools
\$3,329	Average tuition at participating Alberta schools
1,670	Phone and e-mail inquiries about the program
945	Children served across Ontario
190	Ontario schools participating
143	Children served in Calgary
18	Calgary schools participating

FI People *continued*



Wallace Chan
Vancouver



Martin Collacott
Vancouver



Pauline Collyer
Vancouver



Heather Corbett
Vancouver



Leah Costello
Vancouver

HEALTH SYSTEM PERFORMANCE STUDIES

In Canadian health care, governments tend to prohibit competitive markets in favour of government monopoly. The Health System Performance Studies department, with Nadeem Esmail, director, and Maureen Hazel, health policy analyst, measures the effects of these policies and proposes sound reforms.

In 2008, Health System Performance Studies again produced Canada's only national, comparable, and comprehensive

measurement of waiting times for medically necessary treatment. The 18th edition of the Fraser Institute's benchmark publication in health system performance, *Waiting Your Turn: Hospital Waiting Lists in Canada*, received significant media coverage, with nearly 400 media mentions across Canada as well as the United States.

In August, the department also released an in-depth analysis of medical technology in Canada. This project examined reasons for investing in medical technologies, the availability of medical technologies in Canada, the age and sophistication of Canada's technology inventory, and the availability of leading-edge medical technologies in Canada's largest cities. A report released in November entitled *How Good is Canada's Medical Technology Inventory?* updated the age and sophistication analysis from the larger study. The two studies on medical technology garnered nearly 90 media mentions in 2008.

The sixth edition of *How Good is Canadian Health Care?* was also published in 2008. This project compares Canada's health policies and health care performance with those of other nations that guarantee their citizens access to health care insurance. *How Good is Canadian Health Care?* is a core product for the department and provides the research behind many of the department's presentations and commentaries.

Hospital report cards

In 2008, the department continued work on the hospital report card

project, publishing an update to the report card for Ontario and launching a new report card for British Columbia. In total, the two report cards examined more than 11 million patient records in the two provinces and reported hospital performance for 39 separate measures. The reports generated a high level of media attention with more than 180 media mentions in 2008. Additional provincial report cards are planned for the coming years, and all of the information in the report cards is available on the Institute's interactive website:

www.hospitalreportcards.ca.

Other research activities

In September, the department coordinated a health care-focused issue of *Fraser Forum*. Articles in the issue discussed the true cost of Canadian Medicare, trade in health care services, medical savings accounts, and health care reform in the United Kingdom and United States. In addition, articles published throughout the year in *Fraser Forum* covered topics such as Canada's physician shortage, health care reform in the Netherlands, the health care cost of obesity, and the private cost of waiting for publicly funded care.

The department also published commentaries in newspapers across Canada, and contributed an abstract discussing the hospital report card project in a supplement of the medical journal *Deutsche Medizinische Wochenschrift*. In addition, analysts in the department gave 18 conference presentations on the department's research. ■



Dr. Brian Day, past president of the Canadian Medical Association, and Leah Costello, Fraser Institute director of special projects, draw the winning ticket in the 2008 Waiting Your Turn lottery.

BIO-PHARMA AND HEALTH POLICY



The Fraser Institute's department of Bio-Pharma and Health Policy Research published 10 major papers in 2008.

The research agenda included annual updates to various studies examining the financial sustainability of government health expenditures, drug prices and spending in Canada and the United States, and the wait for access to new medicines in Canada.

The department published an interesting new comparison of the performance of health insurance in Canada and the United States called *The Hidden Costs of Single Payer Health Insurance*. The research showed that while Canadians spend less than Americans do on health care, Canadians also get far fewer medical goods and services in return. In fact, the public health insurance monopoly in

Canadians get far fewer medical goods and services in return

Canada does not perform much better at providing universal "effective" access to insured goods and services than the public-private pluralistic system in the United States.

Brett Skinner, the department's director, also published three articles in refereed academic journals: one on the wait for access to new medicines in *Pharmacoeconomics* (Auckland), one on

the scope of government involvement in health care in North America in *Economic Affairs* (Oxford), and a third on the failed attempt at forcing therapeutic substitution in British Columbia's PharmaCare program, which was completed in 2008, and is now pending publication in *Alimentary Pharmacology & Therapeutics* (Oxford).

Other notable external publications include an article in *The American*, the policy magazine of the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, DC. The department also published dozens of commentaries in major daily newspapers including the *National Post*, the *Globe and Mail* and *la Presse*. In addition, the department conducted scores of media interviews and several conference presentations. In fact, the department's media presence in 2008 was three times larger than it was five years earlier in 2003.

The department was able to achieve this level of output because of the superb efforts of its staff. Mark Rovere, senior policy analyst, co-authored seven of the 10 published major papers and wrote or co-authored nine of the 13 *Fraser Forum* articles produced by the department. Marisha Warrington, policy analyst, joined the department full time in May. She co-authored one of the published studies, completed research that will support a major new international comparative study that will be published in 2009, and co-authored an article for the Institute's *Canadian Student Review* magazine. ■

INSURANCE POLICY

Overseen by director Brett Skinner, the Institute's department of Insurance Policy Research published a successful update to its interprovincial comparison of the cost of automobile insurance in 2008, *The Personal Cost and Affordability of Automobile Insurance in Canada*, which generated considerable media attention.

The study showed that three of the four most expensive provinces in which to obtain automobile insurance in 2007 were British Columbia, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. Each of these provinces also happens to have a government-run auto insurance monopoly. The Institute also produced a short video on *FraserTV* to highlight the main findings.

During the year, the department commissioned work on several new projects, including an international comparison of home mortgage insurance market regulation in Canada and elsewhere. This study is due out in 2009 and is especially relevant following the turmoil in global financial markets, which was precipitated by government interference in mortgage lending markets in the United States. ■

FI People continued



Sébastien Côté
Montreal



Peter Cowley
Vancouver



Julie DiMambro
Vancouver



Alan Dowd
Indianapolis



Steve Easton
Vancouver

ECONOMIC FREEDOM

Economic freedom builds prosperity and contributes to political reform by freeing individuals and families from government dependence. The foundations of economic freedom are personal choice, voluntary exchange, the right to keep what one earns, the rule of law, and property rights.

The Fraser Institute continues to show the benefits of increasing economic freedom globally through its internationally renowned Economic Freedom Index and *Economic Freedom of the World Annual Report*. The report has been translated into many languages including Arabic, Spanish, and Chinese.

Work on the index began in 1986 when Michael Walker, then the Institute's executive director, and the late Nobel Laureate Milton Friedman and his wife Rose Friedman, initiated a comprehensive research project on economic freedom and its consequences. Sixty leading scholars, including three Nobel laureates, participated in the project. The world report has inspired a

number of regional and sub-national reports including the *Economic Freedom of the Arab World* (co-published by the International Research Foundation of Oman, the Fraser Institute, and the Cairo office of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Liberty), *Marketization Index of Chinese Provinces* (National Economic Research Institute of China), *Economic Freedom for States of India* (Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Contemporary Studies), *Economic Freedom Index of Argentinean Provinces* (*Indice de Desempeño Provincial* by Fundación Libertad, Argentina), *Index of Economic Freedom of the European Union and Italian Regions* (*La liberta economica nel mondo, in Europa, in Italia*, by Centro Einaudi of Italy), and the *Economic Freedom of North America* (by the Fraser Institute), among others.

The Economic Freedom of the World Network meeting was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in November and took the first steps towards organizing an Economic Freedom of Latin America Network. The Economic Freedom of the Arab World Network meeting was held in Doha, also in November, and

Fred McMahon, Fraser Institute director of globalization studies, greets Suhair Al Ali, Jordanian minister of planning and international cooperation, during the country audit in Amman, Jordan. Dr. Ronald Meinardus, regional director of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Liberty in the Middle East and Northern Africa, looks on.





Fred McMahon, Fraser Institute director of globalization studies, answers questions for an Al Jazeera reporter in Jordan.

attracted representatives from across the Arab world. Al Jazeera television was one of its co-sponsors, ensuring extensive coverage across the Arab world. The Institute also participated in the annual meeting of the Economic Freedom Asia Network in Manila, where property rights were the main topic of discussion.

In Amman, Jordan, the Fraser Institute organized a policy audit based on the *Economic Freedom of the World* report, in partnership with the Young Entrepreneurs of Jordan, the Cato Institute, and the Jordan office of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation. More than 150 top thinkers, policy makers, business leaders, and government officials attended the audit meetings, designed to increase economic freedom in Jordan, including Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Suhair Al Ali and Minister of Transportation Alaa Batayneh. The audit was extensively covered by all Arabic Jordanian television channels and newspapers. ■

MINING STUDIES

The Fraser Institute's Global Centre for Mining Studies was launched in the spring of 2008 at a news conference attended by Mark Mullins, Fraser Institute executive director, Allan Gotlieb, executive chair of the Aurea Foundation, and Fred McMahon, the Institute's director of globalization studies.

The centre's job is to provide straight answers to difficult questions about mining. To do so, it will undertake fact-based research on policy frameworks that can deliver the greatest economic and social benefit while maintaining a profitable industry that continues to invest and create opportunity. The centre will publish a series of research papers beginning in 2009.

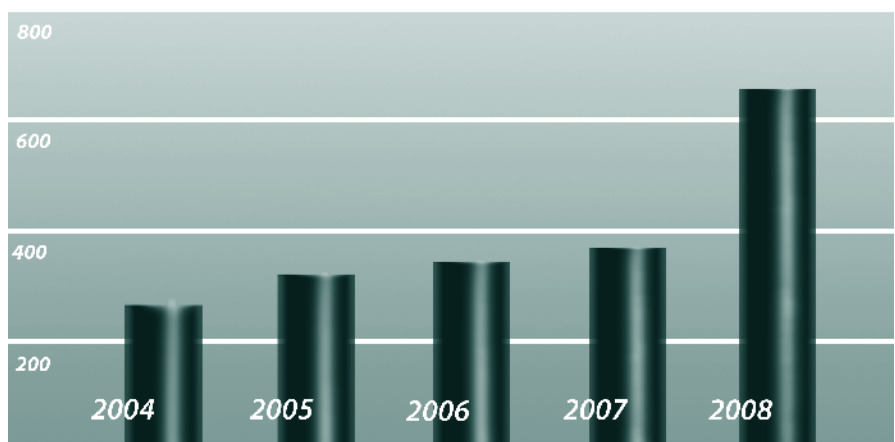
The Fraser Institute's *Annual Survey of Mining Companies* continues to hold policy makers accountable by revealing to the public the impact of their policy decisions on creating

prosperity and jobs in the mining industry. The worldwide impact of the survey grew in 2008 thanks to a dramatic increase in global media coverage of the survey. ■

The new Global Centre for Mining Studies will elevate the policy debate in Canada and abroad

—Allan Gotlieb, Executive Chair of the Aurea Foundation and former Canadian Ambassador to the United States

Number of mining survey respondents



CANADA STRONG AND FREE

RISK, REGULATION, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The 4th Annual Fraser Institute
Canada STRONG & FREE
Ottawa Dinner
pour un Canada fort et prospère



The *Canada Strong and Free* series, under the leadership of Fraser Institute senior fellows Mike Harris, former Ontario premier, and Preston Manning, former leader of the federal Official Opposition, turned to examining urban issues in 2008.

Is Toronto in Decline? by Fraser Institute economist Fred McMahon with a foreword by Manning and Harris, examined troubling trends in Toronto as a wake-up call to civic leaders. It revealed that Toronto's median income has sunk below the national average, falling from 106 percent of the national average in the 2001 census to 96 percent in the 2006

census. It also showed that management occupations in Toronto have declined by 8.4 percent over the same period compared to an increase of 3.7 percent for major cities outside Ontario.

The report received major media coverage throughout Canada and across the nation, generating more than 100 media hits.

The annual Canada Strong and Free gala dinner in Ottawa was again a success, selling out in 2008. The featured speaker, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty, discussed current policy trends in Canada and the state of the federal government's finances. ■

Jim Flaherty, federal finance minister, was the Institute's guest speaker during the 2008 Canada Strong and Free dinner in Ottawa.



The Centre for Studies in Risk, Regulation, and the Environment promotes adherence to fundamental principles of science in crafting public policy as opposed to popular myths and fear-mongering. Through a stream of research reports, commentaries, and media citations, the centre provides accurate and accessible information about complex issues of paramount public importance.

Considerable attention was focused in 2008 on global warming. Indeed, the centre's role as a defender of fact on this issue grows more pivotal in direct proportion to the misinformation and outright deceit about climate change that masquerades as fact.

In *Understanding Climate Change*, author Nick Schneider summarized the basic facts about the current state of climate science. He also clearly distinguished between what's known—and what isn't—about climate trends.

In a variety of articles, department director Diane Katz examined the multitude of regulatory schemes proposed in Canada and the United States to mitigate global warming. Her *Financial Post* article, "Government regulations to reduce greenhouse gases will come with a hefty price tag," exposed Ottawa's \$60 billion plan as unjustified on both scientific and economic grounds. "Costly consequences: Cap and trade is not a market-based solution," spelled out why the regulations favored by the premiers of Ontario and Quebec are far from "market-friendly." And in "Cars and climate change," she



explained why more stringent regulation of auto emissions are more likely to endanger lives than benefit the environment.

The centre also strives to correct the misinformation about public health risks that is routinely promulgated, intentionally and otherwise, in the media. In “Air pollution deaths wildly exaggerated,” Katz challenged the flawed research methodology that led the Canadian Medical Association to make the preposterous claim that air pollution is killing Canadian citizens by the tens of thousands each year, and that such deaths would increase 83 percent in the next two decades.

Similarly, her commentary in the *Toronto Star*, “Science needs a bigger role in Canada’s food safety policy,” discussed how biotechnology could prevent future outbreaks of the type that reportedly killed 13 people who consumed tainted products from Maple Leaf Foods in Toronto.

Direct applications of market-based policies were addressed in the digital publication of the book *A Breath of Fresh Air: The State of Environmental Policy in Canada*. The authors present examples of policies that incorporate strong protection of property rights, the use of environmental pricing, the application of cost benefit analyses, and the devolution of the power of

decision making to local agents who are most closely connected to the issues and more easily held accountable.

The water resources that are of such vital importance to Canada were addressed in both a *Fraser Alert* and *Fraser Forum* in 2008. In *The Government’s Groundwater Grab: An Attack on Property Rights in Quebec*, Katz and senior analyst Jean-Francois Minardi analyzed why overzealous regulation by the province offers no guarantee that water will be apportioned wisely. Instead, it promises to politicize every aspect of water use, dissuade industrial investment, and deprive citizens of basic rights.

In “A watery problem,” Katz reported on the status of research in treating ballast water against invasive species, and the benefits of allowing the shipping industry to choose among various technologies to reach compliance with a baseline standard.

Environmental alarmism was also the subject of three Earth Day commentaries by Katz. In the *Vancouver Sun*, *Calgary Herald*, and *Montreal Gazette*, Katz reminded readers of the considerable improvements in environmental quality that have occurred during the past three decades and how even the best intentions go wrong when environmental policy is driven by fear. ■

FI People continued



Kendal Egli
Vancouver



Raeann English
Vancouver



Nadeem Esmail
Calgary



Lisa-Diane Fortier
Vancouver



Kristin Fryer
Vancouver



ECONOMIC FREEDOM NETWORK

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Albania | Ghana | Oman |
| Argentina | Guatemala | Pakistan |
| Australia | Haiti | Palestinian Territories |
| Austria | Hong Kong | Panama |
| Azerbaijan | Hungary | Peru |
| Bahamas | Iceland | Philippines |
| Bangladesh | India | Poland |
| Belarus | Indonesia | Portugal |
| Belgium | Ireland | Romania |
| Bolivia | Israel | Russia |
| Brazil | Italy | Serbia |
| Bulgaria | Ivory Coast | Slovak Republic |
| Burkina Faso | Jordan | South Africa |
| Cambodia | Kenya | Sri Lanka |
| Chile | Korea | Sweden |
| Colombia | Kyrgyz Republic | Switzerland |
| Costa Rica | Lithuania | Trinidad and Tobago |
| Croatia | Luxembourg | Turkey |
| Czech Republic | Mexico | Ukraine |
| Denmark | Mongolia | United Kingdom |
| Dominican Republic | Montenegro | United States |
| Ecuador | Nepal | Venezuela |
| Estonia | New Zealand | Vietnam |
| France | Nigeria | Zambia |
| Georgia | Norway | |
| Germany | | |



FRASER INSTITUTE

GLOBAL REACH



Staff and Senior Fellow locations



Event locations



Members: Economic Freedom Network



FI People continued



Alex Gainer
Vancouver



Gordon Gibson
Vancouver



Wilf Gobert
Calgary



Keith Godin
Vancouver



Samantha Gonzales
Vancouver

ENERGY POLICY

Canada is blessed with abundant energy resources, including enormous reserves of petroleum. Those resources entwine the country in provincial, federal, and international debates about energy production, security, environmental protection, and trade. The Centre for Energy Policy Studies works to ensure that public policies at every level encourage a free energy market, and the productive and profitable use of energy resources.

In its second year of operation, the centre is now firmly positioned as uniquely qualified to guide energy policy. Consequently, public officials, industry executives, and the media look to the Centre's experts for analyses of market conditions and expertise in crafting sound energy policy.

Centre staff in 2008 produced four research reports and a number of articles and commentaries on a variety of topics, including royalty payments, labour mobility, and the energy policies of the new Obama administration in the US.

Among the centre's most notable 2008 publications was the *Global Petroleum Survey*, which ranks 81 jurisdictions worldwide on the barriers to investment in the exploration and production of oil and gas. Gerry Angevine, senior economist, calculated the responses of 396 managers and executives in the petroleum industry.

This was a substantial increase from the 2007 survey, in which 54 jurisdictions were ranked. Media mentions for the 2008 *Global Petroleum Survey* increased 45 percent over 2007. In *A Vision for a Continental Energy Strategy*, the centre offered an overview of policy reforms that would increase private investment and bolster the



security of the North American energy supply. Development of the paper was guided by senior fellows Ralph Klein and Brian Tobin, two former premiers of energy-rich provinces. A series of specific policy reports will follow in 2009.

The centre also analyzed Ontario's proposed 20-year energy plan and the implications for energy consumers and the Ontario economy. The report, *Securing Ontario's Power Supply: Market Forces Are Superior to Government Fiat*, exposed inconsistencies in the proposed regulations. According to the Institute's analysis, the province's central-planning approach actually invites rate escalation. The report provided the basis for comments later submitted to the Ontario Energy Board.

The potential labor shortage in Alberta was the subject of the *Fraser Alert Eliminating Barriers to Worker Mobility: Increasing the Availability of Skilled Labor in Alberta's Oil Sands Industry*. The publication examined provincial licensing and certification requirements, federal employment insurance rules, and the lack of reciprocal agreements with other countries—all of

CANADIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS

which constrain skilled workers from entering the Alberta workforce. The March issue of *Fraser Forum* focused on energy issues with articles that included: “A cleaner future,” by David Lewin, examined how commercializing “clean coal” technology may save the environment and the coal industry; “Bitumen resource development and the Alberta labour market,” by Herb Emery, explained why the tightness of the labour market should be an important policy focus for the Alberta government; “CANDU or no CANDU?” by Bryne Purchase, outlined a strategic position for Canada in the global nuclear industry; “Highlights from the first annual *Global Petroleum Survey*,” by Graham Thomson; and “Envisioning a continental energy strategy for North America,” by Ralph Klein and Brian Tobin, with Gerry Angevine, identified the various factors in North America’s energy sector that suggest the need for a comprehensive energy strategy.

In the October issue of *Fraser Forum*, Diane Katz, director of Risk, Regulation and Energy Policy Studies, outlined the positions on energy of presidential candidates John McCain and Barack Obama. According to “A barrel full of problems,” Canada would confront an administration that is less friendly to its petroleum products no matter which candidate emerged the victor.

The centre produced a number of commentaries in major media. For example, the announcement by the Alberta government that it would postpone some royalty rate hikes generated an opinion piece in the *Calgary Sun* on Nov. 28. In “Royalty ‘discount’ not enough to prevent investment from fleeing Alberta,” Ralph Klein and Gerry Angevine argued for even greater rollbacks of royalty rates to encourage petroleum industry investment and production. ■

The Centre for Canadian-American Relations published three major studies in 2008: *Immigration Policy and the Terrorist Threat in Canada and the United States*, co-edited by Alexander Moens and Martin Collacott; *Saving the Security and Prosperity Partnership: The Case for a North American Standards and Regulatory Area*; *Canada and Obama: Canada’s Stake in the 2008 US Election*

Staff in the department also wrote a number of commentaries on trade and political relations that were published in the *National Post*, the *Calgary Herald*, the *Canadian Manager*, the *Toronto Sun*, the *Kelowna Daily Courier*, *The Dispatch*, the magazine of the Canadian Defence and Foreign Affairs Institute, along with three articles in *Fraser Forum*.

Alexander Moens, senior fellow in Canadian-American Relations, co-organized a major conference, *Immigration Policy: Reassessing the Economic, Demographic, and Social Impact on Canada*, for the Institute in Montreal, Quebec, in June.

Professor Moens also spent considerable time presenting his research on Canadian-American relations to organizations around the globe, including:

[Russian Association for Canadian Studies](#) in Saint Petersburg, Russia, on February 25

[Network on North American Studies in Canada and the United States](#) at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver from March 13-15

[Cicero Foundation](#) in Paris from April 3-4

[Canadian International Council Conference](#) in Victoria, BC, from May 12-13

[Netherlands Ambassador to Canada Roundtable](#) in Ottawa on May 16, and

[National Standards System Conference, North American Trade Partnerships](#), in St John’s, Newfoundland, in June. ■

Diane Finley, minister of citizenship and immigration, speaks to reporters following her address to the Fraser Institute’s immigration conference in Montreal.



FI People
continued



Herbert Grubel
Vancouver



Maureen Hazel
Calgary



Melissa Holoday
Toronto



Amela Karabegović
Vancouver



Dan Kary
Calgary

IMMIGRATION POLICY

The Fraser Institute's research on immigration examines the economic, demographic, and social impacts of immigration policy on Canadian society, related security threats, and issues of citizenship, multiculturalism, and national identity. It includes the work of senior fellows Martin Collacott, Herbert Grubel, and Alexander Moens.

In 2008, the Institute held a conference in Montreal that examined a range of immigration issues including immigration and labour markets, whether immigration can offset the effects of population aging, and questions about how well immigrants are integrating into Canadian society. The conference was addressed by the federal and Quebec ministers of immigration; and included panellists from Canada, the United States, Britain, and France.

Earlier in the year, the Institute published *Immigration Policy and the Terrorist Threat in Canada and the United States*, a volume of papers from the Institute's 2007 immigration conference. A similar volume from the 2008 conference will be published in 2009. In the course of 2008, senior fellows of the Fraser Institute also published articles related to immigration in

Fraser Forum, *Canadian Diversity* magazine, and such newspapers as the *Globe and Mail*, *Vancouver Sun*, and *Ottawa Citizen*. Martin Collacott also testified before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration. ■

(Below) Demonstrators protest outside the Institute's immigration conference in Montreal in June.

(Bottom) The Institute's Tasha Kheiriddin moderates a panel with Yolande James, Québec minister of immigration, and Martin Lemay, PQ immigration critic, during the Montreal immigration conference.



EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The Education Programs department is based in the Fraser Institute's Vancouver office and has a staff of four: Vanessa Schneider, director of education programs; Lindsay Mitchell, education programs coordinator; Courtenay Vermeulen, education programs assistant, and Annabel Addington, former director and current program advisor. The department continued to expand its programs in 2008, offering seminars, workshops, conferences, student newsletters, essay and video contests, event bursaries, and internships in an effort to encourage students, teachers, and the general public to develop their understanding of competitive markets.

Student seminars

The student seminar program involves university, college, and senior high school students in structured discussions of economic policy issues and competitive markets; the program gives them the opportunity to debate and interact with their peers on important topics.

During 2008, the Institute hosted 11 one-day seminars attracting 1,200 participants. Three programs were held in Vancouver, two in Calgary, and individual events were held in Victoria, Prince George, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Toronto, and Montreal.

To encourage greater participation in BC, for the third year we offered students living outside of the three BC communities where seminars were held a bursary to attend the Vancouver student seminar on public policy issues. The bursary provides air travel, two nights' hotel accommodation, a special breakfast before the seminar, and a reception with the presenters after the

seminar. This year, 45 students from high schools, colleges, and universities in all BC regions took advantage of this program.

High school student seminars, *Why Do People Behave the Way They Do? An Introduction to Economic Reasoning*, were held in Vancouver, Surrey, and Calgary. The programs featured a combination of short lectures, activities, and simulations to help students learn about economic principles and how to apply



Christine Van Geyn, Dana Jevremovic, Janet Neilson, Michael Currie and Paul Braczek took part in the May 2008 student colloquium held in Victoria, BC.

them to decision making. Approximately 200 students from local high schools attended each seminar. The seminars were made possible through the support and sponsorship provided by the Lotte & John Hecht Memorial Foundation, ConocoPhillips, EnCana Corporation, and the John Dobson Foundation.

The Fraser Institute and Liberty Fund, Inc. co-sponsored colloquia

The Fraser Institute and Liberty Fund, Inc. held a series of conferences for students, teachers, and professionals in the second year of our co-sponsorship program. These colloquia largely followed the traditional Liberty Fund format of intense discussions based on readings. In all, 50 advanced-level students, 14 teachers, and 40 professionals from business, the media, academia, and other fields participated in these programs, exploring ideas and engaging in discussions in a relaxed

but structured environment, with the interests of the participants themselves determining the overall direction of the conversation. Topics explored in 2008 included public choice economics, economic progress, entrepreneurship, and private charity. The student and teacher participants from across Canada were selected through a competitive process in which more than 110 students who had participated in the Institute's one-day seminars and all high school teachers associated with our programs were invited to apply.

Canadian Student Review

The *Canadian Student Review* is a quarterly publication sponsored by the Lotte & John Hecht Memorial Foundation that contains articles written for and by students. Each edition includes articles on various economic issues with viewpoints that are unlikely to be found in the typical campus newspaper. In 2008, more than 17,000 copies of each issue of the *Review* were distributed to print and digital subscribers, as well as distributed on university and college campuses through a network of professors and student organizations.

Student internship program

The Fraser Institute hired 16 student interns to train as junior policy analysts and junior program staff in 2008. The students are selected through a competitive hiring process that included more than 350 applicants from across Canada and the United States. Paired with Fraser Institute analysts and program directors, the young scholars are given the opportunity to make a tangible and worthwhile contribution to the Institute's work. The interns 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.

Ask the Professor

Ask the Professor is a new, interactive feature on www.fraserinstitute.org launched in February and featuring a new article each month that examines topics through the lens of economics, philosophy, history, and political thought. Once a month, following the release of the article, students and other interested people can participate in a live, on-line chat with the professor, who answers questions and offers insights on the topic. The program featured two experts in 2008: Dr. Jonathan Fortier, senior fellow at the Fraser Institute and senior director of academic initiatives at the Institute for Humane Studies; and Dr. Steven Horwitz, Charles A. Dana professor of economics at St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York. Topics discussed included scarcity, unintended consequences, prices and profits, and comparative advantage.

Student interns (left to right) Lulu Zhou, Bonnie Lui, David Karp, Kathryn Mitrow, James Lombardi, and John Menzies in the Institute's Vancouver office.



Fraser Institute Interns, 2008

Breanna Bishop, University of British Columbia

Kyla Bottriell, University of Victoria

Mark Brosens, Ryerson University and York University

Matthew Brown, McGill University

Miguel Cervantes, Université du Québec à Montréal

Michael Cust, University of Waterloo

David Karp, University of Victoria

Meredith Lilly, University of Toronto Mississauga

James Lombardi, University of Warwick

Bonnie Lui, University of British Columbia

John Menzies, McGill University

Kathryn Mitrow, University of Western Ontario

Gillian Nation, Bishop's University

Derrick Schroeter, Wilfrid Laurier University

Marisha Warrington, Queen Mary University

Lu (Lulu) Zhou, University of Ottawa

Student Essay Contest

The topic of the annual student essay contest in 2008 was “The Canadian health care system: Why is it broken, and how can it be fixed?” This year’s contest garnered more than 100 entries from students at universities and high schools across Canada, the United States, and around the world. The contest was sponsored by the Manning Centre for Building Democracy. 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)

Reforming Medicare

by Richard Norman, Halifax, Nova Scotia
University of King’s College, Journalism, 2008

2nd Place (\$500)

Healthcare Crossroads: Pivotal Changes for Reform

by Teri Sproul, Chester, Nova Scotia
Macquarie University, International Communication, 2010

High school category

(tie for first place, both winners received \$250)

The Case for Capitalist Healthcare

by Ty Mills, Calgary, Alberta
St. Mary’s High School, Grade 12
Time to Care
by Sarah Morris, Vancouver, British Columbia
York House School, Grade 12

Student Video Contest

Young filmmakers were encouraged to find creative market-based solutions to Canada’s ailing health care system as part of the Fraser Institute’s first student video contest. The topic was “Incentives Matter: Fixing Health Care in Canada,” and video entries were received from university and high school students across Canada. The contest was sponsored by the Lotte and John Hecht Memorial Foundation.

The winning entries were selected based on originality, clear expression of ideas, production values, quality of story, and understanding of the topic. A special Viewer’s Choice Award was also awarded in each category to the videos with the highest rating on YouTube. All winning videos can be viewed at YouTube.com/FraserInstitute.

The winners were:

Post-Secondary Category

1st Place (\$ 2,000)

Dog Days

Created by Richard Norman, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS and Tim Mak, McGill University, Montreal, QC

2nd Place (\$1,500)

Health Care in Canada

Created by Matthew Bufton, University of Windsor, Windsor, ON

Runner-up (received a handheld camcorder valued at \$500)

Save a Canadian Today

Created by Matthew Guilherme, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, ON

Viewer’s Choice Award (\$750)

Dog Days

Created by Richard Norman, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS and Tim Mak, McGill University, Montreal, QC

(Winners continue on next page)

FI People *continued*



Diane Katz
Detroit



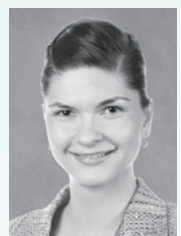
Margaret Kerr
Vancouver



Tasha Kheiriddin
Montreal



Greg Krewski
Vancouver



Johana Křížová
Montreal

High School Category

1st Place (\$ 1,500)

Save Canada's Health Care

Created by Alyssa Moore, North Grenville District High School, Kemptville, ON

2nd Place (\$1,000)

Fixing Canada's Health Care System – Incentives Matter

Created by Corey Leung and George Zahariev, Mount Douglas Secondary, Victoria, BC

3rd Place (\$750)

Problems Within

Created by Julie Buiza, Kimberly Bui, and Leah Chao, Burnaby Central High School, Burnaby, BC

Viewer's Choice Award (\$750)

Canadian Health Care Crisis

Created by Curtis Huisman and Jeffrey Oudman, W.R. Myers High School, Taber, AB



Teachers attending the Institute's workshop on the environment and economy learned about aquaculture during a field trip to the Vancouver Aquarium.

Student bursaries

The Fraser Institute attempts to reach as many students as possible through our policy events. Consequently, the Institute offers bursaries for many of our events and conferences to local scholars who might otherwise find the registration fees prohibitive. Institute members who recognize the benefit of exposing students to these important policy events sponsor many of these students.

Programs for teachers

Since 2000, the Fraser Institute has offered teacher workshops on economic principles as well as a teacher resource section on the Institute's website.

Teacher training workshops

The Institute held six workshops for secondary school teachers in 2008 where more than 100 teachers received training and education on a variety of topics including environmental issues, economics, capitalism, trade, and globalization.

The Fraser Institute continued to partner with similar organizations interested in encouraging economic awareness through education, including the Foundation for Teaching Economics (FTE) and the Washington Council on Economic Education. With the FTE, the Institute offered a one-day program in Vancouver, *Is Capitalism Good for the Poor?* This curriculum considers the question of whether the institutions characteristic of capitalism create incentives that promote wealth creation around the world.

The annual teacher training workshop at the Canada-US border was held in Blaine, WA, with both Canadian and American teachers in attendance. This year, this international program featured *The Economic Freedom Map: Charting a Path to Prosperity*, a set of six lesson plans designed to accompany the Economic Freedom of the World wall

map. These materials, which were released in 2007, can be used to explain the principles of economic freedom and its relation to global prosperity and are intended for use in high school economics courses and other courses where economic reasoning may be applied.

The popular *Teacher Training Workshop on Economic Principles* expanded this year, as programs were held in Victoria, BC, and Toronto, ON in addition to Vancouver, BC. This workshop is intended for new and experienced economics teachers, as well as those who want to incorporate economic principles into other courses. It provides participants with a number

List of 2008 Education Programs

Student seminars:

Explore Public Policy Issues

January 26, Montreal
February 9, Calgary
March 6, Saskatoon
March 7, Winnipeg
October 25, Vancouver
November 7, Victoria
November 8, Toronto
November 14, Prince George

High school seminars: **Why Do People Behave the Way They Do? An Introduction to Economic Reasoning**

February 22, Surrey
October 10, Calgary
October 17, Vancouver

The Fraser Institute and Liberty Fund, Inc. Co-sponsored Colloquia

January 31-February 3, Vancouver, *Liberty and Entrepreneurship Professional Colloquium*
May 8-11, Victoria, *Liberty and Public Choice: The Reality of the State Student Colloquium*
June 12-15, Montreal, *Liberty, Entrepreneurship and Innovation Professional Colloquium*
July 3-6, Vancouver, *Liberty and Market Principles Student Colloquium*



Journalist Michael Melling listens to Ralph Klein during dinner at the May 2008 seminar on economics and markets for journalists.

of lesson plans they can use to teach economics effectively. Many of the lessons incorporate games, simulations, and other ways to make economics fun

and interesting for students. The teacher workshop program was supported through sponsorship from the Lotte & John Hecht Memorial Foundation, the London Drugs Foundation, the Foundation for Teaching Economics, and the Washington Council on Economic Education.

July 24-27, Montreal, *Liberty and Economic Progress: The Role of Entrepreneurship and Innovation Student Colloquium*
 September 25-28, Parksville, *Liberty and Market Principles Teacher Colloquium*
 December 4-7, Vancouver, *Liberty and Private Charity Professional Colloquium*

Teacher Workshops

January 7, Vancouver, *Is Capitalism Good for the Poor?*
 April 19-22, Vancouver, *HSBC Institute on the Environment and the Economy*
 October 30, Peace Arch Border Crossing, Blaine WA, *The Economic Freedom Map: Charting a Path to Prosperity*
 November 6, Toronto, *Economic Principles*
 November 12, Vancouver, *Economic Principles*
 December 4, Victoria, *Economic Principles*

Economics and Markets Journalism Seminar

May 19-23, Vancouver

Teaching resources

Use of the Teacher Centre section on www.fraserinstitute.org continues to increase. Teachers and the general public can find economic glossaries, lesson plans, video/DVD recommendations, and other classroom resources on the site. Strong endorsements of the site have come from educators who find the format and content useful.

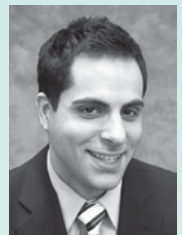
Journalism program

In 2008, the Institute held its second journalism program, *Economics and Markets*. Fifteen emerging Canadian journalists with an interest in honing their economic reporting skills attended the week-long program in Vancouver. The format of the program encouraged the exploration of ideas through lectures and discussion within a small group, and allowed participants to engage in a forum of learning, questioning, and critical analysis of free-market thinking. The program was supported through the sponsorship of Carter Management Co. Ltd. and other donors. ■

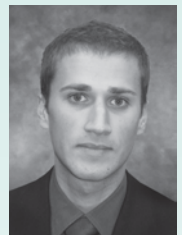
FI People continued



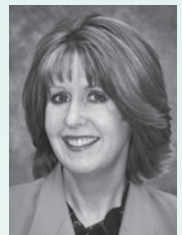
Julie Lajoie
Montreal



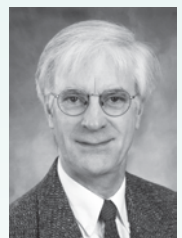
Charles Lammam
Vancouver



James Lombardi
Vancouver



Fiona Marshall White
Vancouver



Lindsey Martin
Vancouver

EVENTS

The Fraser Institute Events department produces high quality events that promote and support the vision and mission of the Institute. The department is managed by Fiona Marshall White and supported by Julie DiMambro, Ashley Astells, Inu Manak, and Heather Corbett in Vancouver, along with Mirja van Herk in Calgary, Melissa Holoday in Toronto, Courtney May in Ottawa, and Johana Křížová in Montreal.

In 2008, the department organized 132 events for more than 6,500 attendees. These events included luncheons, policy briefings, a conference, receptions, awards celebrations, gala dinners, our premier evening dinner series, and our policy excursions.

Former Director of Events, Leah Costello, became Director of Special Projects in 2008 so she could focus on marketing the events and other Institute projects, such as our new video project, *Fraser TV*.

Policy Briefings

Our cross-country policy briefings are the backbone of our events program, providing a forum for a wide spectrum of public policy ideas. These lunchtime events present detailed information from knowledgeable and well-respected speakers. Our topics have included international affairs, financial concerns, national security, hospital waiting lists, pharmaceutical policy, property rights, and aboriginal issues.

Behind the Spin

Our *Behind the Spin* cocktail speaker series expanded to Montreal and Ottawa, in addition to Vancouver and Calgary, following the successful



pattern established in Toronto in 2006. This program combines a topical speaker with conversation and networking over cocktails, followed by an optional private dinner with the speaker and more detailed debates.

Topics covered in 2008 included health care, Canada-US relations, Afghanistan, poverty, provincial justice systems, energy issues, and agricultural policies. Our list of speakers included David Frum, journalist, author and former speechwriter for President George W. Bush; Diane Francis, *National Post* editor-at-large; Andy Barrie of CBC Radio; Pamela Wallin, member of the independent panel on Canada's future in Afghanistan; Dr. Robert Ouellet, president of the Canadian Medical Association; Dr. Brian Day, former president of the Canadian Medical Association; John Fund of the Wall Street Journal; His Excellency Omar Samad, Afghanistan Ambassador to Canada; Dr. Anson Chan, legislative member of the Council of Hong Kong; Ezra Levant, author, blogger and free-speech defender; His Excellency Howar Ziad, Iraqi Ambassador; His Excellency David Wilkins, US Ambassador; Jamie Graham, former Vancouver chief of police; and Donald Brenner, BC Supreme Court Chief Justice.

Illuminismo/Dialogues

The Vancouver *Illuminismo* conversation series and the Calgary and Toronto *Dialogues* conversation series are dinner events that provide an intellectually

David Frum, author and columnist, signs copies of his book for guests at the Fraser Institute's *Behind the Spin* cocktail event.

stimulating atmosphere where the audience can hear and ask questions of esteemed speakers, enjoy a fine meal, and network with other guests.

Speakers in 2008 included Karl Rove, former head of the White House Office of Strategic Initiatives; Mark Steyn, Canadian writer and political commentator; Richard Dawkins, British ethologist, evolutionary biologist, and author; and Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, former United States national security advisor. This popular series will continue through 2009 with John Howard, former Australian prime minister, as the first speaker.

Other significant events

In June, the Institute hosted a conference in Montreal focusing on the economic, demographic, and social impact of immigration on Canada. Simultaneous translation ensured that the proceedings were available in both French and English. The Hon. Diane Finley, Canada's Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, presented a keynote address on the government's legislative initiatives for dealing with the backlog of 900,000 applications for immigration visas. Experts from France, Britain, and the United States gave papers that discussed the state of immigration policies in those countries.

September saw the release in Hong Kong of the Institute's *Economic Freedom of the World: 2008 Annual Report*. For the 12th straight year, Hong Kong was recognized as the top economic jurisdiction in the world. Chief Executive of Hong Kong Mr. Donald Tsang spoke at a gala dinner saluting Hong Kong's economic freedom. The report's launch also included presentations from Dr. Richard Wong, Director, the Hong Kong Center for Economic Research, The University of Hong Kong, and Dr. Frances Lui, director for economic development at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

In November, we held our 4th Annual Canada Strong and Free gala dinner in Ottawa. The sold-out event was hosted by Mike Harris, Fraser Institute senior fellow and co-author of *Vision for a Canada Strong and Free*. The guest

speaker was Canada's finance minister, the Honourable Jim Flaherty. The gala helped launch the opening of our Ottawa office.

Policy excursions

The popular policy excursion program began in March 2008 with a visit to New York. In June, the Institute's annual Washington excursion included meetings at the US Supreme Court, the Pentagon, the White House, the US Federal Reserve, and the Canadian Embassy. The year's final excursion was a sold-out trip to the Gulf region. The tour began in Muscat, Oman, moved on to Dubai, followed by Abu Dhabi, and Doha, Qatar. Participants visited Dubai's financial centre, the Emirates Centre for Strategic Studies, the Qatar Foundation, Al Jazeera, the Dubai Creek project, Dubaiworld, Al Quadra, and SNC Lavalin. ■



(above) Participants in the Fraser Institute's Gulf excursion saw the world's second largest mosque under construction in Abu Dhabi.

Richard Dawkins (left), evolutionary biologist and author of *The God Delusion*, chats with Michael Walker, Fraser Institute senior fellow, and Janet Walker during Dawkins' appearance at the *Illuminismo* speaker series in Vancouver.

FI People continued



John Maus
Toronto



Courtney May
Ottawa



Kristin McCahon
Vancouver



Alexandra McGregor
Toronto



Fred McMahon
Toronto



Wendy Mills
Toronto

2008 EVENTS

CALGARY

January 30	David Frum, columnist and author of <i>Comeback: How the Conservatives Could Win Again</i>	The US After Bush
April 15	Karina Wood, Outreach Coordinator, Donner Canadian Foundation Awards for Excellence in the Delivery of Social Services, and Donner joint awards recipient Monica Brinck	Donner Canadian Foundation Awards for Excellence in the Delivery of Social Services, Breakfast Briefing
May 8	His Excellency Omar Samad, Afghanistan Ambassador to Canada	Canada's Role in Afghanistan
June 9 and June 10	Dr. Anson Chan, Member, Legislative Council of Hong Kong	Democracy and Universal Suffrage
June 26	Senior Economist Gerry Angevine and Graham Thomson, Centre for Energy Policy Studies	Global Petroleum Survey 2008 Release
August 27	Nadeem Esmail, Director, Health System Performance Studies, and Maureen Hazel, Health Policy Analyst	Medical Technology in Canada: State of the Art?
September 9	Ralph Klein, former Premier of Alberta, and Senior Fellow, Fraser Institute	A Conversation with Ralph Klein
September 24	Karl Rove, former Chief of Staff to Preseident George W. Bush	Karl Rove Reviews US Politics
October 2	Calvin Helin, author, lawyer, and President & CEO of Eagle Group of Companies	Dances with Dependency: Success Through Self-Reliance
October 16	Ezra Levant, former publisher, <i>The Western Standard</i>	Levant, Mohamed, and the Case for Freedom of Speech
October 27	Mark Mullins, Executive Director, Fraser Institute	Market Meltdown: Understanding 300 Years of Credit Crises and the Implications for Public Policy and Your Pocketbook
November 6	Nadeem Esmail, Director, Health System Performance Studies, and Maureen Hazel, Health Policy Analyst, Fraser Institute	Waiting for Health Care in Canada: A Necessary Evil?
November 13	Peter Cowley, Director of School Performance Studies, Fraser Institute	Garfield Weston Awards for Excellence in Education
December 4	Prof. Tom Flanagan and Manny Jules, Chief Commissioner, First Nations Tax Commission	First Nations' Property Rights
December 10	Preston Manning, Senior Fellow, Fraser Institute, and President and CEO of the Manning Centre for Building Democracy	Parliamentary Paralysis

MONTREAL

January 24	David Frum, columnist and author of <i>Comeback: How the Conservatives Could Win Again</i>	The US After Bush
February 7	Dennis Julien, co-author and Joanne Marcotte, co-author and director, <i>The Quiet Illusion</i>	The Quiet Illusion
March 11	Senator Hugh Segal, CM	Guaranteed Annual Income: Why Milton Friedman and Bob Stanfield were Right
April 10	Fraser Institute Montreal office	Launch of <i>Perspectives</i> magazine
April 22	Peter Cowley, Director of School Performance Studies, Fraser Institute	Garfield Weston Awards for Excellence in Education
April 24	Éric Grenon, Agricultural Economist	A Sticky Situation: Problems and Solutions for Quebec's Maple Syrup Industry
May 6	Stevan Mitchell, Vice President of Intellectual Property Policy, Entertainment Software Association	Piracy and Other Policy Impediments to Export Growth
May 27	Alain Dubuc, author, columnist and former Editor-In-Chief, <i>La Presse</i>	Discussion of book <i>Lettre à mes amis souverainistes</i>
June 3 - 5	Various speakers	Canadian Immigration Policy Conference: Assessing the Economic, Demographic, and Social Impacts

MONTREAL *2008 Events Continued*

September 18	His Excellency Howar Ziad, Iraqi Ambassador to Canada	The Rebirth of Iraq
September 25	Dr. Costas Panagopoulos, Fordham University	US Elections: Voting behaviors, Campaign Management and Financing
October 9	Ralph Klein, former Premier of Alberta, and Senior Fellow, Fraser Institute	A Conversation with Ralph Klein: Alberta, Quebec, and the Future of Canada
October 28	US Ambassador David Wilkins	US Presidential Election
November 6	Dr. Robert Ouellet, President of the Canadian Medical Association	Condition Critical: The Future of Canadian Health Care
November 19	Fraser Institute Senior Economist Nathalie Elgrably-Levy	Tapping Quebec's Blue Gold: Water, Property Rights, and the State

OTTAWA

October 21	Joel-Denis Belleavance, Ottawa Bureau Chief, <i>La Presse</i> , Gerry Nichols, Democracy Institute, and Canada's leading Conservative blogger Stephen Taylor	First Hundred Days: What Direction Should the Government Take?
November 24	Former Premier of Ontario and Fraser Institute Senior Fellow Mike Harris and Hon. Minister Jim Flaherty	Canada Strong and Free: The State of the Economy

TORONTO

January 9	Dr. Howard Fuller, Distinguished Professor of Education, and Founder and Director, Institute for the Transformation of Learning, Marquette University, Wisconsin	Creating Education Choice for Black Students
January 23	David Frum, columnist and author of <i>Comeback: How the Conservatives Could Win Again</i>	The US After Bush
March 4	Robert Deluce, Founder, Porter Airlines, and Toby Lennox, Vice President, Corporate Affairs, Greater Toronto Airports Authority	Flying in the Face of Public Opinion
March 19	Peter Cowley, Director of School Performance Studies, Fraser Institute	Garfield Weston Awards for Excellence in Education
April 9	Karina Wood, Outreach Coordinator, Donner Canadian Foundation Awards for Excellence in the Delivery of Social Services, Donner Awards judge Bob English, and previous award recipient Maxine Roness	Donner Canadian Foundation Awards for Excellence in the Delivery of Social Services, Breakfast Briefing
April 23	John Manley, Former Deputy Prime Minister of Canada and Finance Minister	A Conversation with John Manley
May 6	Diane Francis, columnist, <i>The Financial Post</i> , and Andy Barrie, host, CBC Radio's <i>Metro Morning</i>	The Challenges and Opportunities Facing Canadian Media in an Electronic Age
June 5	Norman Larocque, public policy consultant and advisor, the Education Forum of New Zealand	Paying for Post-Secondary Education: The Costs and Benefits of Student Loan Programs for an Educated Society
June 5	Norman Larocque, public policy consultant and advisor, the Education Forum of New Zealand	Individual Developments in School Choice
September 16	Pamela Wallin, member of the Independent Panel on Canada's Future in Afghanistan	Canada's Role in Afghanistan
September 23	Karl Rove, former Chief of Staff to President George W. Bush	Karl Rove Reviews US Politics

2008 EVENTS *Continued*

TORONTO <i>2008 Events Continued</i>		
October 21	John Fund, Deputy Editorial Features Editor, <i>Wall Street Journal</i>	Election 2008 and Beyond
November 18 - 19	Sylvia LeRoy, former Program Manager, Donner Canadian Foundation Awards for Excellence in the Delivery of Social Services	Donner Canadian Foundation Awards for Excellence in the Delivery of Social Services
November 24	Dr. Jack Mintz, The Palmer Chair in Public Policy, University of Calgary	The Global Financial Crisis

VANCOUVER

January 28	David Frum, columnist and author of <i>Comeback: How the Conservatives Could Win Again</i>	The US After Bush
February 18	Karl Rove, former Chief of Staff to President George W. Bush	Karl Rove on US Politics
April 8	Karina Wood, Outreach Coordinator, Donner Canadian Foundation Awards for Excellence in the Delivery of Social Services, former Donner Awards finalist Ian Ross, and Donner Awards judge Stephen Easton	Donner Canadian Foundation Awards for Excellence in the Delivery of Social Services, Breakfast Briefing
April 17	Peter Cowley, Director of School Performance Studies, Fraser Institute	Survey Results from BC Parents on Province-Wide Testing
April 28	Prof. Richard Dawkins, biologist, ethologist, and author of <i>The God Delusion</i>	Richard Dawkins on Evolution & Religion
May 21	Ralph Klein, former Premier of Alberta, and Senior Fellow, Fraser Institute	A Conversation with Ralph Klein
May 26	Mark Steyn, columnist and author, <i>America Alone: The End of the World As We Know It</i>	Mark Steyn on the War on Terror
May 27	Ezra Levant, former publisher, <i>The Western Standard</i>	Levant, Mohamed, and the Case for Freedom of Speech
June 13	Ronald Arculli, Chairman, Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Ltd. Hassan Khosrowshahi, Chairman of the Board, Fraser Institute, and Mark Mullins, Executive Director, Fraser Institute	Dr. Harold Walter Siebens Lecture and AGM Global Financial Crisis: The Perspective from Hong Kong
June 13	Mark Mullins, Executive Director, Fraser Institute, and Institute staff	Fraser Institute Open House
June 25	Sandy Maisel, Professor of Government and Director, Goldfarb Center for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement, Colby College (ME)	The 2008 US Elections: A Nation Faces a Crossroad
September 4	Dr. Brian Day, Past President, Canadian Medical Association	Putting Patients First: The Only Solution for Canada's Health Care System
September 29	Zbigniew Brzezinski, former US National Security Advisor	American Foreign Policy After the Elections
September 30	Calvin Helin, author, lawyer, and President & CEO of Eagle Group of Companies	Dances with Dependency: Success Through Self-Reliance
October 16	Jamie Graham, former Chief Constable, Vancouver Police Department	From Free Needles to Free Drugs: What's in Store for the Downtown Eastside?
October 23	Mark Mullins, Executive Director, Fraser Institute	Market Meltdown: Understanding 300 Years of Credit Crises and the Implications for Public Policy and Your Pocketbook
October 30	Prof. Alexander Moens, Fraser Institute Senior Fellow	Donkey or Elephant? The Impact on Canada after the Circus Ends
November 5	Peter Cowley, Director of School Performance Studies, Fraser Institute	Garfield Weston Awards for Excellence in Education
November 13	Derek Fraser, Former Ambassador to Ukraine, Greece, and Hungary	Dealing with a Resurgent Russia
November 18	BC Supreme Court Chief Justice Donald Brenner	Trial and Error? Moving Our Courts to the 20th Century

VANCOUVER 2008 Events Continued

December 1	Nadeem Esmail, Director, Health System Performance Studies, Fraser Institute	Medical Technology in Canada
December 4	Jason Clemens, Director of Research, Pacific Research Center, San Francisco	Understanding the Consequences of the US Election

INTERNATIONAL

March 5 - 7	Various speakers	2008 New York Policy Excursion
June 25 - 27	Various speakers	2008 Washington Policy Excursion
September 16	Mark Mullins, Executive Director, Fraser Institute	Global Release of the 2008 <i>Economic Freedom of the World Report</i> , Hong Kong
September 16	Richard Wong, Founding Director, Hong Kong Center for Economic Research; Francis Lui, Director, Center for Economic Development, Hong Kong University of Science & Technology	Economic Freedom Symposium, Hong Kong
September 16	Donald Tsang, Chief Executive, Hong Kong SAR	Celebrate Hong Kong Gala Dinner
November 1 - 7	Various speakers	2008 Gulf Policy Excursion
November 4 - 6	Various speakers	Third Economic Freedom of the Arab World Conference, Doha, Qatar
November 12 - 14	Various speakers	Economic Freedom of the World Network Annual Conference, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



The Fraser Institute hosted Karl Rove, former chief of staff to President George W. Bush, (above, centre) at events in Vancouver, Calgary and Toronto.

Participants in the Institute's Washington, DC policy excursion (left) pose in front of the Washington Monument.

2008 FUNDRAISING PROGRAM

Total income for the Fraser Institute including donations, sales of publications, interest, and other income for the year 2008 amounted to \$13,865,138.

Support

As of December 31, 2008, the Institute recorded 3,738 supporters from Canada, the United States, 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 various areas of our work including student seminars, teacher workshops, the elementary and secondary school report cards, and studies on a wide range of policy issues including the environment, globalization, taxes, labour policy, entrepreneurship, economic freedom, risk and regulation, pharmaceutical and health care, Canada-US relations, insurance, and energy.

Sponsorships

Sponsors and advertisers are invited to support Fraser Institute events including dinners, policy briefings, special events, *Fraser Forum*, our public policy magazine, and *Canadian Student Review*.

Publications

In 2008 the Institute released 82 publications in print and digital format. Our publications are available free of charge on the Institute's website at www.fraserinstitute.org. Institute hard copy publications are available for purchase with these revenues going towards further research. Special large-volume discounts are available for stores, libraries, and universities.

For details call David Zheng at 1-800-665-3558 ext. 580, or e-mail sales@fraserinstitute.org.

Direct mail campaigns

The Institute conducts an annual direct mail campaign to explain our work to potential new supporters. This campaign brought in 863 new supporters whose gifts totaled \$185,807 in 2008.

Frontline

In 2008, the Institute published four editions of *Frontline*, a periodic newsletter for supporters designed to demonstrate the impact of donors' support in helping to improve public policy in Canada and around the world. Institute friends generously contributed an additional \$180,934 in support of programs highlighted in *Frontline*.

Bequests

To discuss how you can make a contribution to the Fraser Foundation or set up a special fund, please contact Sherry Stein at (604) 714-4590 or e-mail sherry.stein@fraserinstitute.org.

How you can help

For information on how you can support the Institute's research, please e-mail:

development@fraserinstitute.org or call toll free 1.800.665.3558, ext. 590, or directly call:

Sherry Stein, Director of Development, 604.714.4590

John Maus, Associate Director, Business Development, Ontario, 416.363.6575, ext. 232

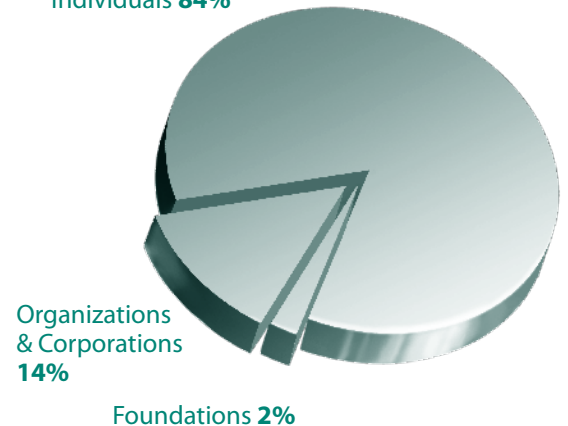
Clare Olmstead, Business Development Manager, Alberta, 403.216.7175, ext. 227

Anthony Stewart, Development Associate, Vancouver, 604.688.0221, ext. 557 ■

Fraser Institute Supporters

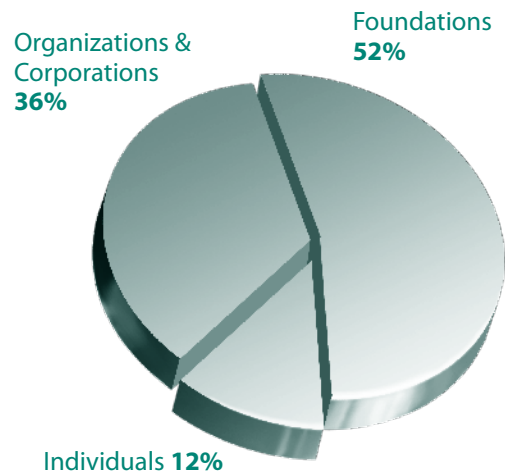
December 31, 2008

Individuals **84%**



Fraser Institute Dollar Contributions

December 31, 2008



Charitable receipts given in accordance with Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) and United States (IRS) guidelines.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS 2008

The Fraser Institute's net assets position as at December 31, 2008 was \$1,055,739.

Gross revenues amounted to \$13,865,138, representing an increase of 8.9% over 2007. Gross expenditures amounted to \$13,829,640, representing an increase of 9.0% over 2007. The net operating surplus was \$35,498 for the year.

The Fraser Institute's financial position and operating results for the 2008 year are as follows:

Statement of Financial Position – summary As at December 31, 2008

	\$
Current assets	3,658,565
Investments	1,060,978
Property and equipment	912,033
	<hr/>
	5,631,576
	<hr/>
Liabilities – current and long term	4,575,837
Net assets	1,055,739
	<hr/>
	5,631,576

Statement of Operating Results – summary For the year ended December 31, 2008

Revenues	\$
Donations, sales of publications, annual dues, interest and other income	13,865,138
Expenses	
Salaries, office costs, projects, Publications and other net expenses	13,829,640
	<hr/>
Increase in unrestricted net assets from Operations	35,498

FI People continued



Jean-François Minardi
Montreal



Lindsay Mitchell
Vancouver



Kathryn Mitrow
Vancouver



Alexander Moens
Vancouver



Mark Mullins
Vancouver

FI People
continued



Clare Olmstead
Calgary



Milagros Palacios
Vancouver



Dean Pelkey
Vancouver



Michael Perri
Vancouver



Bill C. Ray
Vancouver

CHINESE AFFAIRS 中華事務

In 2008, the Fraser Institute continued its outreach initiatives to the Chinese community. Wallace Chan, the Institute's coordinator of Chinese affairs, contributed a weekly column, "The Voice of Fraser," to the *Chinese Canadian Times* newspaper, which served as a platform to communicate Institute ideas and research to readers in the Canadian-Chinese community. Other media outreach efforts included meetings with newspaper editors and community leaders to ensure they were aware of the Institute's on-going work.

The Institute also expanded its association with Chinese student groups at universities and colleges. In November, Amela Karabegović, associate director of globalization studies, spoke about

the economic freedom of the world project to a group of overseas students studying in Vancouver at Columbia College.

In addition to its contact with Canada's Chinese-speaking population, the Institute also reached out to groups in Hong Kong, which, for more than three decades, has been ranked the top region in the world for economic freedom in the Institute's *Economic Freedom of the World Annual Report*.

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong held a talk featuring the Institute's research, and on September 16, the Fraser Institute staged the global launch of its annual *Economic Freedom of the World* publication in Hong Kong. ■

Mark Mullins, Fraser Institute executive director, and Professor Richard Wong, director of the Hong Kong Center for Economic Research, the University of Hong Kong, at the release of the Institute's 2008 *Economic Freedom of the World* report.



PUBLICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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 consistent and cost-effective way possible. In 2008, the Publications department, under the direction of Kristin McCahon and with the assistance of Lindsey Martin, production editor, Kristin Fryer, publications editor, Kendal Egli, editor/typesetter, and Bill C. Ray, art director, produced 82 publications, including 10 issues of the Institute's magazine, *Fraser Forum*, 3 issues of *Perspectives*, and 3 issues of *Canadian Student Review*. David Zheng capably handled book sales and shipping, and staffed our book display at Institute events.

Under Bill Ray's guidance, the Institute spent considerable effort in 2008 improving its visual image. Bill redesigned the Institute logo, coordinated the Institute brochure with the Annual Report and revamped the face of most of the Institute's publications. The result has been gratifying and dramatic. We invite you to see the change for yourself by browsing through the publications posted on our website.

Fraser Forum

Fraser Forum continues to serve as one of the Institute's main vehicles for communicating with its supporters and the media. Policy analysts from within the Institute as well as external

writers contribute each issue's 12 to 15 articles. Each issue of *Fraser Forum* has a specific focus and contains three to six articles on the focus topic which in 2008 included taxation, the environment, equalization, globalization, pharmaceutical policy, education, health policy, families, welfare, and insurance. Many of the articles contain original research and are frequently reprinted in media outlets across Canada. The more than 6,500 copies of *Fraser Forum* are printed monthly and are distributed to our supporters, the media, academic exchanges, politicians, and selected news stands in British Columbia. In 2008, Kristin Fryer became managing editor of *Fraser Forum* and took the opportunity to revitalize both the look and content of the magazine.

Perspectives

In 2008, under the inspiration of Tasha Kheiriddin, the Fraser Institute Quebec office launched a magazine designed specifically for francophones. *Perspectives* is an attractive, full-colour magazine that contains French translations of some of the best and most applicable material from *Fraser Forum*, and adds articles pertinent to our Quebec and francophone audience. About 4,000 copies of the magazine were distributed in the spring, summer, and fall of 2008.

Fraser Frontline

Each year, the Institute produces four issues of *Fraser Frontline*, a newsy

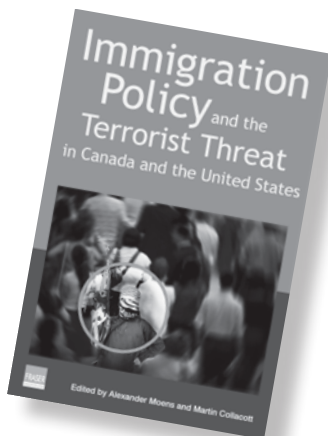
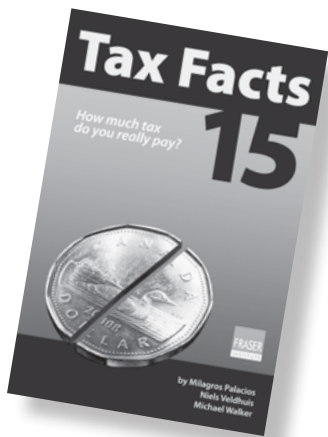
update that explains to supporters the impact of their donations. The four-to-eight-page newsletter profiles significant research successes, introduces key analysts, and highlights the impact our work has had on public policy in Canada and around the world. To obtain a copy, contact Dan Kary, manager of direct mail, at (403) 216-7175 ext. 228.

Insight

In 2008, with impetus from Alan Dowd, senior fellow, Fraser America, the Institute created an on-line newsletter for our US contacts. Entitled *Insight*, the newsletter is produced quarterly and is e-mailed to people across the United States. *Insight* summarizes the Institute research that is most pertinent for Americans, offering public policy solutions from an independent voice.

Information technology

The Fraser Institute has a vibrant IT department. All of the technical needs of our five offices and several home offices are managed by Mer Roberts with the assistance of Oliver Wu. During 2008, the duo undertook an extensive upgrade of Fraser Institute computing power, including adding a new server and back-up system, and new phone system to replace our obsolete and inadequate equipment. They also improved our computer firewall and e-mail systems. The upgrades will enable us to operate at peak efficiency at a reasonable price for the next several years. ■



Publication List 2008

Books

September 16	Economic Freedom of the World: 2008 Annual Report	James Gwartney and Robert Lawson, with Joshua Hall and Seth Norton
May 21	Immigration Policy and the Terrorist Threat in Canada and the United States	Martin Collacott and Alexander Moens (eds.)
April 24	Tax Facts 15	Milagros Palacios, Niels Veldhuis, and Michael A. Walker
March 6	Understanding Climate Change	Nicholas Schneider
February 19	The Impact and Cost of Taxation in Canada	Jason Clemens (ed.)

Monographs

December 4	Canadian Provincial Investment Climate: 2008 Report	Niels Veldhuis, Milagros Palacios, and Keith Godin
December 1	How Good Is Canadian Health Care? 2008 Report	Michael Walker and Nadeem Esmail
December	Donner Non-Profit Performance Report (English and French versions)	Karina Wood and Niels Veldhuis
November 18	The Personal Cost and Affordability of Automobile Insurance in Canada	Brett J. Skinner
November 6	Canada and Obama: Canada's Stake in the 2008 US Election	Alexander Moens and Derrick Schroeter
November 5	Economic Freedom of the Arab World: 2008 Annual Report	Fred McMahon, Amela Karabegović, and Salem Ben Nasser Al-Ismaily
October	La liberte economique dans la Francophonie, 2008 (French)	Louis-Philippe Beland, Salem Ben Nasser Al Ismaily, and Fred McMahon
October 22	Transportation Performance of the Canadian Provinces	David Hartgen, Claire Chadwick, and M. Gregory Fields
October 20	Paying More, Getting Less: 2008 Report	Brett J. Skinner and Mark Rovere
October 7	Waiting Your Turn: Hospital Waiting Lists in Canada: 18th Edition	Michael Walker, Nadeem Esmail, and Maureen Hazel
September 30	The Hidden Costs of Single Payer Health Insurance: A Comparison of the United States and Canada (Canadian and US versions)	Brett J. Skinner, Mark Rovere, and Marisha Warrington
September 4	A Breath of Fresh Air	Nicholas Schneider (ed)
August 29	Securing Ontario's Power Supply: Market Forces Are Superior to Government Fiat	Gerry Angevine
August 28	Measuring Labour Markets in Canada and the United States: 2008 Edition (Canadian and US versions)	Keith Godin, Milagros Palacios, Jason Clemens, and Niels Veldhuis
August 21	Medical Technology in Canada	Nadeem Esmail and Dominika Wrona
July 28	Incomplete, Illiberal, and Expensive: A Review of 15 Years of Treaty Negotiations in British Columbia and Proposals for Reform	Mark Milke
July 22	Eliminating Barriers to Worker Mobility: Increasing the Availability of Skilled Labor in Alberta's Oil Sands Industry	Gerry Angevine and Graham Thomson
July 9	Economic Freedom of North America: 2008 Annual Report (Canadian and US editions)	Amela Karabegović and Fred McMahon with Nathan Ashby and Russell Sobel

July 14	Measuring Entrepreneurship: Conceptual Frameworks and Empirical Indicators	Jason Clemens, Niels Veldhuis, and Keith Godin
June 16	Canada's Drug Price Paradox, 2008	Brett J. Skinner and Mark Rovere
June 5	A Policy Analysis of Net Neutrality	Steven Globerman
May 20	Canadian Government Debt 2008: A Guide to the Indebtedness of Canada and the Provinces	Niels Veldhuis, Milagros Palacios, and Kumi Harischandra
May 7	What is Poverty? Providing Clarity for Canada	Chris Sarlo
April 10	The Misguided War against Medicines 2008	Brett J. Skinner and Mark Rovere
April 2	Access Delayed, Access Denied 2008: Waiting for New Medicines in Canada 2008	Brett J. Skinner and Mark Rovere
March 18	Saving the North American Security and Prosperity Partnership: The Case for a North American Standards and Regulatory Area (Canadian and US versions)	Michael Cust and Alexander Moens
March 12	Hospital Report Card: Ontario 2008	Nadeem Esmail and Maureen Hazel
February 14	Assessing British Columbia's Incentive-Based Tax Cuts	Bev Dahlby and Ergete Ferede
February 25	Hospital Report Card: British Columbia 2008	Nadeem Esmail and Maureen Hazel
February 19	A Vision for a Continental Energy Strategy	Ralph Klein, Brian Tobin, and Gerry Angevine
January 14	Bank Lending and Entrepreneurial Finance: The Performance of Canadian Banks	John Chant and Keith Godin

Short Digital Publications (Fraser Alerts)

December 10	Corporate Welfare: Now a \$182 Billion Addiction	Mark Milke and Niels Veldhuis,
December 8	Generosity in Canada and the United States: The 2008 Generosity Index (English Canadian, French, and US versions)	Charles Lammam and Alex Gainer
November 10	How Good is Canada's Medical Technology Inventory?	Nadeem Esmail
November 13	The Government's Groundwater Grab: An Attack on Property Rights in Quebec (English and French)	Diane Katz and Jean-François Minardi
September 15	Cost Burden of Prescription Drug Spending in Canada and the United States: 2008 Edition (Canadian and US versions)	Brett Skinner and Mark Rovere
August 18	Seniors and Drug Prices in Canada and the United States: 2008 Edition (Canadian and US versions)	Brett Skinner and Mark Rovere
June 25	Is Toronto in Decline? Worrying Trends from the Census	Fred McMahon
June 14	Canadians Celebrate Tax Freedom Day on June 14 (English Canadian, French, and US versions)	Milagros Palacios and Niels Veldhuis

Surveys

February 28	The Fraser Institute Annual Survey of Mining Companies 2007/2008	Fred McMahon and Cam Vidler
June 26	Global Petroleum Survey 2008	Gerry Angevine and Bruce Cameron

School Report Cards and Studies in Education Policy

September 22	Report Card on Quebec's Secondary Schools: 2008 Edition (in English and French)	Tasha Kheiriddin and Peter Cowley
June 17	Low Incomes, High Standards: Can Private Schools Make a Difference for Low Income Families?	Claudia R. Hepburn and Andrew Douris

FI People *continued*



Mer Roberts
Vancouver



Evan Rodwell
Vancouver



Mark Rovere
Toronto



Cheryl Rutledge
Vancouver



Darlene Savoy
Vancouver

FI People continued



Vanessa Schneider
Vancouver



Brett Skinner
Toronto



Sherry Stein
Vancouver



Anthony Stewart
Vancouver



Venia Tan
Vancouver

Publications continued

June 8	Report Card on Alberta's High Schools: 2008 Edition	Peter Cowley and Stephen Easton
May 10	Report Card on Secondary Schools in British Columbia and Yukon: 2008 Edition	Peter Cowley and Stephen Easton
May 2	Report Card on British Columbia's Elementary Schools: 2008 Edition	Peter Cowley and Stephen Easton
March 30	Report Card on Ontario's Secondary Schools: 2008 Edition	Peter Cowley and Stephen Easton
February 24	Report Card on Alberta's Elementary Schools: 2008 Edition	Peter Cowley and Stephen Easton
February 17	Report Card on Ontario's Elementary Schools: 2008 Edition	Peter Cowley and Stephen Easton

Other significant Publications

Annually	Annual Report	
Annually	Donner Profiles in Excellence	
Annually	Children First Parent Handbook	
10 per year	Fraser Forum	
Quarterly	Canadian Student Review	
Quarterly	Frontline	
Quarterly	Insight	

WORLD WIDE WEB

The Fraser Institute online

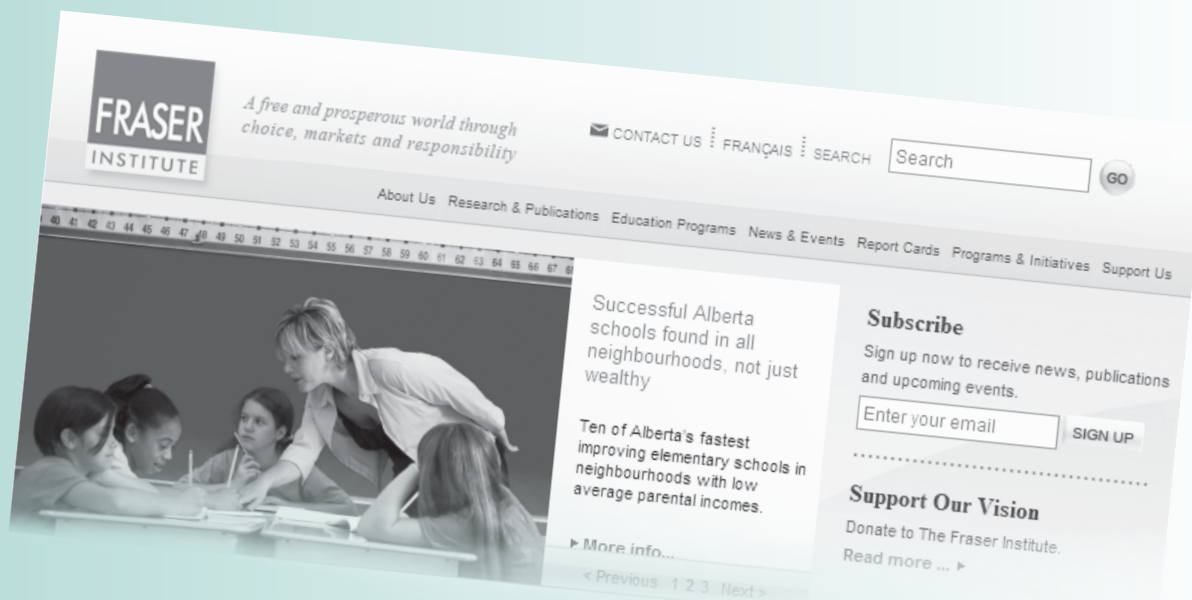
The internet has truly revolutionized how people get information and the Fraser Institute has worked hard to keep abreast of the rapid change in technology.

In 2008, we expanded our internet presence with a redesign of our main site, www.fraserinstitute.org, and we reached out to new audiences with the creation of two new websites: www.institutfraser.org to provide French content for a Quebec audience, and www.fraseramerica.org, which allows us to focus on research and content of particular interest to an American audience. As noted elsewhere in this report, we also completed a redesign of our Weston Awards website to help promote the event and ensure recognition of past winners. The new site can be found at www.forexcellenceineducation.org.

These and our many project-specific websites fall under the auspices of the Communications department and are maintained and updated by Wendy Mills, internet content manager, and Cheryl Rutledge, web publisher.

The redesign of the main site focused on its appearance, adding more colour and photos as well as the capability to post videos. The French and US sites mirror the main site in their appearance and share similar navigational features that allow users to access virtually all Fraser Institute research, news releases, and commentaries free of charge. These sites also enable people to subscribe to our electronic newsletter, *Fraser Update*, register for events or student seminars, and donate to the Institute online.

Altogether, the Institute's 12 different websites garnered more than 6.2 million page views and more than 930,000 visits in 2008. ■



COMMUNICATIONS

Communication has always been one of the cornerstones upon which the Fraser Institute is built. After all, there is no point in having great ideas if no one hears about them.

Letting the world know about the Fraser Institute's ideas, research, and events primarily falls to the Institute's Communications department. Made up of Dean Pelkey, director of communications, and Raeann English, media relations specialist in Vancouver, and Julie Lajoie, communications officer in Montreal, the department reached new heights in its ability to spread the word on the Institute's activities in 2008.

As in past years, our primary focus in 2008 remained on engaging the news media with our research and events. Through the mainstream media, we can reach not only policy makers and politicians, but hundreds of thousands of ordinary people and show them how their communities can become more prosperous and free through the application of the appropriate public policies.

In 2008, the Communications department wrote and distributed 289

news releases and media advisories informing the news media about the Institute's research and events, the equivalent of sending one item to the news media every 1.26 days. This is a 29 percent increase over the number of news releases and advisories issued in 2007.

This sustained effort at reaching out to the news media resulted in a substantial increase in media coverage in 2008, when we generated 7,254 items on television, radio, in newspapers, and on various websites that mentioned the Fraser Institute, its research, or its events. Of this total, 2,292 media mentions—approximately 31 percent—came from various websites, an indication of the growing importance of the internet for mass communication. Overall, our number of media mentions increased 16 percent over the number generated in 2007 and is the equivalent of almost 20 news items mentioning the Fraser Institute every day of the year.

Within Canada, our media coverage reached a total audience of 260 million people and is the equivalent of buying \$11 million in advertising. Both of these measures are a substantial

increase over 2007. Our total Canadian audience increased by 21 percent and our equivalent ad value increased by an amazing 71 percent, an indication that our work is generating increased coverage by television and national newspapers, all of which have higher advertising rates.

Even more impressive, we found an expanding audience for our material outside of Canada. Globally, we generated 1.28 billion impressions (a measure of the total number of times a web page with an item mentioning the Fraser Institute is loaded onto a computer), primarily by having our material picked up and used by a number of news aggregator websites such as Yahoo Finance, AOL Money, Dow Jones, My FOX News, and Forbes.

Newspaper commentaries, or op-eds as they are known in the trade, continue to be a staple in terms of sharing our ideas and pointing out bad policy decisions made by governments of all stripes. In 2008 we placed 263 op-eds in newspapers across Canada and in the United States. This is the equivalent of having a Fraser Institute commentary published in a newspaper every 1.4 days throughout the

FI People continued



Michael Thomas
Toronto



Raaj Tiagi
Vancouver



Mirja van Herk
Calgary



Niels Veldhuis
Vancouver



Courtenay Vermeulen
Vancouver

year. We also had a number of these commentaries posted on a variety of media websites, including such heavily trafficked sites as www.nationalpost.com and www.globeandmail.com.

Technology and the internet are playing an increasingly important role in how we spread the Institute's ideas. Through 2008 we continued to explore these new technologies and how to best reach people, either through the internet, email, video, and the rapidly evolving social media.

Our electronic newsletter, *Fraser Update*, continued to receive strong interest, with subscribers now numbering more than 5,000. This newsletter is sent monthly via email and provides subscribers with updates on Fraser Institute research, news releases, and events. People can subscribe to the newsletter free of charge on our website at www.fraserinstitute.org.

The Fraser Institute's Facebook group grew to more than 500 members in 2008. This popular social networking

7,254 items on television, radio, in newspapers, and on various websites mentioned the Fraser Institute

site at <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2244016986> allows us to share information about upcoming events, student seminars, recent research, and videos with an audience of people supportive of the Institute's work and ideas. Facebook is extensively used by college students and other young people, making it an ideal tool to reach a new generation interested in free markets and classical liberalism.

The past year also saw the Communications department begin producing web-based videos highlighting the Institute's research and some of our guest speakers. The *Fraser TV* series was launched in October 2008 with our first video focussing on the *Waiting Your Turn* report on hospital wait times. Throughout the remainder of the year, we produced an additional 21 videos that were posted on the Fraser Institute website as well as Facebook and a newly created Fraser TV channel on YouTube. All videos also include social media book marking tools that allow viewers to share and forward videos to specific people or groups. By the end of the year, Fraser Institute videos had recorded more than 10,000 views across all websites. ■

2008 Media Mentions

by Research Department

School Performance Studies	1521
Fiscal Studies	1388
Trade & Globalization	1234
Health Care	811
Pharmaceutical and Insurance Policy	413
Events	365
Senior Fellows	365
Montreal	232
Energy	207
Environment, Regulation & Risk	133
Aboriginal Issues	84
Education Policy	80
Student Programs	11

INSTITUT FRASER

Au service du grand public francophone

Après un solide départ à l'automne 2007, le bureau de Montréal a connu une excellente année 2008. L'équipe Événements formée de Sébastien Côté et de Johana Krizova a organisé 12 événements locaux et collaboré à la tenue du Séminaire étudiant, d'une conférence sur l'immigration et de la toute première remise des prix Weston au Québec. Le travail de l'agente de communications Julie Lajoie a permis d'élargir notre couverture médiatique et de lancer la revue *Perspectives*, première publication en français de l'IF. L'analyste sénior de politiques publiques Jean-François Minardi a coécrit la première *Dépêche Fraser* du Québec et plusieurs textes d'opinion. Quant à la directrice Tasha Kheiriddin, elle a dirigé l'équipe du bureau Montréal tout en tissant des liens avec la collectivité et en représentant l'Institut auprès des médias.

Séries d'événements – Conférences *Ça se discute* et Déjeuners économiques

C'est en janvier que le bureau montréalais de l'IF a tenu à l'hôtel Opus la première de ses conférences *Ça se discute*, qui a donné lieu au lancement d'un ouvrage de David Frum. L'événement a suscité une vaste couverture médiatique, notamment un article d'une demi-page dans *La Presse*. M. Frum a aussi été le conférencier principal du Séminaire étudiant de Montréal, auquel ont assisté un nombre record de 150 participants. La série s'est poursuivie en mai au Café Ferreira avec le lancement d'un autre livre, cette fois du chroniqueur de *La Presse* Alain Dubuc. Ont suivi à l'automne des rencontres avec



Catherine Morissette, porte-parole de l'opposition officielle en matière d'immigration et de communautés culturelles, Action démocratique du Québec, s'adresse à la conférence sur l'immigration en juin 2008.

l'ambassadeur de l'Irak au Canada Howar Ziad, l'ambassadeur des États-Unis au Canada David Wilkins et le nouveau président de l'Association médicale canadienne (AMC), le Dr Robert Ouellet. Organisée en partenariat avec le consulat des États-Unis, la conférence de David Wilkins a été couverte par les médias de tout le pays et s'est tenue en présence de l'ancien ambassadeur du Canada à Washington Raymond Chrétien. Philippe Couillard, l'ancien ministre québécois de la Santé, a pour sa part assisté à la présentation du président de l'AMC, qui a donné lieu à un vif débat et suscité un important parrainage.

En février, le bureau de Montréal inaugurait sa série des déjeuners économiques avec une présentation de Joanne Marcotte, réalisatrice du documentaire *L'illusion tranquille*. Deux autres dîners ont donné la parole au sénateur Hugh Segal, qui a parlé de la réforme de la politique d'aide sociale, et à l'économiste Éric Grenon, qui a analysé l'échec du système de quotas de l'industrie acéricole. Par la suite, l'IF a collaboré avec le Club universitaire de Montréal à l'organisation de quatre déjeuners économiques. Stevan Mitchell, de l'American Entertainment Software Association, était l'invité du premier d'entre eux, consacré aux lois sur le

piratage logiciel. Le deuxième portait sur les élections américaines, analysées par Costas Panagopoulos, président et chef de la direction de XVOTES. Ont suivi « Une conversation avec Ralph Klein sur l'Alberta, le Québec et l'avenir du Canada », puis une présentation de l'économiste Nathalie Elgrably-Levy sur les droits d'utilisation de l'eau. Ces deux derniers dîners ont été largement couverts par les médias locaux. L'équipe de Montréal a enfin collaboré à l'organisation et à l'animation de la première conférence *Ça se discute* à Ottawa, qui consistait en un débat sur l'orientation du nouveau gouvernement fédéral entre Joël-Denis Bellavance, chef du bureau d'Ottawa du quotidien *La Presse*, le critique conservateur Gerry Nicholls et Stephen Taylor, du Manning Centre.

Communications

L'IF a lancé le 10 avril *Perspectives*, sa première revue spécialisée en français, au restaurant Newtown, devant plus de 100 invités. La revue est produite en partenariat avec Publications TVA, une division de son commanditaire Quebecor Media. Trois numéros ont été envoyés en 2008 à plus de 12 000 adhérents. On y remarque notamment des entrevues avec le ministre canadien de l'Environnement John Baird et le

FI People continued



Michael Walker
Vancouver



Marisha Warrington
Toronto



Oliver Wu
Vancouver



Alexander Zakharyonok
Vancouver



David Zheng
Vancouver

chef de la direction de la Banque de Montréal Jacques Ménard, de même que des articles de chercheurs de l'Institut et de réputés collaborateurs invités comme Daniel Audet, Marc Simard, Claude Montmarquette, Guy Durand et Claude Allègre.

Notre présence médiatique au Québec, y compris par le biais d'événements et de publications, n'a jamais été aussi forte qu'en 2008 avec 654 occurrences comparé à 482 en 2007. Le bureau a aussi fait publier dans les principaux journaux de langue française 14 textes d'opinion des chercheurs de l'IF, dont une critique de Jean-François Minardi du financement des festivals au Québec qui a donné lieu à une réplique d'une pleine page dans *Le Devoir*.

IF Montréal a tenu en septembre une conférence de presse marquant la publication du Bulletin des écoles secondaires du Québec, qui a été rapportée en direct sur les ondes de Radio-Canada et a suscité plusieurs reportages télévisés. Nos portes-paroles ont aussi accordé un total de 35 entrevues radiophoniques. Le bulletin a été produit en collaboration avec le *Journal de Montréal* et le *Journal de Québec*, qui ont mis la nouvelle à la une.

En plus d'animer les événements de IF Montréal et d'accorder de nombreuses entrevues, la directrice Tasha Kheiriddin a été invitée en tant qu'animatrice ou présentatrice par plusieurs associations dont la Civitas Society, le Club Union, et la Montreal Women of Influence Luncheon Series. En septembre, elle devenait l'invitée hebdomadaire d'une émission d'après-midi de grande écoute animée par Benoît Dutrizac à la radio 98,5, où elle traite pendant une demi-heure de questions économiques.

Recherche

Le bureau de Montréal de l'Institut s'est adjoint les services de l'analyste principal Jean-François Minardi. Titulaire d'une maîtrise en économie

de l'Université Paris 12 et d'une maîtrise en sciences politiques de l'Université de Montréal, M. Minardi est doctorant en relations internationales à l'Université de Montréal.

Dans le cadre du Sommet de la Francophonie tenu à Québec en octobre, l'Institut a publié *La Liberté économique dans la Francophonie*, une étude qui établit le classement des pays de la Francophonie selon leur liberté économique. Le gouvernement québécois en a distribué des exemplaires



Le professeur Marc Simard, auteur de *Les éteignoirs*, prend la parole lors du lancement de la revue *Perspectives* en avril 2008.

à tous les délégués et le communiqué accompagnant l'étude a fait l'objet de plus de 70 commentaires dans les médias du monde entier, notamment sur TV5, la première chaîne de langue française regardée chaque jour par plus de 25 millions de téléspectateurs de 203 pays.

En novembre, l'IF a publié « Government Groundwater Grab », une *Dépêche Fraser* de Jean-François Minardi et Diane Katz, directrice des études environnementales de l'IF, analysant la proposition législative du gouvernement québécois visant à restreindre les droits de propriété sur les eaux souterraines. Cette publication a suscité des reportages dans *Le Devoir* et plusieurs entrevues radiophoniques. ■

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Atlas Economic Research Foundation,
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Elizabeth CHAPLIN
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Chase Investment Counsel,
Charlottesville, VA

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Toronto, ON

Gwyn MORGAN
Victoria, BC

Eleanor NICHOLLS
Vancouver, BC

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1,280,000,000	number of times a news story mentioning the Fraser Institute was viewed on the internet
260,195,796	combined circulation & listenership of Canadian media coverage
11,075,535	advertising value in dollars of all Canadian media coverage
6,296,304	pages viewed from all Fraser Institute websites
3,250,000	students attend 6,265 schools rated in Fraser Institute School Report Cards
933,552	visits to Fraser Institute websites
79,200	copies of monthly magazine <i>Fraser Forum & Perspectives</i> distributed
72,000	print & digital copies of <i>Canadian Student Review</i> distributed at 940 campuses
13,076	students from 1,245 schools across Canada reached by student programs
12,009	inquiries from around the world handled by Fraser Institute staff
9,000	high school students influenced by their teachers' participation in Institute workshops
7,329	views of 20 videos on the Fraser Institute website
7,254	news stories about the Fraser Institute in print, on line, and broadcast around the world
6,500	people attended over 130 Institute events in Canada, the US, and overseas
6,047	applications from economically disadvantaged families for 1,059 Children First grants
5,100	subscribers to <i>Fraser Update</i> e-mail newsletter
3,738	Fraser Institute supporters from 12 countries
3,113	physicians respond to <i>Waiting Your Turn</i> surveys
1,160	educators from 223 schools honoured at Garfield Weston Awards for Excellence in Education
863	new Fraser Institute supporters in 2008
350	authors from 22 countries have contributed to Institute research
350	applications received for 16 student intern positions
289	news releases & media advisories issued
267	op-eds & commentaries published across North America
161	<i>Fraser Forum & Perspectives</i> articles on a wide variety of public policy issues
141	governments rated in <i>Economic Freedom of the World Report</i>
130	presentations given around the world by Fraser Institute staff
82	publications released in print & digital format
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