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WHAT'S INSIDE

# COMMUNICATION
## and the Shaping of Canada

However we define a national community, there can be little doubt that its existence and, ultimately, its success, will hinge on a social process of communication. This process allows for the exchange of ideas about the nature of the nation and deepens a sense of its norms, values, cultural markers and symbols. This edition of Canadian Issues contains a wide range of papers on this important subject and provides readers with a wealth of information and scholarship about the world of communication in the shaping of our nation.

We are delighted that Robert Rabinovitch, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, has taken the time to offer his thoughts on the past, present and future of the CBC. The national public broadcaster is at a critical time in its history and Mr. Rabinovitch delves into many of the industry's 'hot' issues such as Canadian content regulations and the consolidation of ownership in the national media.

Michel Filion begins our look at the field of communication with his views on the historic accommodation of broadcasting's two objectives, namely the pursuit of a national identity and as an instrument of profit. Richard Sutherland then explores the always heated subject of Canadian content regulation, asking and answering pointed questions about what it is, what it has accomplished and whether it needs to be maintained.

Communication extends beyond the microphone in timely articles from Rowland Lorimer and Enn Raudsepp. Lorimer examines the troubling plight of Canada's book and magazine industries while Raudsepp tackles the trend toward greater concentration of ownership in the newspaper industry.

Magda Fusaro leads us into the world of mobile communication, exploring its tremendous growth and wondering what effect this will have on the life, and liberty, of Canadians. Graham Longford moves us further into the digital age with a critical assessment of whether e-government is serving its purpose of expanding democracy. Marco Adria contrasts the thoughts of Maurice Charland and Bruce Powe in a look at new media and the Canadian identity. Leslie Regan Shade then makes her case for community networks in today's globalized world.

Colin Hoskins, Stuart McFadyen and Adam Finn take us back to the CBC and ask a most provocative question: if no CBC existed today, would we endeavour to create one? Mary Vipond bravely examines the cultural dimension to Canada-US relations and exposes concerns for our culture's future. Tracy Summerville proposes a most unique hypothesis – that our advertisers are responding to a growing desire for authenticity by offering Canadians a 'home away from home'. Finally, Alexandre Sévigny shares some personal experiences of growing up within multicultural spaces where communication was meaningful. He leaves us with a cautious optimism about where we are headed as a national community.

These papers provide a wonderful introduction to the ACS conference *Broadcasting the Nation: Communication and the Shaping of Canada* in June 2002. The distinguished authors whose words, thoughts and opinions follow continue to make a significant contribution to a field that touches all Canadians.