



# A new social architecture

*Social Sustainability Sub-Committee*

*External Advisory Committee on Cities and Communities*

*Judith Maxwell*

*Canadian Policy Research Networks*

*May 9, 2005*



# New Social Risks

- Income inequality is rising
  - An economic issue: Low wages, contingent work, lack of upward mobility
  - A social issue: Marital breakdown, people living alone, social programs have big gaps
  - A policy issue: cuts to social programs since 1995
- Serious gaps in child and adult education
- An emerging underclass?
  - Vulnerable population includes high proportion of visible minorities and Aboriginals
- Ageing society demands more attention to seniors, while younger population struggles

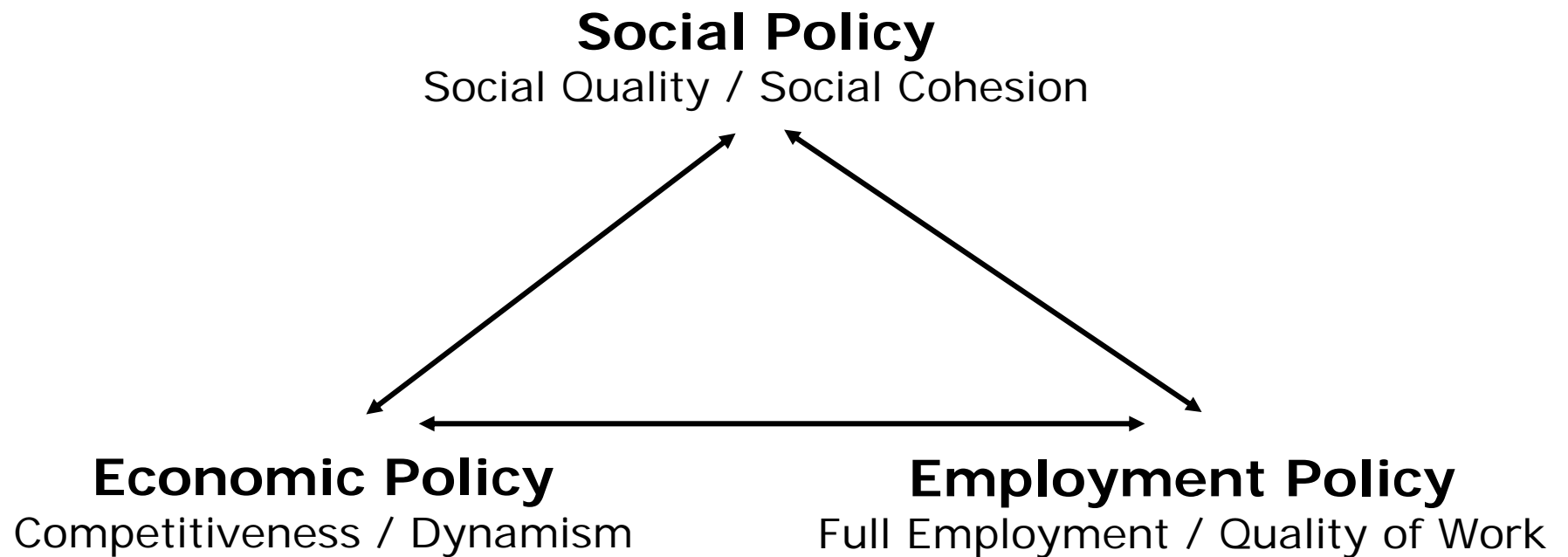


# Social Policy

- Social policy will contribute immensely to
  - a) increasing productive capacity and
  - b) helping to solve these problems
- Existing policies are outdated and not serving the needs of 2005 Canadians
- They do not work together and leave large gaps into which many are falling
- But social policy is only one of the pieces in the puzzle, as the Europeans have agreed



# The EU View of Policy



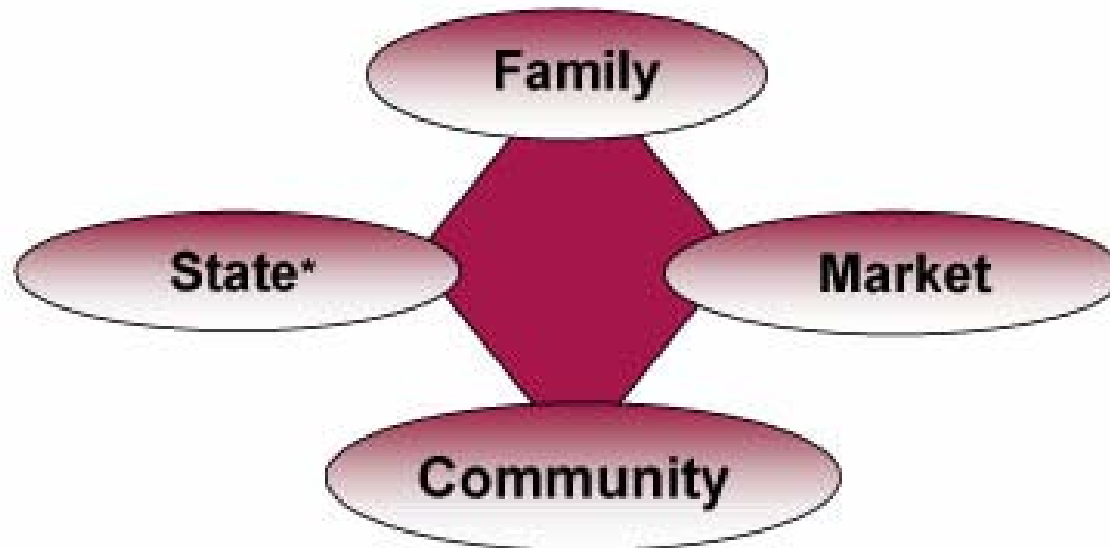
# What to do?

- The new risks affect each community and group differently
- Need a stronger network of universal programming, supported by robust place-based interventions
- Place-based solutions cannot be prescribed in Ottawa – they must come from the community
- And the community includes many actors – each one has capacity to contribute



# Well-Being and the Responsibility Mix

## The Well-being Diamond



\*State includes governments (federal, provincial, territorial and municipal) and core public services such as education and health care.



# Dividing Up the Territory

- Federal government has never defined its role in cities and communities – its value-added
- Need an exercise in thinking through roles and responsibilities
- Respecting what other actors contribute. What is its comparative advantage?
  - Urban development agreements are a good example of horizontal policy involving all the social actors
- A key part of the new architecture will be a framework for federal action and some governance rules



# The Architecture

- A framework for action
- Definition of roles and responsibilities
  - Federal, provincial, local and their agencies
  - Governments, business, communities, families
- Criteria for selecting opportunities
- A menu of possibilities – not program driven but purpose-driven
- Responding to social and economic risk and opportunity





# Citizens' Views

- They want governments to respond to their needs **in concert with the other actors** – business, education institutions, NGOs, local governments
- They also believe that government support for declining communities should be **time-limited**
- If the community is not making progress after a certain period, then mobility grants and other aids for **closing the community** are appropriate

---

Source: Citizens' Dialogue on Canada's Future, CPRN, 2003



# A menu approach

Menus of possibilities may differ for:

- Urban areas
- Small and medium-size cities
- Rural communities
- Northern and remote communities



# The menu

- Infrastructure programs, including housing
- Community capacity-building programs
- Education and training opportunities
- Health of the population
- Immigrant settlement
- Public participation
- etc



# Criteria for action

- We need to expand the federal capacity to do **place-based policy**
- We must also **discipline** federal action, as decisions can be misjudged in Ottawa
- You might think about **criteria** for action – when should Ottawa be involved?
  - Should partnerships be required?
  - Should local need be demonstrated?
  - Local ownership?
- (Typologies can have a lasting influence)





For additional information:

<http://www.cprn.org>

e-mail: [info@cprn.org](mailto:info@cprn.org)

Join our weekly news service:

<http://e-network.ca>

36657v2

