



PRAIRIE CENTRE POLICY INSTITUTE
AND SASKATCHEWAN AGRIVISION CORP. PRESENTS:

Red Williams and Herb Pinder, Jr. Debate the Future of Federal Provincial Relations

Thursday, February 24, 2005

12 Noon

Quality Hotel

Downtown Saskatoon

Herb Pinder, Jr. – lawyer, sports agent and investor – says the Canadian federalist system doesn't work. Never has, never will. Herb has plenty to say about what he calls a mediocre government for a mediocre country. He is also a proponent of western unification so, perhaps, he may be ready to lead a western separatist movement?

C.M. (Red) Williams – professor, ag economist and political insider – says Canada's system may not be perfect but it certainly does work. Red is a strong proponent of the federal system and public-private partnerships, which he contends are an effective means to economic development.

So, who is right? You be the judge when Herb and Red square off in a debate over the future of federal-provincial relations in Canada.

Each panel member will be given 15 minutes to state their position. They will then be asked to respond to a series of questions posed by the moderator, PCPI Director Sam Jackson. The floor will then be open for questions.

QUESTIONS THE PANEL WILL BE ASKED TO RESPOND TO:

- 1) It's been said that Ottawa's policies of regional development spending on programs such as Western Diversification, equalization transfers and regionally adjusted employment benefits are well-intentioned failures. What can Ottawa do to put Saskatchewan and the Prairie Region on the road to prosperity?
- 2) While the provision of health care is a provincial responsibility, the Canada Health Act basically dictates what the system in each province will provide and how it will be provided. In your opinion, what has been the impact of Ottawa's involvement in health care and, in your opinion, why does the federal government need to be involved?
- 3) Saskatchewan's population level has remained stagnant for decades, creating a demographic shift to a population that has a high proportion of older people and children at each end with fewer income earners in between. This has brought about significant labour shortages and a serious reduction in net taxpayers. How can Ottawa help to grow the population and economy of this province?