

Annotated Bibliography: Family Transformation and Social Cohesion

Part I: Context

Globalization

These two books deal with political and economic changes in the global level. They are used in the proposal to put in wider context the changes in societal cohesion and in the families.

1. Fukuyama, Francis. 1992. *The End of History and the Last Man*. New York: The Free Press.

“... Fukuyama presents evidence to suggest that there are two powerful forces at work in human history. He calls one ‘the logic of modern science’ and the other ‘the struggle for recognition’. The first drives men to fulfill an ever-expanding horizon of desires through a rational economic process; the second ‘the struggle for recognition’, is, in Fukuyama’s (and Hegel’s) view, nothing less than the very ‘motor of history’ ... (O)ver time, the economic logic of modern science together with the ‘struggle for recognition’ lead to the eventual collapse of tyrannies, as we have witnessed on both the left and right. These forces drive even culturally disparate societies toward establishing capitalist liberal democracies as the end state of the historical process. The great question then becomes: can liberty and equality, both political and economic -- the state of affairs at the presumed ‘end of history’ – produce a stable society in which man may be said to be, at last, completely satisfied? Or will the spiritual condition of this ‘last man’ in history, deprived of outlets for his striving for mastery, inevitably lead him to plunge himself and the world back into the chaos and bloodshed of history?” (Book Jacket)

Of more direct relevance to the project is Fukuyama’s chapter on “Perfect Rights and Defective Duties” wherein he discusses community (described as “associational life below the level of the nation”) as an “area of contemporary life that provides a more ordinary satisfaction of the desire for recognition”. He thinks that community life is threatened by “those very principles of liberty and equality on which they are based, and which now are becoming so universal throughout the world”. To him, the family (‘the most basic level of associational life’) is threatened in a similar way. “Many of the problems of the contemporary American family – the high divorce rate, the lack of parental authority, alienation of children, and so on – arise precisely from the fact that it is approached by its members on strictly liberal grounds. That is, when the obligations of family become more than what the contractor bargained for, he or she seeks to abrogate the terms of the contract.”

2. Rosell, Steven A. et al. 1995. *Changing Maps: Governing in a World of Rapid Change*. Ottawa: Carleton University Press.

This book documents the second phase of a project involving senior Canadian public servants, private-sector executives, researchers and international authorities. Rossel describes the contents as follows: “This volume focuses ... on our efforts to explore the fundamental changes in the

economy, in culture and values and in the social contract that characterize the emergence of a global information society, and what that may mean for how we organize and govern ourselves. It describes how we used that exploration to construct a set of alternative scenarios, alternative maps, of how the emergences of a global information society may reshape the environment for governance in the coming decade. It tells how those scenarios led us to conclude that we need to balance the relationship between the economic and the social in a different way, to give greater emphasis to building social cohesion and the capacity to learn together in the information society, and to rethink the role of government in that context”.

Part II of the book consists of papers presented to the roundtable: the more relevant are Walter Truett Anderson’s *Postmodernism, Pluralism, and the Crisis of Legitimacy*, and Amitai Etzioni’s *Communitarianism*.

Inter-relations among Individuals, Families, Society, and the State

These are used in the proposal to buttress the inter-relatedness of individuals, families, communities, and institutions (including the state) and the need to re-structure their mutual responsibilities.

1. Beaujot, Roderic. 1995. Population change and social policy issues in Canada. Federation of Canadian Demographers, *Towards the XXIst Century: Emerging Socio-Demographic Trends and Policy Issues in Canada*, Ottawa: Federation of Canadian Demographers. Pp. 323-326.

Beaujot synthesizes the papers presented in the symposium organized by the Federation of Canadian Demographers in Ottawa in October 1995, which addressed “research and policy questions in the areas of (1) human resources, (2) aging, (3) family trends, (4) health, (5) ethnocultural change, and (6) First Nations Peoples.”

The symposium “helped to highlight the value of demographic analyses in the thinking about the future”, made a point that “demographic questions are at the cross-roads of social change”, and gave “a push to have research questions focus on matters that are on the policy agenda ...”.

2. Cheal, David, Frances Woolley, and Meg Luxton. 1998. How Families Cope and Why Policy Makers Need to Know. Canadian Policy Research Network: Study No. F-02. 75 Pp.

This is a collection of 3 papers first presented in a 1996 CPRN Workshop. As Susan Peters (then Director of CPRN’s Family Network) mentioned in the introduction, “(F)amilies and how they manage jobs and money are the common focus of the papers ...” She went on to describe the papers as follows: “In the first paper, *Poverty and Relative Income*, David Cheal looks at income, and particularly poverty issues, raising questions about whether and when families pool money, how this has changed in the face of diminished earning power and social policy cuts, and what governments can do to ensure that those at the bottom of the income ladder are not further disadvantaged. In the second paper, *Work and Household Transactions*, Frances Woolley looks at when families are most likely to be attached to the labour market, and how they manage to balance either financial transactions or family demands in the new economy. Woolley poses these

questions from the points of view of an economist, and sets out the path to a more quantitative analysis. She also points to a number of policies and policy questions that would make it easier for families to cope with either time or financial pressures. Meg Luxton takes a crack at these same issues from a sociological and qualitatively versed perspective in the third paper, *Families and the Labour Market*. Luxton's focus is on non-financial transactions. From her perspective, the research points not only to the ways that families struggle to achieve balance, but to a more fundamental contradictions between the demands placed on families in jobs and at home." (Excerpts from Introduction by S. Peters)

Cheal's conclusion: "In this report, five main research issues have been recommended for investigation, and a number of subsidiary research questions have been proposed. The five research issues are: (1) the nature of income pooling by spouses; (2) the nature of income sharing between generations; (3) the size of income requirements due to employment preparation; (4) the size of income requirements due to being employed; and (5) the competence of household investment and income managers. ... The main conclusions to be drawn from this report is that individual productivity and individual responsibility for one's self and for others always have a social context. The macro-social context is one of technological change, market globalization and rebalancing the welfare state. It is sometimes overlooked that there is also a micro-social context, in which families play a predominant part. Here, we are required to ask how events in one person's life affect, and are affected by, the lives of others". (Excerpts from Conclusion: Family Transactions and Social Policy)

Wooley's summary and recommendations: "In this paper I have surveyed an enormous body of literature. ... Although the findings cover a wide and diverse range of topics, a number of cross-cutting themes emerge: (1) We know about outcomes (earnings, employment, hours of work), we need to know about processes. (2) We know about many families at a point in time, we need to know how and why families change over time. (3) We know about what is quantifiable and can be measured in hours or dollars, we need to know about what is qualitative - emotional well-being, flexibility, resiliency. (4) We know about what takes place in the public sphere, such as labour market, we need to know about transactions that are hidden inside households. (5) We know families have problems, we need to know what government policies can help. ... Five studies that I would propose are as follows: (1) Longitudinal Analysis of the Determinants of Children's Well-Being ... (2) Development of Social Indicators ... (3) Evaluation of Policies to Relieve the Stress on Canadian Families ... (4) Transactions with Non-custodial Parents and Stepparents ... (5) Capacity and Elasticity of Social Support Networks" (Excerpts from the concluding section What We Know and What We Need to Know)

Luxton's summary: "The paper reviews the key coping strategies identified in the sociological literature on families and labour markets, examines the policy implications, and suggests that an analysis of the existing literature indicates that current social policy in Canada is often made less effective by unwarranted underlying assumptions about families. ... The paper concludes by identifying a number of research questions that arise from this review of coping strategies related to families and labour market." (Excepts from Executive Summary)

Some of research questions identified by Luxton: " ... (W)e need more studies on the capacity of

family households to absorb increasing amounts of work, especially caregiving. There is little Canadian research investigating the actual elasticity of domestic labour, or the consequences of expecting individuals to provide more, and new kinds of care for either caregivers or care recipients. ... If women leave the labour force to provide care for others, what impact will their withdrawal have on specific employers and on the labour market in general? Do women who provide unpaid caregiving increase their chances of needing government income supplements in the long run? If unpaid caregiving is provided because there are no other alternatives, are there hidden costs of increased stress, family violence or caregiver burnout? ..." (Excerpts from the section, Studies of Employment-based coping strategies)

"We need to know more about what shapes peoples' consciousness, ideologies and attitudes and in turn how these affect behaviour, as people respond to changing circumstances by coping, or not, and as they mobilize in response to those changing circumstances, helping others to cope or to change the circumstances. ... We need to know more about what prompts people to give support and aid. What reduces their sense of responsibility to each other? What strengthens it? How are these exchanges negotiated and what principles underlie such negotiations? ... How do people's understandings of their responsibilities and obligations to other family members, friends, neighbours and the community shape the legitimation of divisions of labour and responsibility for caregiving within and between individual households, families, and communities, public service agencies and private corporations?" (Excerpts from the section, Studies of Household-based Coping Strategies)

3. Corak, Miles (ed). 1998. *Labour Markets, Social Institutions and the Future of Canada's Children*. Ottawa: Statistics Canada, cat. no. 89-553.

This is one of two books based on papers presented at a 1997 conference sponsored by the Analytical Studies Branch of Statistics Canada and the Applied Research Branch of Human Resources Canada. Corak notes that the contributors to the book "examine two broad themes related to the well-being of Canadian youth. First, they document the nature of the labour market facing young adults and how it has changed since the early 1970s. Second, the authors examine how families, communities, and the public sector influence some of the ways in which children become successful and self-reliant adults." The major message that Corak sees from the papers is that the future of Canada's children is both good and bad news. "Labour markets have changed dramatically, and on average it is more difficult to obtain a strong foothold that will lead to increasing prosperity. Many young Canadians, however, are well prepared by their family and community backgrounds to deal with these new challenges, and as young parents are in a position to pass this heritage on to their children. However, this has not been the case for an increasingly larger minority, a group whose children in turn may face greater than average challenges in getting ahead in life."

4. Maxwell, Judith. 1996, *Social Dimensions of Economic Growth*, Eric John Hanson Memorial Lecture Series, Vol VIII, University of Alberta.

The paper's purpose is "to explore the interdependence of economic and social policy and to outline the new roles and responsibilities of state, employers and citizens as they begin the intergration of economic and social policy decisions". Maxwell does this by discussing the notions of competitiveness and demonstrating that competitiveness and social cohesion are complementary; developing her main point, which is that "(e)conomic growth, in the long term, depends on the investments we make in human and social capital -- in the resilience of Canadian citizens"; and, discussing the "cornerstones of a resilient society" with the associated obligations of the states, employers, and the citizens.

Social Cohesion

The proposal uses this reference in the discussion on social cohesion in general and how might studies on family transformation fit with other studies on social cohesion in Canada.

1. Jenson, Jane. 1998. Mapping Social Cohesion: The State of Canadian Research. Ottawa: Canadian Policy Research Network: Study No. F-03. 48Pp.

This paper takes off from a CPRN Roundtable on Mapping Social Cohesion held in December, 1997. It consists of 3 main parts and comprehensively maps the literature and a research agenda on social cohesion.

"Part I describes the concept of social cohesion as being the focus of only one of three theoretical traditions that address the question of social order. ... The goal of this short discussion is simply to remind the reader that only some theoretical approaches identify social cohesion - defined as shared values and commitment to a community - as the foundation stone of social order. Other traditions privilege other mechanisms and put the accent on institutional processes and conflicting interests more than on values. Part II of the paper goes on to map social cohesion in two ways. First it breaks the concept into its constituent dimensions. These are belonging/isolation, inclusion/exclusion, participation/non-involvement, recognition/rejection, legitimacy/illegitimacy. Next it maps the Canadian literature that addresses at least one of these dimensions. ... Part III of the paper maps gaps and spaces for a research agenda. It asks three fundamental questions, which are derived from the previous mapping exercise: (1) What fosters social cohesion? (2) Can a country accumulate social capital? (3) Cohesion of what and for whom? ... The paper ends by stressing that social cohesion has always been and remains a contested concept. ... "

(Excerpts from the executive summary)

Transformation of Families

That families have changed not only in Canada but in other countries as well is the theme of these references.

1. Goldscheider, Frances and Linda J. Waite. 1991. *New Families, No Families?* Berkeley: University of California Press.

"This book is about two revolutions confronting the family. The first revolution is taking place

inside the family, where changes in sex roles, which have increased women's participation in the paid labor force, are now challenging the rules underlying traditional marriage. As a result, many wives resent putting in a double day of employment and housework, while many husbands still resist their wives' urgings to share in family tasks. The second revolution is going on outside the family, where unmarried people are experiencing the privacy, dignity, and authority (and sometimes the loneliness) of living in their own home rather than living in a family as a child, relative or lodger.

The first revolution is putting pressure on families to change by limiting the time and energy women have available for traditional family tasks. Slowly, "new families" are being formed, in which men and women share family economic responsibilities as well as the domestic tasks that ensure that family members go to work or school clean, clothed, fed, and rested, and come home to a place where they provide each other care and comfort. The second revolution, in which unmarried adults live independently, is providing an *alternative to change*, by giving men and women the opportunity to avoid marriage and parenthood or living in families at all. We call this option "no families." (Excerpts from the Preface)

2. Jones, Charles L., Lorna Marsden, and Lorne Tepperman. 1990. *Lives of Their Own: The Individualization of Women's Lives*. Toronto: Oxford University Press.

This book "examines the changes - especially in the area of work - that are making women's lives increasingly different from those not only of women in the past, but of their own contemporaries. Canadian data are compared with findings from the US, Britain, Sweden, and elsewhere, to show the growing variety and fluidity (in moving among employment statuses) in women's life patterns. The study also shows how traditional indicators of women's status, such as age, are losing their predictive power. Fictional case histories representing a wide range of individual situations illustrate both the diversity of women's lives today and the practical implications of these changes for the individual and for public policy". (From the book's back cover).

3. Lesthaeghe, Ron and D. van de Kaa. 1986. Twee demografische transitities? In Lesthaeghe and van de Kaa (eds) *Groei of Krimp: Van Loghum-Slaterus, Deventer*.

A related publication in English is that of Dirk J. van de Kaa (Europe's Second Demographic Transition, Population Bulletin 42(1), 1987). In this Bulletin, van de Kaa "describes the broad features of this second demographic transition as it has evolved among Europe's some 30 heterogeneous countries and the public and polity reactions to it." The basic features are summarized in the following four related shifts "(1) Shift from the *golden age of marriage* to the *dawn of cohabitation*; (2) Shift from the era of the *king-child with parents* to that of the *king-pair with a child*; (3) Shift from *preventive contraception* to *self-fulfilling conception*; (4) Shift from *uniform to pluralistic families and households*."

Another paper on the same topic is Lesthaeghe's "The second demographic transition in Western countries: An interpretation" in K.O. Mason and A. Jensen (eds) *Gender and Family Change in Industrialized Countries*, Oxford University Press (New York), 1995. Lesthaeghe identifies the main indicators of the second demographic transition in the West as follows: decline in fertility to

below replacement level, rise in mean age at marriage of both men and women, and rise in rates of divorce, cohabitation, and extra-marital births.

4. Shorter, Edward. 1977. *The Making of the Modern Family*. New York: Basic Books.

Shorter traces the shifts in the family in the Western countries from traditional to modern (around the last half of the 18th century) and to post-modern (from the 1960s). He focuses on the role that sentiment played in three areas that led to the toppling of the traditional family – in courtship, in mother-child relationship, and in relation between the family and surrounding community – and hence, to the birth of the modern nuclear family. He identifies two sexual revolutions: one about the end of the 18th century and the other about the 1960s.

Relevant to the project is the book's last chapter titled "Towards the Postmodern Family (or, Setting the Course for the Heart of the Sun)". Shorter identifies three aspects of the post-modern family life: (1) "the definite cutting of the lines leading from younger generation to older ..."; (2) "the new instability in the life of the couple"; and (3) the systematic demolition of the "nest notion" of the nuclear family life ...". What the evolution of the postmodern family would be is, to Shorter, an unknown, a thought he describes in his last paragraphs as follows: "... In the 1960s and 1970s the entire structure of the family has begun to shift. The nuclear family is crumbling – to be replaced, I think, by the free-floating couple, a marital dyad subject to dramatic fissions and fusions, and without the orbiting satellites of pubertal children, close friends, or neighbors . . . just the relatives, hovering in the background, friendly smiles on their faces."

20 years after this book was written we are in better position to describe what this postmodern family is and how it relates to the community, and to friends and neighbours.

Social Cohesion, Policy Needs and The Families

1. Policy Research Initiative . 1997. Social Cohesion Research Workplan. March 1997.

This workplan developed by PRI's Sub-committee on Social Cohesion provides a working definition of social cohesion, sets research themes and issues, and outlines proposed research plans. Social cohesion is defined as "the ongoing process of developing a community of shared values, shared challenges and equal opportunity within Canada, based on a sense of trust, hope and reciprocity among all Canadians." The research themes [and issues under each theme] are: Theme 1- ***Fault Lines*** [(1) Impact of contemporary diversity on social cohesion; (2) Effects of economic polarization on social cohesion.] Theme 2: ***Axes of Community Identification*** [(3) Role of national symbols and institutions; (4) Emergence of information society; (5) Civic education and knowledge of Canada; (6) Evolving Canadian values; (7) Civic participation and cultural consumption.] Theme 3: ***Implications of Changes in Social Cohesion*** [(8) Social cohesion and economic development; (9) Social cohesion and Canadian identity; (10) Roles of private and voluntary sectors; (11) Evolving government institutions and policies]. Common to all three themes are ***measurement issues*** relating to determinants and indicators of social cohesion, to

longitudinal analysis, and to Canada in comparison with other countries.

The workplan outlines research questions and proposed research for each issue, which we have used in the preparation of our proposal to explore areas where our research project would be of relevance.

2. Policy Research Initiative . 1999. Sustaining Growth, Human Development and Social Cohesion in a Global World, A research update. February 1999 (Draft Report).

“The original mandate of the PRI ... was to: ‘prepare a report for Deputy Ministers on the pressure points that are likely to arise in Canadian society by the year 2005 as a result of economic, demographic and social trends ... (and to) make recommendations regarding an interdepartmental research agenda and work program to address gaps in knowledge ...’. Since then, the mandate has evolved to include advancing a wide-ranging policy research agenda, the strengthening of policy research capacity within Canada, and facilitating a culture of change within the federal government towards more effective use and coordination of horizontal policy thinking and action. To accomplish this tasks, four inter-departmental Networks, corresponding to the socioeconomic challenges of growth, human development, social cohesion, and global challenges and opportunities, were established. This report is primarily a status report on their efforts to fill in the research gaps identified, in Growth, Human Development and Social Cohesion and Canada 2005: Global Challenges and Opportunities. ...” (From Chapter 1 - Overview)

Relevant to our project is Chapter 4, the report of the Social Cohesion Network. Using the three themes discussed in the Network’s 1997 Workplan (see above), knowledge from the more than 20 departments and agencies was pooled, studies were reviewed, preliminary trends were identified, and preliminary conclusions were made, among which were: (1). That social cohesion and economic growth are complementary, not contradictory, policy objectives.(2). That Canadians are still proud of Canada but their ties to each other may be weakening. (3). That ‘civil society’ is becoming less civil, and uncertainty about the future, the danger of economic polarization and declining confidence in government is causing widespread anxiety among Canadians. (4). That regaining citizens’ trust and confidence in public institutions and in the political process is critical to strengthening the social fabric in Canada. (5). That a cohesive society is not one where conflict is absent. Rather, cohesive societies find ways to reinforce a sense of community through the constructive management and resolution of conflict.

As regards family transformation, the report notes under its “faultline” theme that: “Canada’s social and demographic landscape is changing dramatically. This is true of its age structure with its potential to stimulate intergenerational conflict over issues of equity and entitlements; of its ethnic composition, with its many challenges to tolerance, effective citizenship and questions as to the access and equality of services and programs; and of increasingly fractured family structures, with all the dangers this poses in terms of child poverty, family violence and domestic abuse, and other types of crime, among other social relations. Many of these demographic shifts often interact with one another, as well as with other faultlines and types of potential polarization – gender relations, for example, and rural-urban cleavages. ...”

Some brief references to families were also made in Themes 2 and 3. On the subject of caring community (Theme 2 - Axes of Community Identification), mention is made of studies which “explored sociological motivations for care-giving and looked at the public-private balance within the caring community. ... The fairness of this balance is currently an object of contention between those who favour a contraction of the welfare state, in the interest of current taxpayers and future generations, and those who fear the consequences for already stressed families.” On implications of changes on social cohesion (Theme 3), the report cites a finding that “... unemployment, especially if it persists over an extended period, leads to increased rates of social dysfunction ranging from depression to family violence to substance abuse”. It also notes a finding that “home and community stability and a wide network of nurturing relationships – all elements of social cohesion – play a crucial part in contributing to the well being of a child. These measures of well being are highly correlated with traditional adult economic success measures, such as starting salaries, lifetime income, ease of obtaining employment, etc.”

Given the length of the social cohesion network’s report (about 60 pages), the sparse references to families indicate that our project has the potential to make substantial contribution to this network’s concerns.

Many of the findings cited in the report of another PRI network, the Human Development (Chapter 2), are familiar. This network is “interested in a range of policy issues, including healthy childhood development, youth unemployment and access to post-secondary education, earnings and income inequality, the concentration of poverty amongst certain groups, concerns about the accessibility and quality of the health care system, and adjustments required by population ageing.” Its framework, the life course, is one that we also use. “It ... saw all stages of an individual’s life, from child development, to youth to later life as ... being linked. ... Key transition points in the life-cycle include: transition from home to school for young children; transition from school to work for youth; and transition from work to retirement for older workers.” Among the findings related to families that were mentioned in the report were: (a) that family structures matter as much as labour market developments for the economic well-being of Canadian families; (b) the movement of families into and out of poverty is due mainly to family breakdown and formation; (c) the deterioration in family structures and number of children under 18 living in poverty in Canada are both major causes for concern and that they appear to be increasingly linked; (d) not only has separation and divorce among parents increased in frequency over the past few decades, but it is occurring earlier in the lives of children; (e) and certain parenting practices and community supports were found to have positive influences on child outcomes. The network’s future research activities will focus on the following research themes: (1) An ageing society: economic, social, health, and fiscal impacts; (2) The well-being of aboriginal peoples; (3) Time crunch and time allocation patterns over the lifecycle; (4) Social indicators.

Social Capital

The first two references are theoretical discussions of social capital - what it is and how it relates to the family. The other two are opposing views on whether or not the American society is breaking apart.

1. Astone, Nan Marie, Constance A. Nathanson, Robert Schoen, and Young J. Kim. 1999. Family Demography, Social Theory, and Investment in Social Capital. *Population and Development Review* 25(1):1-31.

“The analytic models used by family demographers would be strengthened by the concept of social capital, placed in the context of social exchange theory. Using that concept to designate resources that emerge from social ties, the authors advance five propositions: (1) social capital is a multidimensional attribute of an individual; (2) the dimensions of social capital are the number of relationships a person has, their quality (strength) and the resources available through those relationships; (3) group membership and interaction facilitate the development of social capital; (4) the structural properties of groups influence the development of social capital; and (5) the acquisition and maintenance of social capital is a major motivator of human behavior. The formation of sexual partnerships, the birth and rearing of children, and both intragenerational and intergenerational transfers constitute major forms of investment in social capital in virtually all societies.” (Abstract)

2. Coleman, James S. 1990. *Foundations of Social Theory*. Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press.

This 1000-page book is a rich resource for social scientists. Of greatest relevance to our project are Chapter 12 (Social Capital), Chapter 22 (New Generations in the New Social Structure), Chapter 24 (The New Social Structure and the New Social Science), and for those interested in methodology, Chapter 1 (Metatheory: Explanation in Social Science).

(The matters discussed on the chapters on social capital (ch.12) and on new generations in the new social structure (ch.22) are also substantially covered in Coleman’s paper ‘Social Capital in the Creation of Human Capital’ published in the *American Journal of Sociology* 94(S95-S120) in 1988.)

After giving examples of organizations exhibiting social capital, Coleman states that “social organization constitutes social capital, facilitating the achievement of goals that could not be achieved in its absence or could be achieved only at a higher cost.” Social capital is “created when the relations among persons change in ways that facilitate action.” Compared to physical and human capital, social capital is “less tangible, for it is embodied in the *relations* among persons.” Social capital can take the form of (1) *Obligations and Expectations* - “Two elements are critical to this form of social capital: the level of trustworthiness of the social environment, which means that obligations will be repaid, and the actual extent of obligations held. Social structures differ in both of these dimensions, and actors within a particular structure differ in the second.” (2) *Information Potential* - “An important form of social capital is the potential for information that inheres in social relations. ... One means by which information can be acquired is to use social relations that are maintained for other purposes. ... The relations in this case are valuable for the information they provide, not for the credit slips they provide in the form of obligations that one holds for others’ performance.” (3) *Norms and Effective Sanctions* - “When an effective norm does exist, it constitutes a powerful, but sometimes fragile, form of social capital. ... A prescriptive norm that constitutes an especially important form of social capital within a

collectivity is the norm that one should forgo self-interests to act in the interests of the collectivity.” (4) *Authority Relations* - “If actor A has transferred rights of control of certain actions to another actor, B, then B has available social capital in the form of those rights of control. If a number of actors have transferred similar rights of control to B, then B has available an extensive body of social capital, which can be concentrated on certain activities.” (5) *Intentional Organizations* - “There are ... forms of social capital which are the direct result of investment by actors who have the aim of receiving a return on their investment.” An example is “a business organization created by the owners of financial capital for the purpose of earning income for them”. Another is a voluntary organization created for a public good.

Factors that help create or destroy social capital are: (1) *closure* of social networks (which is important for the emergence of norms and for creation of level of trustworthiness); (2) *stability* (disruption of social organization or of social relations can be highly destructive of social capital); (3) *ideology* (an ideology of acting in the interest of others can create social capital, whereas, an ideology of self-sufficiency can inhibit the creation of social capital); (4) *other factors* such as affluence, official sources of support in times of need (which can lead to persons needing each other less), and depreciation over time (lack of maintenance of social relations and of regular communication) can lead to the destruction of social capital . (From Ch. 12)

Coleman presents an interesting and useful way of viewing family transformation in his discussion of its relation to “the growth of corporate actors of a new form, freestanding in society, without a fixed relation either to natural persons or to other corporate actors”. He lays out the conflicts between the family and the corporation and discusses the implications for the nurturing of the next generation. “In modern industrial society there have come to be two parallel organizational structures: a primordial structure based on, and derivative from, the family; and a newer structure composed of purposive corporate actors wholly independent of the family. ... The primordial structure consists of family, extended family, neighborhood, and religious groups. The purposive structure consists of economic organizations (such as firms, trade union, and professional associations), single-purpose voluntary association, and governments. ... The creation of purposive social structure, which is independent of the family and its derivatives, has facilitated a movement of various activities out of the household and the family-based primordial structure into the purposive structure.”

The displacement of the functions of the family by modern corporate actors have consequences for future generations. One is in the distribution of income within the household. The communal distribution function of the family declined when the three-generational economic unit gave way to the nuclear family as the principal economic unit. Those past the income-earnings stage were left without earnings, though the impact was softened through the intervention of pensions. The next stage arose as the nuclear family itself began to break apart and as more children were born and raised in households without wage earners.

Another consequence is the decline of social capital on which children and youth depend. “Social capital that is important for childrearing is present in three aspects of social structure. One is the intensity of relations between adult and child, the second is the relation between two adults who have relations of some intensity with the child, and the third is continuity of structure over time.”

Modern purposive structures do not promote these. "... (I)n fact, various aspects of the structure (such as physical separation of work and residence, short-term occupancy of positions, and the development of age-specific leisure activities and entertainment) discourage it". (The "it" here refers to the time-closure and closure among parent, child, and other adults.)

"The difference in the impact of the two social structures on children lies partly in a fundamental structural difference: The elements of primordial corporate actors are persons, and the elements of purposive corporate actors are positions, of which persons are merely temporary occupants" Among the consequences of these structural difference for children are: (1) In purposive structure, there is "no person or corporate actor to take responsibility for the person as a whole." (2) Interests for primordial corporate actors are "for something about the child as an end in itself"; whereas among many purposive corporate actors, the "interests are more often unrelated and incidental to children's interests." (3) Those with long-term relation with the child (for example, parents) "attend to the child's longer-term interests, often by opposing the child's pursuit of short-term interests." For actors "whose relations with the children do not have time-closure, it is not in those actors' interest to attend to the children's long-term interests."

Coleman also presents the results of his study on the impact of social capital on youth's achievement. Of interest is the various quantitative measures of social capital that he used, which were: (1) The presence of both parents in the household; (2) Number of siblings (the greater the number of children, the less the attention and interest of parents in each child); (3) Talking about personal matters; (4) Mother's working outside the home before child is in school; (4) Parents' interest in the child's attending college. (Ch. 22)

In his chapter on The New Social Structure and the New Social Science, Coleman argues for a new kind of social science. "This social science ... is search for knowledge for the reconstruction of society. ... Demand for the new social science arises in part from the vacuum created as primordial social organizations withers away. Primordial social organization has depended on a vast supply of social capital, on a normative structure which enforced obligations, guaranteed trustworthiness, induced effort on behalf of others and on behalf of the primordial corporate bodies themselves, and suppressed free riding. That social capital has been eroded, leaving many lacunae." Coleman presents his thoughts on (1) the replacement of primordial social capital ("part of the answer lies in constructed social organization, narrow-purpose corporate bodies that cover some functions once served by family and local community ..."); (2) independent viability, global viability, and distribution in the new social structure (including the problem of income distribution); (3) modes of organizing action (with the long-term decline in authority in the social system and socialization of children that "has moved from ideal of obedience to authority toward an ideal of self-regulation"); and, (4) nation-states versus multinational corporations ("nation-states and multinational corporations are in fundamental conflict, as two modes of organizing the global social system"). (Ch. 24)

Coleman's discussion in Chapter 1, Metatheory: Explanation in Social Science, provides a good background to a multi-level type of analysis, which the project might venture into. Particularly useful is his diagram of macro- and micro-level propositions and discussion of the components of the theory and the relations between micro and macro levels.

3. Hall, John A. and Charles Lindholm. 1999. *Is America Breaking Apart?* Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

“Americans seem to fear that their society is breaking apart, but how accurate is this portrayal and how justified is the fear? Introducing a balanced viewpoint into this intense debate, John Hall and Charles Lindholm demonstrate that such alarm is unfounded. Here they explore the institutional structures of American society, emphasizing its ability to accommodate difference and defuse conflict. The culture, too, comes under scrutiny: influenced by Calvinistic beliefs, Americans place faith in the individual but demand high moral commitment to the community. Broad in scope and ambition, this short book draws a realistic portrait of a society that is among the most powerful and stable in the world, yet is perennially shaken by self-doubt.” (Book Jacket)

In part 1, *The Growth of Political Stability*, Hall and Lindholm “show how American society has developed over time, how it has overcome divisions, and how its institutional structure has been formed.” Of greater relevance to the project is part 2, *Sociability in America*, wherein the authors discuss “the enduring ideals of American culture and the manner in which these ideals presently operate to buttress the existing social order”. Hall and Lindholm argue that America is in no danger of breaking apart mainly because of its social homogeneity brought about by three American ways of grasping the world: (1) “Abstraction and vagueness in relation to political theory” – “... (M)ost Americans are very proud indeed of the principles that their country is built upon, but for them those principles consist primarily of abstract notions, such as liberty, justice, and equality, rather than a systematic set of specific precepts or practices. (2) “A pragmatic modular approach to reality” – “(T)he pervasive pragmatic modular approach to life permits Americans to avoid divisive ideological issues by visualizing the world around them as a machine that can be retooled, or taken apart and rebuilt, in order to achieve maximum efficiency.” (3) “A faith that the self can be transformed” – “... (T)he American emphasis on perpetual self-transformation also serves the cause of unity ... This is because the search for identity is a notoriously solipsistic pursuit: such quest do not lead to revolution, but to harmless participation in the therapeutic, self-help, and twelve-step groups that have so mushroomed in America.”

Unlike Putnam (see below), Hall and Lindholm are not overly concerned about the seemingly declining associational life in America. To them, American culture “is held together not by cohesive associations but by the infinite dispersal of weak and flexible personal links between individuals, who move freely between one group and another, searching for the elusive and often contradictory goals of loving community and personal self-satisfaction. ... Sociologically speaking, such sentiments are far less harmful to the larger society than would be the case were strong commitments in place. Weak ties may not be heroic, but they also do not inspire fanaticism.”

Hall and Lindholm do not extensively discuss families but what they do say is consistent with their observation about American culture in general. “Americans believe that the family is a locus of ‘diffuse, enduring solidarity’ where unity is achieved not through rules and regulations or through coercion and charisma but by means of consensus and affection. In prototypical middle-class American family setting, the father is hardly a commanding patriarchal authority figure. Along with

other family members, he must use negotiation and example, not command, to get his way. ... In this businesslike atmosphere, the only thing holding the family together is love. This fragile emotional bond is, however, supposed to be enough: love is believed to have the power to dissolve hierarchy and to bind independent individuals together in an egalitarian community of unselfish mutuality.” Elsewhere, they note: “In love or in community, Americans reserve for themselves the right to continue to search for personal happiness through relations with others. Divorce, for example, is not an act of despair, but the prelude to a better and more fulfilling relationship. Communities are joined and left in the same spirit.”

Fukuyama’s view on the impact of liberty and equality on the community and family is more negative (see above).

4. Putnam, Robert, 1995. Bowling Alone: America’s Declining Social Capital. *Journal of Democracy* 6:65-78.

Using a variety of indicators, Putnam shows that the social capital in the US has been declining since the 1970s. He cites as evidence the decline in voter turnout, union membership, participation in parent-teacher organizations, and memberships in civic and fraternal organizations. An interesting evidence he presents is his discovery that while more Americans go bowling (10% increase between 1980 and 1993), organized league bowling has drastically declined (by 40%). The significance of this “lies in the social interaction and even occasionally civic conversations over beer and pizza that solo bowlers forego”. To argue against potential countertrends (increases in membership of tertiary organizations, nonprofit organizations, and support groups), Putnam uses results of the General Social Survey in the US showing decline in associational membership, in proportion socializing with neighbours, and in social trust. His possible explanations for declining social capital are: the movement of women into the labour force (which reduces time and energy for building social capital), increased mobility (because time is needed to establish new roots), technological transformation of leisure (at the cost of the positive social externalities associated with more primitive forms of entertainment); and other demographic transformations (fewer marriages, more divorces, fewer children, lower real wages). He ends with suggestions for further research (some examples: what types of organizations embody or generate social capital?; what will be the impact of electronic networks on social capital?; what are the costs and benefits of community engagements?; how do public policy impinge on social-capital formation?)

An oft-cited book of Robert Putnam is *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy* (Princeton University Press, 1993). He used his findings in this research as the ‘lens’ to view the state of social capital in the US. Not surprisingly, John A. Hall and Charles Lindholm are critical of this book. See Chap. 9 of “Is America Breaking Apart”.

Part II: Research Plan

Past Research and Methodology

1. Beaujot, Roderic, Ellen M. Gee, Fernando Rajulton, and Zenaida Ravanera. 1995. Jean Dumas (ed) *Family over the Life Course*. Ottawa: Statistics Canada, cat. no. 91-543. (Intro)

“In this publication, four social demographers have undertaken to describe how men and women set out in their family life and carry it on as their life unfolds. They show what changes have been witnessed in the recent past and what their most important implications are.

Of family members, the authors focus on post-adolescent individuals, that is on those who are in position to set up their own household. In this context, the notion of family is clearly concerned with the social unit created by the marriage of a man and a woman or by the tacit contract which serves as its substitute in the case of a consensual union.

They have chosen to organize their discussions around the stages of the life course: the period of family formation, that of its expansion, and finally that of its decline and disappearance.

In each of the chapters, the author carries out a detailed analysis of the differences between the sexes and of categories of individuals, at the same time furnishing explanations of the changes observed. There follows a conclusion bringing together the principal findings and present and future implications. All have avoided theories and judgements of personal, civil or moral values. They have kept to the facts and their significance.” (Excerpts from Highlights by Jean Dumas, Editor-in-chief)

This is a monograph published as part of the *Current Demographic Analysis Series* of Statistics Canada and uses data from the 1990 General Social Survey of Families and Friends, the 1971, 1981, and 1991 censuses, and some published data.

2. Elder, Glen Jr. (ed) 1985. *Life Course Dynamics*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. (Intro.)

This was cited in the proposal in support of the life course methodology. Elder’s more recent book, which is as informative and as useful (if not more so) -- Giele, Janet Z. and Glen H. Elder Jr.(eds). *Methods of Life Course Research: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches*. 1998. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage Publications – is described below.

“This book is intended to fill a gap in the research on the human life course by focusing on *how one does life course research*. Our focus is particularly on the art and method of the appropriate research design, the collection of life history data, and the search for meaningful patterns to be found in the results.” ...

“The first part of the book introduces the life course approach and shows how it developed and what it entails. The second part considers how to collect and organize longitudinal data and contains very practical and specific nuts-and-bolts advice on ways in which to code and store life

events data, whether to use a retrospective or an ongoing method of data collection, how to find a respondent for a follow-up interview, and how to design a regional or national study (using Germany as an example). The final part of the book introduces several analytic perspectives, for example, what one discovers if the analytic focus is on the individual's life review, on objective change between adolescence and adulthood, on the amount and location of innovation in the life course, or on the connections between historical change and personal change." (Excerpts from the Preface).

3. George, Linda K. 1993. Sociological Perspectives on Life Transitions. *Annual Review of Sociology* 19: 353-73. (Intro)

"Research on life transitions highlights the normative and nonnormative changes that individuals experience over time. During the past two decades life course perspectives have provided a strategic context for studying the genesis of life transitions and their personal and social consequences. But population-based and individual models of transitions have become more complex, focusing on the ways that social and historical contexts shape life transitions. At the individual level, progress has also been made in identifying the mechanisms by which transitions affect outcomes. Research on life transitions continue to grapple with two major issues -- the challenges raise by heterogeneity, and the need to better link macro and micro perspectives -- although advances have been made in both cases. One of the most promising characteristics of recent studies is cross-fertilization of concepts and methods from previously distinct research traditions: role theory, social stress theory and life course sociology." (Author's Abstract)

4.. Péron, Yves, Hélène Desrosiers, Heather Juby, Evelyne Lapierre-Adamcyk, Céline Le Bourdais, Nicole Marzil-Gratton, and Jael Mongeau. 1999. *Canadian Families at the Approach of the Year 2000*. Ottawa: Statistics Canada cat. no. 96-321 no.4. (Intro)

Using the family statistics from successive censuses and the retrospective data collected through the 1990 General Social Survey of Family and Friends, the authors comprehensively present the "basic evolution of the Canadian family, namely from an institution largely defined by social constraints, to a way of life regulated by sequences of events that are less predictable and more influenced by the pursuit of self-fulfilment." The book (1) describes "the structure and composition of households and families in 1991 by comparing them with their counterparts of the early 1960s -- that is, before the emergence of new behaviours related to marriage, divorce, and childbearing"; (2) "approaches the study of changes in the family from the perspective of adults by examining how these changes are reflected in their lives and alter their life courses"; (3) "takes a fresh look at family realities by examining them from the perspective of the children who are affected by their parents' decisions"; and (4) "integrates into the demographic aspects of family life several aspects of the living conditions of families such as the parents' occupational activity, the financial resources of families, and the housing conditions in which they live". (From the "Introduction").

In the book's concluding chapter, two of the authors (Lapierre-Adamcyk and Peron) reflect on the significance of the family changes, the social issues that the changes bring about, and the avenues that they open for further study and for data collection. Among the suggested avenues for study

relevant to the project are: (1) The impact of the changes on the nature of the bonds between spouses, between parents and children, and between siblings, particularly in blended families; and (2) Implications of contemporary life characterized by independence of individuals and families.

5.. Ravanera, Zenaida R., Fernando Rajulton, and Thomas K. Burch. 1998a. Early Life Transitions of Canadian Women: A Cohort Analysis of Timing, Sequences, and Variations. *European Journal of Population* 14: 179-204. (Intro)

“This paper looks into the timing and sequences of early life transitions of Canadian women using data from the 1995 General Social Survey of Family. Six events occurring in early adulthood are examined: school completion, first job, home-leaving, first cohabitation, first marriage, and first birth. Our analysis of birth cohorts spanning 60 years shows that the biggest changes in timing occurred in school completion and start of work; that the trajectories involving work before marriage have gained popularity among later cohorts; and that education appreciably delays early life transitions”. (Authors’ abstract)

6. Tuma, Nancy Brandon and Michael T. Hannan.1984. *Social Dynamics: Models and Methods*. Orlando, Florida: Academic Press, Inc. (Intro)

The two goals of the book toward which the authors think they have made a promising start are: “(1) To clarify and develop models and methods for causal analysis of dynamic social processes; (2) To formulate continuous-time models of change in both quantitative and qualitative outcomes and to develop suitable methods for estimating these models from the kinds of data commonly available to sociologists.” ...

“This book is divided into three parts. Part I provides a general background for what follows; it includes both a discussion of the substantive importance of dynamic analyses in sociology and a review of models and methods previously used by sociologists interested in the empirical study of social dynamics. Part II contains eight chapters on models and methods for analyzing change in qualitative outcomes; it concentrates mainly on methods based on analysis of event-history data. Part III contains six chapters on comparable models and methods for analyzing change in quantitative outcomes; it focuses primarily on methods based on analysis of panel data.” (Excerpts from the Preface)

Theme 1: Family Changes, Changing Relationships Between Men and Women, and Social Cohesion

1. Burch, Thomas K. and Daniele Bélanger. 1999. L'étude des unions en démographie: des catégories aux processus. *Cahiers Québécois de Démographie* 28 (1-2): 32-52

Studying Marriage, Cohabitation and other Non-Ephemeral Sexual Unions: Cross-sectional Categories versus Multidimensional Continua and Processes

This paper argues that unions in contemporary society are too varied and too fluid to be studied using the standard demographic approaches and tools for the study of marriage and the family.

Emphasis on process, rather than on status and membership in a category, would give greater recognition to the fact that states such as marriage or cohabitation need to be seen as part of overlapping life-course sequences. The meaning of a given union depends in part on what has preceded and what follows in the sequence. Attention to process also requires greater attention to the individual and joint decision making that underlies movement along well-defined demographic statuses. In defining and studying sexual unions, greater use needs to be made of modern quantitative classification techniques, including cluster analysis, multidimensional scaling, and the logic of fuzzy sets as well. Methods of qualitative analysis are particularly relevant for the study of process and meaning. The greatest progress will come from a conscious blending of quantitative and qualitative models. (Authors' abstract)

2. Lapierre-Adamcyk, É., I. Pool and A. Dharmalingam. 1997. New Forms of Reproductive and Family Behaviour in the Neo-Europes: Findings from "European Fertility and Family Survey" on Canada and New Zealand, Communication spontanée soumise au *Congrès international de Beijing, Union internationale pour l'étude scientifique de la population*, Octobre. (T1)

This paper examines "whether or not first marriage is being replaced by alternative forms of union as the pivotal element of the reproductive system." The data used are the 1995 Canadian General Social Survey and the 1995 Survey on New Zealand Women: Family, Employment and Education. Proportions entering first marriage, first cohabitation, and first union are examined by cohorts of women born in 1936-40 to 1971-75. Comparisons are made between the two countries and among sub-groups in each countries [(1) Pakeha - those with European ancestry and (2) Maori in New Zealand, and (3) French- and (4) English-speaking Canadians). Among the paper's findings are: First marriage has declined among recent cohorts but more steeply among Maoris and French-speaking Canadians. (2) First cohabitation has increased in both countries but increases were greater in New Zealand and among French-speaking Canadians (whose level of cohabitation is more similar to New Zealanders than to English-speaking Canadians); and (3) Levels of first union have remained "more or less constant over time" for each group. The last finding leads to the authors' remark that this "seems to indicate that one form of first conjugal union is substituting for another." The authors note however that more detailed single- and multi-country studies using proportional hazards modelling and other techniques are required to reach definitive conclusions.

3. Neill, G. and C. Le Bourdais. 2000. Dissolution des premières unions fécondes au Canada : une analyse de risques dans un contexte de changements, in F. Bartiaux, J. Duchêne et N. Malpas (dir.), *Ménages, comportements démographiques et sociétés en mutation*, Actes de la Chaire Quetelet (1998), Louvain-la-Neuve, Chaire Quetelet / Academia, 24 p. (forthcoming). (T1)

"C'est dans le but de mieux comprendre l'évolution des déterminants à l'origine du processus de dissolution des familles au Canada que nous avons analysé et comparé les facteurs de risque à l'origine des ruptures d'union chez les femmes et chez les hommes à partir de l'ESG de 1995. Pour ce faire, nous avons limité nos analyses aux premières unions fécondes et calculé les risques de ruptures à partir du moment où les individus entament leur vie parentale."

"À la lecture des résultats obtenus, on constate d'abord l'importance des caractéristiques relatives à la formation de la famille. Comme d'autres chercheurs avant nous, on trouve que le type d'union

choisi par les parents exerce une influence décisive sur la propension des familles à se dissoudre. Les répondants vivants en union libre ont beaucoup plus de chances de vivre une rupture que ceux qui se sont mariés directement avant d'entrer dans la vie parentale; les personnes dont le mariage a été précédé d'une union libre ont également plus de chances de se séparer, mais leurs risques sont nettement moindres que ceux des personnes qui se maintiennent en union libre. Quoique significativement associé aux chances de rupture d'union, l'âge à l'arrivée du premier enfant a un impact beaucoup plus important pour les hommes que pour les femmes. Devenir père avant l'âge de 25 ans a pour effet d'augmenter considérablement les risques de vivre une dissolution familiale. Par contre, les conceptions préconjugales et la région de résidence ne semblent pas exercer de effet significatif chez les uns comme chez les autres."

"Là s'arrête toute similitude entre les femmes et les hommes puisque les variables relatives à l'éducation et à l'emploi n'ont pas les mêmes impacts selon le sexe du répondant. Contrairement aux hommes, plus le niveau du diplôme obtenu par les femmes est élevé moins grands sont leurs risques de rupture. ... Nos résultats montrent également que l'effet de l'éducation sur les chances de rupture varie en fonction de la cohorte de naissance des femmes. Pour les cohortes plus anciennes, le niveau de certification scolaire est positivement associé aux risques de rupture, alors qu'on observe la situation inverse pour les cohortes plus récentes. ... L'analyse des variables relatives à la trajectoire professionnelle des hommes n'a donné aucun résultat significatif, à l'exception de la variable mesurant la présence en emploi. ... Enfin, nous avons été surprises de ne pas trouver de lien significatif entre le diplôme obtenu et la propension des hommes à se séparer comme c'était dans le cas des femmes." (Excerpts from the section, En guise de conclusion)

4. Oppenheimer, Valerie. 1994. "Women's Rising Employment and the Future of the Family in Industrial Societies." *Population and Development Review* 20(2): 293-342. (T1)

"The author critically assesses the theoretical and empirical bases of the popular view that marriage is a declining institution in the United States and that this decline is an inevitable concomitant of the growth of women's economic independence in industrial societies. The independence hypothesis has diverted attention from the demographic impact of the substantial deterioration in men's economic position during the past 20 years. Focusing particularly on Becker's specialization and trading model of the gain to marriage, the author investigates several facets of the theory: the historical fit between the major rise in women's employment and trends in marital and fertility behavior; the extent to which the marital behavior observed in recent years matches the marital behavior predicted by the theory; and the degree to which micro-level empirical research supports the theory. The article concludes that both macro- and micro-level evidence for the theory is weak. It suggests that parental sex-role specialization puts nuclear families at risk because there is rarely more than one specialist at each type in a family. Whereas in past times children's work provided a means of maintaining economic homeostasis over the family cycle and improving the family's living levels, this becomes increasingly impractical with industrialization. A more adaptive family strategy is one where the wife works." (Author's abstract)

5. Roussel, Louis. 1987. "Deux décennies de mutations démographiques (1965-1985) dans les pays

industrialisés.” *Population* 42(3): 429-48. (T1?)

“How has demographic behaviour been modified during the last 20 years? To understand the changes that have occurred, it is not sufficient simply to consider movements in fertility, nuptiality, divorce etc. It is necessary to discover the features which are common to these changes. The author believes that the most important common feature is a decline in the institutional aspects of marriage and the family. A necessary, but not a sufficient condition for this decline is a practice of birth control and the greater economic independence of women. However, these intermediate factors are only one aspect of a more complex cultural reality: a change in the relationship between spouses which is based on greater equality, negotiation and convergent attitudes.” (Author’s summary)

6. Roussel, Louis. 1993. Fécondité et famille, dans *Actes de la Conférence européenne sur la population*, Commission économique des Nations Unies pour l’Europe, Conseil de l’Europe, Fonds des Nations Unies pour la population, vol. 1, p. 39-120. (T1)

“The purpose of the report is to stress the influence of the family model on the level of fertility and, in particular to show the importance of that relationship in fertility trends in Europe over the last thirty years.” In addition to tracing fertility trends, the report also documents the changes at age at first marriage, the divorce rates, cohabitation and births outside marriage over the same period.

As an explanation for the changes, Roussel notes that: “The values, in particular the religious values, which conferred legitimacy on the institutional regulators have lost much of their impact in the last half-century. This has led to a weakening of certain taboos, in particular those relating to fertility. The couple’s choice is now the decisive factor in this regard.” Couples see the family as primarily “the setting for their pursuit of happiness. ... The family thus appears to be oriented towards a kind of syncretistic hedonism.” (Excerpts from Executive Summary)

Beyond discussing the family changes in Europe, Roussel looked at the prospects in the future as regards fertility, marriage rates, divorce rates, and distribution of households, enumerated problems related to probable developments, and provided some general and specific principles to guide formulation of “family policy”. He aptly defines the central dilemma as follows: “The fundamental problem is probably to decide whether to promote individual rights or joint responsibility in the family. So far as the family is concerned, the trend is rather towards individual rights. .. However, the State is at the same time trying to entrust the family with more specific duties regarding the aged, the sick, the disabled and the young unemployed. This is a radical problem which calls for specific, coherent solution.”

Theme 2: Family Changes, Changing Relationship Between Parents and Children, and Social Cohesion

1. Beaujot, Roderic. 1999. *Earning and Caring in Canadian Families*. Peterborough: Broadview, forthcoming. (T2)

“Most people place a high value on family, work, and children. However, there are often serious tensions associated with juggling and accommodating these priorities. This book analyses these

tensions, working on the assumption that it is through the effective sharing of associated earning and caring activities that families are made and maintained.”

“The focus on the conflict between caring and earning highlights the basis on which the family activities of women and men are similar and different. Much writing on families tends to accentuate crisis and conflict. But a study of total time spent on productive activities (paid and unpaid labour) actually shows that there are not large differences between the time expended by women and men, although differences do lie in the division of this work. Furthermore, some couples maintain more symmetry which suggests there should be new social policies to promote “new families” based on a different accommodation for the sharing of provider and parenting roles. Indeed, the book especially considers the Swedish model where social policy effectively creates an incentive to postpone child-bearing until careers are established, the result being that the cost of child-rearing is partially transferred from women to men and to the workplace.” (From the book’s back cover)

“ ... I start by first introducing the study of families (chapter 1), drawing out the importance of gender (chapter 2), and then go on to concentrate on the main aspects of family change (chapter 3). What I think of as the core of the book is in chapter 4 and 5, which treat “Paid Work and Family Income” and “Unpaid Work and the Division of Productive Activities”. Thereafter a specific treatment of child-bearing appears within the framework first of the structure of production and reproduction (chapter 6) and second of the family context of children and youth (chapter 7). The final chapter takes up the objective of discussing the policy dimensions associated with gender equality and changing family models.” (From the Introduction)

2. Desrosiers, H., H. Juby and C. Le Bourdais. 1997. La diversification des trajectoires parentales des hommes - Conséquences pour la “politique du père”, *Lien social et politique - RIAC*, 37: 19-31. (T2)

The Diversification of Paternal Life Courses and its Consequences for Social Policy Development.

“Increasing conjugal instability has led to a transformation of the parental role for a growing number of fathers. For many men, the breakdown of the first family they had formed often represents only the first of a series of transitions in their paternal life courses. In forming a new union, for example, a man often relinquishes the role of a part-time single father he had assumed after the first family breakdown, as he becomes a full-time stepfather to the children of his new partner. He may thus take on multiple roles: as father of the children from his first family, stepfather of his new partner’s children and even father of a child born of the new union. For which of these children is this man responsible? Which of these children is he obligated to support? To attempt to answer these questions, this article first presents demographic research on paternal life courses. It then looks at some of the policies drafted in Quebec, Canada and certain U.S. states to regulate child custody and child support after the breakdown of a union, and assesses the relevance of the proposed measures in light of the diversification of paternal life courses.” (Authors’ abstract)

The study uses data from the 1990 General Social Survey and the LIFEHIST program to trace the different parental trajectories of men aged 40-69 as of survey date.

3. Le Bourdais C., G. Neill, P. Turcotte. 2000. The Changing Face of Relationships, *Canadian Social Trends*, Ottawa, Statistics Canada : Spring (forthcoming). (T2?)

“In Canada, the last few decades have seen a decrease in marriages, a rise in common-law relationships, and an increase in the break-up of all unions. People today have more options in choosing the types of conjugal relationships they wish to have. While women born in the 1920s and 1930s had little choice but to marry, common-law unions are now acceptable and they have become increasingly popular with young Canadians. However, the instability of many common-law arrangements, and the rising rate of dissolution of all unions, suggest that more people may spend more time living alone or, alternatively, may be involved in more short term relationships.”
(Authors’ Summary)

The paper is based on 4,656 women (aged 20-69) respondents of the 1995 General Social Survey.

4. McCain, Margaret Norrie and J. Fraser Mustard. 1999. *Early Years Study: Final Report*. Toronto: The Canadian Institute for Advanced Research. (T2)

The report, prepared for the Government of Ontario, presents a comprehensive look at factors affecting the early development of children (from age 0 to 6 years), examines how Ontario children fare in comparison to those in the country as a whole, reviews the various on-going programmes and initiatives in Ontario (and, with less detail, in some provinces and countries) aimed at helping children during their early years, and makes recommendations for the government and government ministries, private sectors, and communities based on a framework for an early childhood development and parenting program.

On the factors affecting early development of children, the report notes the following: (1) “(T)here is powerful new evidence from neuroscience that the early years of development from conception to age six, particularly for the first three years, set the base for competence and coping skills that will affect learning, behaviour and health throughout life.” (2) Socio-economic changes including technological change, globalization of economies, increased participation of women in the labour force, and changes in family structures have strongly affected young families with children. (3) Various measures (such as birth weights, indicators of behaviour, and vocabulary and mathematics achievement) show that Ontario children can do better, and that children’s outcomes are affected by socio-economic status or income levels (both of the community and the family), parenting style, and family structure.

5. McLanahan, Sara and Gary Sandefur. 1994. *Growing Up With a Single Parent: What Helps, What Hurts*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. (T2)

“In this book, we argue that growing up with only one biological parent frequently deprives children of important economic, parental, and community resources, and that these deprivations ultimately undermine their chances of future success. Low income -- and sudden drop in income that often is associated with divorce -- is the most important factor in children’s lower achievement in single-parent homes, accounting for about half of the disadvantage. Inadequate parental guidance and attention and the lack of ties to community resources account for most of the remaining

disadvantage.”

“We view the lack of parental and community resources as a deficit in what the sociologist James Coleman calls *social capital*. ... The decision of parents to live apart – whether as a result of divorce or an initial decision not to marry – damages, and somehow destroys, the social capital that might have been available to the child had the parents lived together.” (Excerpts from Ch.1)

McLanahan and Sandefur use four data sets. Three are from longitudinal surveys: the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID), the National Longitudinal Survey of Young Men and Women (NLSY), and the High School and Beyond Study (HSB); the fourth, the National Survey of Families and Household (NSFH) is a cross-sectional survey that collected retrospective data. In addition to individual and family characteristics, McLanahan and Sandefur used community resources variables obtained in a number of ways. For PSID, census tract characteristics were appended to each household record which provided information on the family’s community such as the percent of families who are poor, percent of families who receive welfare, and percent of adult men not working. From NLSY, they used data on school quality, and from HSB, the school quality and peer characteristics.

6. McQuillan, Kevin. 1992. *Falling Behind: The Income of Lone-Mother Families, 1970-1986. Canadian Review of Sociology and Anthropology* 29:511-525. (T2)

“This paper examines the economic fortunes of lone-mother families using the public use microfiles of the 1971 and 1986 Canadian censuses. The analysis shows that despite a 16 per cent increase in the real income of lone-mother families, the income gap between the lone-mother and two-parent families widened appreciably over the 15-year period. Although real wages for both husbands and lone mothers rose slowly, a sharp increase in the labour force participation rate of married women allowed two-parent families to increase their total family income significantly. By contrast, demographic changes among lone-mother families served to limit the increase in total family earnings and slowed the rise of family income.” (Author’s abstract)

Theme 3: Intergenerational Transmissions and Acquisition of Social and Human Capital

1. Boyd, Monica and Doug Norris. 1998. *Changes in the Nest: Young Canadian Adults Living with Parents, 1981-1996*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Canadian Population Society, Ottawa. (T3) Findings were also published as “The Crowded Nest: Young Adults at Home”, *Canadian Social Trends*, Spring 1999, No. 52, pp. 2-5.

Comparing data from 1981 to 1996 censuses, the authors show that young adults are more likely to live with their parents and that those living at home are older and majority are men. Factors underlying this trend are higher rates of college and university enrollment, economic recession in the early 1980s and 1990s, and delayed marriage among young adults.

The authors summarize their findings as follows:

“Many young Canadian adults live with parents not just in their late teenage years but also

throughout their twenties and early thirties. Interpretations of this phenomenon vary. One view assumes that living apart from the family of origin signals the successful transition to adulthood, alongside other indicators such as completion of education, employment, marriage and childbearing. From this perspective, the continued presence of adult children in the parental home is unusual.”

“Yet a more general lesson from the 1980s and 1990s emphasizes the fallacy of holding a narrow image of family life. The forms of Canadian families are diverse and constantly changing over the life cycle of their individual members. From this perspective, young adults live at home because this arrangement ultimately benefits them in making other types of transitions from adolescence to adulthood.” (Canadian Social Trends)

2. Corak, Miles (ed). 1998. *Labour Markets, Social Institutions and the Future of Canada's Children*. Ottawa: Statistics Canada, cat. no. 89-553.

A brief description of this book is found in Part I. The following are Corak’s summary of major findings; some of his suggestions for further research that may be relevant to our project; and notes on methodologies that may be of use to us.

Major Findings: (1) “Labour market conditions have deteriorated for the young, particularly men, with the result that a much higher proportion are now part of the so-called “contingent” workforce. Their earnings capacity seems to have permanently deteriorated during the 1980s.” (2) “Government transfers went a long way in preventing the higher risk of low market incomes from being transferred into low family incomes.” (3) “Another important factor shielding children from low-income has to do with changes in the marital and fertility behaviour of young adults, but by the late 1980s or early 1990s this buffer had reached its limit.” (4) “The labour market outcomes of the young are only loosely tied to the incomes of the families they were raised in. Much more than money matters in determining how children get ahead in life”. (5) “A widely-accessible and high-quality education system certainly plays a role in determining the large degree of intergenerational income mobility for the young. But even so, the educational and occupational background of parents are equally important in how children access the resources society makes available to them.” (6) “Lone parenthood seems to be a very important correlate of how children get a start in life, and it may be that it cannot be compensated for by higher household incomes.” (7) “Familial instability echoes through the generations. Young adults whose parents went through a separation or a divorce have in turn higher rates of family instability, and are more likely to be lone-parents.”

Corak suggests directions for future research, two of which are directly relevant to our project: (1) “Is the relationship between lone-parenthood and detrimental child outcomes causal? It would certainly seem to be the case that children from lone-parent families on average have more behavioural and social problems, and will ultimately attain lower levels of education and income. ... Such a comparison does not necessarily answer the question of how children from lone-parent families would have fared had **their** parents stayed together. ...” (2) Both families and communities play an important role in determining how children fare, but just how do they do so? How exactly do families create resilience among children in spite of the income available to them? What is the

role of the community and “social capital” in this process? To understand these variations will require a more detailed understanding of the internal working of the family, of how resources are shared and decisions made within it, and of the system of supports in the community. Role models, peer groups, and the characteristics of neighbourhoods are part of this broader community role, but research for policy purposes needs to go beyond these and examine how families access the resources made available by the state.”

Some interesting data sets used: (1) In Chapter 5, Corak and Heisz tapped the data from the income tax system. Included in their analysis were three broad sets of factors: the amount and composition of the father’s income; the characteristics of the neighbourhood; and the structure of the family. Using the first 3 digits of the postal code, the authors derived neighbourhood characteristics from the income tax files. The number of moves was derived from whether or not there was a change in postal code between two consecutive years. (2) In Chapter 9 (Health Care Utilization During the First Year of Life: The Impact of Social and Economic Background), Knighton et al. used the individual socio-economic status information (household income and educational attainment) from the 1986 Census which were linked to data from the Manitoba Health Services Insurance Plan longitudinal files.

3. Côté, James E. and Anton L. Allahar. 1994. *Generation on Hold: Coming of Age in the Late Twentieth Century*. Toronto: Stoddart. (T3)

The authors describe the situation of today’s youth (mainly in US and Canada): “(W)e propose that as we moved into the most recent phase of industrial capitalism, which began in the 1950s, the coming-of-age process has become even longer, primarily because the labor of adolescents and youth is no longer needed, except in service industries. Consequently, young people have a lost a “franchise.” Now they participate less in the labor force, and when they do, it is in a more subservient manner. Accordingly, fewer young people have the full rights and privileges of citizenship, and they must wait longer before they are fully recognized as adults. In addition to not being able to make meaningful contributions to the economy, young people have been forced to remain in school longer, where they are under the watchful eye of massive educational bureaucracies.”

The authors explain today’s youth situation through the “political economy view”. Using the “concepts of the manufacture of consent, ideology, and complementarity. ... (W)e show how collective constructions of reality constitute a form of social control – measures initiated to maintain order and continuity in a society through the manufacture of consent. We also note that the attempt to manufacture consent has given rise to a certain amount of dissent. ... The principle complementarity is illustrated with youth in the service economy and the roles played by various social institutions (education, advertising, the media) in preparing young people for their future roles as disciplined, low-waged producers and easily manipulated consumers.”

The concluding chapter recommends adoption of policies similar to those in Sweden: long-run policy of full employment and fair income distribution; program providing job counselling, training, and placement; higher education policy that includes free tuition and a generous loan and grant system; policy which guarantees a certain income level to those who remain students; programs that

encourage youth participation in social activities such as municipal support for youth recreational centers and state-funded youth organizations.

4. Gee, Ellen M., Barbara A. Mitchell, Andrew V. Wister. 1995. Returning to the Parental “Nest”: Exploring a Changing Canadian Life Course. *Canadian Studies in Population* 22(2): 121-144. (T3)

“Recently, there have been significant increases in co-residence among young adults and their parents: young adult children remain home longer and are more likely to return home after leaving. Prolonged intergenerational living, even if for sporadic intervals, represents a departure from the “rise of the primary individual” (Kobrin, 1976) witnessed in the second half of the twentieth century. These shifts in living arrangements suggest a complexity in the transition to adulthood that has tended to be neglected in life course research. In this paper, we focus on the phenomenon of young adult children returning to live at home, drawing upon a random sample of 218 returners and 202 home-leavers (non-returners) in the Greater Vancouver area in 1993-94. First a descriptive account of returning home is provided on three dimensions: age at events (e.g., first home-leaving, first return; number of returns (single vs. multiple returns); and reasons for returning home. Age, sex, and marital variations are also explored. Second, a proportional hazards analysis is performed on the rate of returning home, using several variables drawn from the life course perspective. The major predictors of returning home include: child’s marital status, reason for leaving home, child’s main activity, family type, and age at home-leaving. Theoretical implications of the results regarding families and life course transitions are discussed.” (Authors’ abstract)

The results of their proportional hazards model show that children with step-parent are less likely to return than children with two biological parents, whereas the following traits of young adults are associated with higher rate of returning home: the single and ever-married (compared to married), those looking for work (vs. employed), those who left to look for work or for other reasons (vs. those who left to be independent), and the early leavers (as against late leavers).

5. Lapierre-Adamcyk, É., C. Le Bourdais and K. Lehrhaupt. 1995. Le départ du foyer parental des jeunes Canadiens nés entre 1921 et 1960, *Population*, 50 (4-5): 1111-1136. (T3)

“Using retrospective data taken from the General Social Survey carried out by Statistic Canada in 1990, the authors study leaving-home patterns of young Canadians born between 1921-1960. Age at leaving home is lower among those who became adults after the Second World War. We then show that the same demographic and socio-cultural factors may often affect the pattern of leaving home differently for men and women. For women, cohort, relations with the family of origin, and education are important. By contrast, economic factors seem to be more important in the case of men. The differences are less marked, when leaving home is linked to the formation of a union.” (Authors’ summary)

6. Le Bourdais, C. and N. Marcil-Gratton. 1998. The Impact of Family Disruption in Childhood on Demographic Outcomes in Young Adulthood, in M. Corak (ed), *Labour Markets, Social Institutions and the Future of Canada’s Children*, Ottawa, Statistics Canada and Human

Resources and Development Canada, p. 91-105. (T3)

Using the 1990 General Social Survey, the authors examine “the impact that family life disruption has on the transition to family life in adulthood for the first generations of Canadian children experiencing parental divorce in significant proportions.”

“We find that family instability during childhood appears to be associated with the way in which children start their life as couples and parents. More precisely, parental separation or divorce tends to be positively related to the likelihood that offspring will experience cohabitation while decreasing the chances of directly marrying. It also tends to be related to early, pre-union or pre-marital childbearing among young women, and to increases in the risk of union dissolution, at least for married men.”

As for further research, the authors note that: “More detailed analysis is required in order to monitor the impact that changes in the family environments of children exert first upon their cognitive and social development, and second upon their attitudes and behaviour as couples and parents. We may well find that the way in which parental separation was experienced by children is a much more relevant factor in explaining the intergenerational transmission of divorce than economic characteristics per se.”

7. Mitchell, Barbara A. 1994. Family Structure and Leaving the Nest: A Social Resource Perspective. *Sociological Perspectives* 37(4): 651-671. (T3)

“This article focuses on the role of family structure as a form of social capital (Coleman 1988) in the timing of and pathways for home-leaving behaviour among youths. Using data from the 1987 Canadian Youth Foundation Survey, bivariate analyses of reasons for staying and leaving the nest and proportional hazards modelling of age at home-leaving support and extend previous research demonstrating the importance of family structure. Financial, human, and cultural capital, as well as sex and region, are also examined. The most striking finding is that youths exposed to biological and single-parent family environments are between five and six times as likely to remain at home than those exposed to stepfamily structures for the ages 15 to 24, net of the other variables. Interestingly, young adults living in both stepparent and single-parent families are more likely to report leaving home due to conflictual parent-child relations, and to leave the nest to achieve independence rather than marry or pursue additional schooling. The findings are discussed in terms of their long-term consequences for youths.” (Author’s abstract)

8. Rajulton, Fernando and Zenaida R. Ravanera. 1999. Life Course Trajectories Before and After Retirement. Paper presented at the 1999 Annual Conference of the Canadian Population Society, Sherbrooke, Quebec. UWO Population Studies Center Discussion Paper 99-7. (T3)

“The new stages in late-life include empty nest and/or crowded nest period, a longer life of retirement and solitary living, and perhaps a longer period of activity limitations as well. ... Studying what was once considered as “normal” pattern of behaviour among the old is no longer adequate, and as the analyses presented in this paper reveal, life course studies in the near future

will have to deal with as much diversity and complexity in late-life transitions as we have discovered in early or mid-life transitions. Among the late-life events examined in this study, retirement has been the central focus as in many other papers and the results confirm the changes that are taking place among men and women who are nearing the mandatory retirement ages (i.e. trend toward early retirement among recent male cohorts, differentials between men and women) ... As part of trajectories before and after retirement, we included in this paper an examination of the transitions related to health and marital status changes. Unfortunately, both data paucity and selectivity do not allow us to make inferences on the trends that are vaguely visible over cohorts such as increased proportions of persons reporting activity limitation or the disconnectedness between widowhood and living alone.” (Excerpts from Conclusion)

9. Ravanera, Zenaida R. 1995. A Portrait of the Family Life of Young Adults. In J. Dumas (ed), *Family Over the Life Course*. Current Demographic Analysis Series, Statistics Canada (Cat. No. 91-543E). Ottawa: 7-35. (T3)

“A popular notion about those who belong to this age group (nicknamed “twentysomething”) is that they refuse to grow up: they delay getting married and clutter up the parental nest. This chapter presents a portrait of the family life of young adults using mainly census data. While data cannot determine whether young people are refusing to grow up, they do allow a close look at the family patterns of persons aged 15-29 in the 1990s and systematic comparisons with persons at the same age in the past.” ...

“This portrait of the family life of young adults begins with the consideration of marital and parental statuses. The living arrangements of those in various marital statuses are described for the more recent period. School attendance and the work status of young adults are then considered in order to shed light on their changing patterns of family formation and living arrangements.” (Excerpts from Introduction)

10. Ravanera, Zenaida R., Fernando Rajulton and Thomas K. Burch. 1998b. Trends and Variations in the Early Life Courses of Canadian Men. Paper presented at the 1998 Annual Conference of the Canadian Population Society, Ottawa. UWO Population Studies Centre Discussion Paper 98-7. (T3)

Similar to the analysis of early life transition of Canadian females, this paper examines the timing and sequences of transition to school completion, first regular work, home-leaving, first union, first marriage, and birth of first child. “Today’s young men stay 5 years longer in school and start work 3 years later than the youth of 50 years ago. ... Family formation too has changed greatly. ... The more recent cohorts picked up not only the reversal in timing initiated by the boomers but also the shift to cohabitation. ... Leaving the parental home seems to have undergone the least change. The age at home-leaving hovered around 21 to 22 years with the more recent cohorts leaving home just about a year later. But there are indications that the dependence relationship between parents and children has undergone changes as well.” (Excerpts from Discussion and Conclusion)

This study used life tables and event history analysis techniques (LIFEHIST program) on data from the 1995 General Social Survey.

11. Stone, Leroy O., Carolyn Rosenthal, and Ingrid Connidis. 1998. *Parent-Child Exchanges of Supports and Intergenerational Equity*. Ottawa: Statistics Canada, cat. no. 89-557. (T3)

“The analysis presented here is organized around the following general question. What are the consequences of including, within the scope of the measurement of equity, the flows of supports that take place not only through government programs but also by means of a variety of private arrangements?”

Some of their findings:

“ ... Over the life course, private exchange of support between parents and children is not balanced. It heavily favours the children. ... (T)he composition of the social network, cultural background and education make a significant difference in the level of intergenerational flows of supports. ... (O)ver the life course of a generation, the amount/value of private (familial) exchanges of supports between generations may rival or exceed the government-sponsored ones. ... The prolonged building up of obligations over a lifetime of familial exchanges is a reflection of sustained dependency upon others for help. If social cohesion is strongly supported by the bonding and psychic rewards that come from discharging those obligations, then the build-up of obligations for reciprocal giving based on dependency is a foundation of social cohesion. ...” (Excerpts from Highlights)

Theme 4: Family Type, Household Sharing and Social Capital

1. Beaujot, Roderic and Tony Haddad. 2000. Productivity Patterns at Mid-Life: Family and Work. *Canadian Studies in Population* (forthcoming). (T4)

“The majority of Canadian adults at mid-life are married, have children, and are employed. Nonetheless, there are variations in their relative involvement in work and family. Both marriage and children reduce the likelihood of full-time paid work for women, they increase it for men. Data on time-use indicate that the average total productive work time of women and men does not differ, but its distribution into paid and unpaid components is different, especially when young children are present. Models of the relative importance of paid and unpaid work show that neo-traditional models remain predominant, a significant minority have divisions that might be described as a “double day” for women, but other arrangements include those where men do more total work, and where men and women are more equally involved in economic and domestic activities.” (Authors’ Abstract)

2. Chesnais, Jean-Claude. 1987. Population Trends in the European Community 1968-1986. *European Journal of Population* 3,3-4: 281-96. (T4)

This is one of the selected papers from a seminar organized by the Centre for European Policy Studies (Brussels) at Corsendonk Priory (Belgium), 1987.

“This paper sets the scene for the subsequent discussion by describing recent demographic trends in

Europe, more particularly in the countries of the European Community. Special attention is paid to the generalized decline of fertility to levels well below those needed for replacement of the present population. The decline in fertility is linked to the emergence of new patterns of union and family formation, and the implications for the future are briefly discussed.” (Author’s Abstract)

Chesnais explanation is: “As far as reproductive behaviour is concerned, the trend is towards standardization through a growing concentration around the model of the restricted family (one or two children, or none at all). ... This uniformization process is related to a strong modification of the relative status of females within the couple. The improvement of women’s status over the last decades began with their access to education (as secondary and higher education became more democratic.) During the second stage, which has by no means reached its completion in many European countries, improvement in women’s status became synonymous with the quest for financial independence, and women entered the labour market. The third and final stage, which is beginning is the search for equal opportunities to men in daily life. The social cost of this democratization process is the growing scarcity of children.” (P. 294-5)

3. Lapierre-Adamcyk, É. and N. Marciel-Gratton. 1995. *Prise en charge des enfants: stratégies individuelles et organisation sociale*, *Sociologie et sociétés*, 27(2): 121-142. (T4)

“Children today are born and grow up in families whose way of life has been radically transformed over the last thirty years, a transformation that has been driven by various phenomena: falling birth rates, increasing instability of conjugal life, diversification of conjugal and parental trajectories, replacement of marriage by living together outside of marriage, and especially the growing participation of mothers in the labour force. This paper examines how these new types of behaviour change the way in which children are taken care of, putting the emphasis on family needs, the strategies they develop and the support they receive from the community. The originality of this paper lies in its use of empirical analysis which presents various measures made on the basis of the population of children concerned.” (Authors’ summary).

The study uses data from the 1990 General Social Survey of Family and Friends and takes children as units of analysis.

4. Le Bourdais, C. and A. Sauriol. 1998. *La part des pères dans la division du travail domestique au sein des familles canadiennes*, Montréal, INRS-Urbanisation, *Études et Documents*, 55 p. (T4)

“Les premiers résultats tirés de l’Enquête social générale de 1990 montrent, une fois de plus, que le travail domestiques, du moins au chapitre des tâches routinières que constituent les repas, la vaisselle et le lavage et le ménage, reste encore l’apanage des femmes. Au Canada, on l’a vu, près de la moitié des hommes vivant avec une conjointe et des enfants âgés (uniquement) de moins de 18 ans ne contribuaient aucunement au ménage ou au lavage, et environ le tiers n fournissaient aucune aide pour la préparation des repas ou le lavage de la vaisselle. Dans plus de deux cas sur trois, les femmes assumaient seules la responsabilité de la vaisselle, et cette proportion grimpe à plus de trois cas sur quatre pour la préparation de repas et le lavage et le ménage.”

“Si les pourcentages restent modestes, les hommes ne sont pas pour autant complètement absent de l’univers domestique. Dans plus d’un cas sur cinq, les hommes sont responsables, entièrement ou de façon partagée avec leur conjointe, de la préparation des repas et de la vaisselle, et ils sont a peu près aussi nombreux à effectuer la moitié ou plus des travaux requis par ces tâches. Ils restent également, par ailleurs, les premiers maîtres d’oeuvre des travaux de’entretien.”

“L’analyse multivariée ... a montre ... que la répartition inégale du travail domestique entre hommes et femmes n’est pas l’effet du hasard, et que certains facteurs pèsent plus lourd que d’autres dans la façon dont se négocie le partage des taches au sien de familles. ...” (Excerpts from the Discussion et conclusion)

5. Marcil-Gratton, N. and C. Le Bourdais, 1999. *Custody, Access and Child Support. Findings from the National Longitudinal Survey of Children*, Ottawa, Department of Justice Canada, 37 Pp. (T4)

This is a report to the Child Support Team of the Department of Justice based on analysis of data from the “Family History and Custody” section of the first cycle of the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth conducted in 1994-95.

Main Findings: (1) Children are born into diverse family contexts and in increasing proportions to unmarried parents. (2) An increasing proportion of children experience life in a single parent family and they do so earlier in life. (3) Children born to common-law couples face a greater risk of experiencing their parents’ separation. (4) After their parents’ separation, the vast majority of children live with their mother. (5) After separation, most children see their father less than once a week. (6) The frequency of contact with the father is associated with the type of child support agreement reached, the existence of a court order for custody and the regularity of support payments.

The authors note in conclusion that “the type of union parents enter in to raise their family has far-reaching consequences on the lives of their children. Common-law unions are more likely than marriages to end in separation. Children of these common-law unions are more likely than children from broken marriages to live exclusively with their mother; they are more likely to see their father irregularly or not at all; and they are less likely to benefit from regular child support payments. Children whose parents divorce rather than separate are more likely to be covered by a court-ordered child support agreement, but children covered by a private agreement are more likely to receive regular support payments than those covered by a court-ordered agreement.”

“Further analysis is required to look at such variables as the impact of separation on the level and sources of income for custodial parent households, or the impact of new unions by either parent on existing agreements regarding children from previous unions. It is these questions that we will turn to in our future research.” (Excerpts from the Executive Summary)

6. McQuillan, Kevin and Marilyn Belle. 1998. Who Does What? Gender and the Division of Labour in Canadian Households. in J. Curtis, E. Grabb, and N. Guppy, (eds.), *Social Inequality in Canada*, 3rd edition, Scarborough: Prentice-Hall. Pp. 186-198. (T4)

The paper “briefly reviews the findings of recent research on housework, noting areas that have seen significant change. Second, it examines some of the most important attempts at explaining the findings in this areas. And, finally, it presents some recent Canadian data on the topic, looking at how much housework is done and by whom in households in which a heterosexual couple reside.”

The authors’ general conclusion is that “women continue to carry the major burden of housework in couple households, despite the wide-ranging changes that have been occurring in Canadian society in recent decades. Men do contribute to the work of the household, but they spend significantly less time than their partners and their efforts are concentrated on a narrow range of tasks. ... Obviously, the amount of work done by both men and women varies significantly with a number of characteristics of both individuals and households.”

The study is based on the 1992 General Social Survey on Time Use.

Theme 5: Family-Related Values and Social Cohesion

1. Balakrishnan, T.R., Evelyne Lapierre-Adamcyk, and Karol J. Krotki. 1993. *Family and Childbearing in Canada*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 329 pp. (T5)

The book outlines the findings of the 1984 Canadian Fertility Survey directed by the three authors. “Based on telephone interviews with women between 18 and 49, the book covers marriage and cohabitation history, child-bearing, demographic and socio-economic backgrounds, contraceptive practice, fertility expectations, attitudes towards family, marriage, and abortion, and relations among generations. The book places the findings in the context of other studies done in the industrialized world.” (Front page)

Of relevance to the theme on family related values and social cohesion is Chapter 6: Attitudes Towards Family and Marriage. “The detailed presentation of the Canadian Fertility Survey data on attitudes about various dimensions of the family shows that women in general have adopted very nuanced views on marriage and cohabitation, on the importance of having children, on the stability of the family and on the relationships that these realities have with their personal satisfaction and happiness. Although on each dimension examined there are always a good number of women who are attached to the more traditional aspects of the family institution, the features of the changing relationship between men and women and between parents and children are more and more well accepted and seen as valid alternatives to traditional values and behaviour. Not only have cohabitation and divorce become socially acceptable, but having children is not considered any more as the focal point of a woman’s life or as the basis of a couple’s relationship.” ...

“Although it is difficult to identify the source of present nuptiality and fertility behaviour, it seems that the opinions and attitudes of young Canadian women in the 1980s have reached a point where a reversal seems unlikely in the near future; present attitudes seem self-contained and they may influence those of following generations.” (From Chapter 6, Discussion)

2. Lapierre-Adamcyk, É., C. Le Bourdais and N. Marcil-Gratton. 1999. *Vivre en couple pour la*

première fois. La signification du choix de l'union libre au Québec et en Ontario, *Cahiers québécois de démographie* 28(1-2): 199-227.

Living as a Couple for the First Time: The Significance of the Choice of Cohabitation in Quebec and Ontario

“Inspired by authors who suggest that cohabitation is a form of union that appears to better correspond to the sensibility and mentality of recent generations - for whom personal growth represents the ultimate criterion for behaviour -, the authors examine the significance of cohabitation in relation to the values associated with it, by contrasting the behaviours and attitudes of Quebec and Ontario men and women regarding the formation of conjugal unions and families. The findings, based on Statistics Canada’s 1995 General Social Survey, show that young couples opting for cohabitation rather than marriage are more likely to exhibit attitudes that tend to redefine what conjugal union represents: less stress is placed on living as a couple and on children, marriage itself is given very little importance as a source of happiness, and less significance is assigned to the stability of the couple. In this regard, Quebec couples seem to be ahead of Ontario couples.” (Authors’ abstract)

3. Lesthaeghe, Ron and Guy Moors. 1995. Is there a new conservatism that will bring back the old family? Ideational trends and stages of family formation in Germany, France, Belgium and the Netherlands, 1981-1990. Paper prepared for the European Population Conference, Milan. IPD Working Paper 1995-1. (T5)

Using the data from the European Values Surveys in 1981 and 1990, the authors examine two issues: “(1) the *statistical association* between the religious, ethical and political orientations of individuals on the one hand and life course events such as home leaving, cohabitation, parenthood and progression to higher parities on the other hand; (2) the *trends* in the ideational correlates themselves between 1981 and 1990 in each of the cohorts.” (From the section, The scope of the present paper).

On the basis of their findings, the authors make the following remark as to whether or not the youngest cohorts in the four countries are exhibiting decisive ideational trend reversals: “Our conclusion is that it is definitely too early to come up with such a prediction. *At present, all that can be said is that the ideational props that have sustained the second demographic transition seem to have lost their momentum during the 1980s, and that the latest cohort born in the 1960s is almost completely undifferentiated - at least on the items used here - from their immediate predecessors as measured in 1990.*”

“Can this finding be taken as a prediction for declining proportions cohabiting, earlier marriage and parenthood, less divorce and more progression to higher parities? We think not. ... We are, furthermore not sure that prospective developments with respect to these issues would be supportive of the “coming back of the old family”. More likely is that various forms of family formation will continue to coexist, and that the rapid growth period of less conventional family patterns may have come to an end. In short, diversity is likely to prevail in the next decade, but the relative shares of each type may not be changing all that much any more. “*Stability in diversity*”

seems to be the more appropriate description for the near future.” (From the Conclusions)

4. Nevitte, Neil. 1996. *The Decline of Deference*. Peterborough: Broadview. (T5)

Using the data from the 1981 and 1990 World Values Surveys, the author examines the political, economic, and social value changes in Canada in comparison with 10 European countries and the United States. The following captures his main findings regarding changes in family values:

“The family remains one of the most important priorities in people’s lives, and huge majorities of publics still consider marriage to be important. There is also some evidence of stability in what might be considered fairly traditional attitudes to the family and marriage. That said, there are also indications of systematic change, and there are two dimensions that, in light of the findings presented in earlier chapters, are particularly noteworthy. One is that there are clear shifts in preferences about spousal relations: both women and men want spousal relations to be more egalitarian. The other is that parent-child relations are in transition: they are becoming less hierarchical. The scope of these shifts is not particularly dramatic; if anything, they are incremental. Not only are the shifts consistent across the twelve advanced industrialized states, but they are also systematically related to other background factors.”

“The substantively important aspect of these findings is how they contribute to the larger picture that began to emerge from analysis of political and economic value changes. Orientations toward authority is one coherent and recurring theme that unites some of the core changes that have taken place in the polity, the economy, and the family. And an explicit investigation of the relationships between these domains clearly indicates that these connections are systematic. If deference to authority is a core value, then one key dimension of change between 1981 and 1990 is that all publics in these twelve states became less deferential in their outlooks towards politics, the workplace, and family life. The connectedness of these orientations and the shifts in levels jointly indicate the coherence of the pattern of change.” (From *Conclusions* of Chapter 8, *Family Values: Stability and Change*).

5. Ravanera, Zenaida R., Hwa Young Lee, Fernando Rajulton, Byung-Yup Cho. 1999. Should a Second Demographic Transition Follow the First? *Demographic Contrasts: Canada and South Korea. Social Indicators Research* 47(1): 99-118 (T5)

“This paper compares and contrasts the demographic situations in Canada and South Korea. Using a few familiar indicators (on fertility and nuptiality, on divorce, extra-marital births, and cohabitation, and on women’s education and labour force participation), similarities and differences in demographic changes between the two countries are highlighted. In particular, the questions addressed in this paper are: Given that South Korea went through its first demographic transition quite rapidly, would it then undergo the second demographic transition also? If yes, would its feature be similar to those of Canada (or to any other Western nation)? What factors would influence such a transition?” (From the Introduction)

“Our discussion in this paper points to the important role of culture and religion more in the second transition than in the first. As long as these two dimensions play a decisive role in men’s and

women's lives particularly in the ancient cultural and religious societies, we see little chance of the Western style of second demographic transition in these societies. ... But ... there is a clue to the possibility of onset of the second transition in those countries that have already experienced the first. That is the changing values from cohort to cohort. Even now, value changes may be manifesting themselves in some other ways in countries like South Korea.” (From the Conclusions)

Theme 6: Measurement: Indicators of Family Change Relevant to Social Cohesion

1. European Commission. 1995. *Social Indicators: Problematic Issues*. Collective Paper Issued from the Seminar on “Social Exclusion Indicators”. Brussels, May, 1995. 245 Pp. (T6)

This collection of papers deals with the indicators on social exclusion and social integration in Europe and are grouped into: “(1) The theoretical questions of social exclusion and social integration, (2) the key indicators on social exclusion and social integration processes and forms, and (3) the “models” of social exclusion and social integration”.

“It has been shown that social exclusion is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon. The system (concepts and data) to apprehend it still needs to be developed. This development will necessarily require a clarification of the link between what is meant by social exclusion and other social issues: work and unemployment, distribution of wealth and equity issues, racism and xenophobia, spatial dimension and urban management, identity and political systems. For “social exclusion” coexists with substantial modification of the “inclusion” models, research on social exclusion cannot be disconnected from the analysis of the change on the “included” side of society.” (Excerpts from Introduction by F. Boughanemi and N. Dewandre, European Commission)

2. Fassman, Heinz. 1995. The Measurement of Social Cohesion - Examples and Remarks of Social Indicators. In European Commission *Social Indicators: Problematic Issues*. Collective Paper Issued from the Seminar on “Social Exclusion Indicators”. Brussels, May, 1995. Pp. 83-94. (T6)

“The present paper deals with the dimensions and the indicators of social cohesion which is a similar concept to that of exclusion and integration. The paper is based on a review of the existing literature concerning measurement of the “quality of life”, the societal modernization or the standard of living. The theoretical assumptions and the strengths and weaknesses of the individual indicators will be discussed. Furthermore, the advantages and the disadvantages of the so-called synthetic indicators will be commented upon and finally calls for a compiled catalogue of exclusion and integration indicators will be made”. (Introduction)

3. Toulemon, L. et É. Lapierre-Adamcyk. (forthcoming). Demographic Patterns of Fatherhood and Motherhood in France, in Caroline Bledsoe (ed.), *Male Fertility in the Era of Fertility Decline*, Oxford University Press. (T6)

Part III: Additional Papers/Books Not Cited in the Proposal

1. Bernard, Paul. 1999. Social Cohesion: A Critique. CPRN Discussion Paper No. F-09.

As Judith Maxwell of CPRN states in the Foreword, Bernard adds “considerable value to the debate in three ways: first, through his critique of what has gone before, second through a rigorous analysis of the tensions among the three contending values of solidarity, equality, and liberty, and third, by adding a new dimension to the five set out by Jane Jenson.” (Re: Jane Jenson’s Mapping Social Cohesion, see Annotated Bibliography: Part I)

Bernard sees the concept of “social cohesion” as a vague “*quasi-concept*, that is, one of those hybrid mental constructions that politics proposes to us more and more often in order to simultaneously detect possible consensuses on a reading of reality, and to forge them.” He thinks that “the notion is primarily used to mask growing social inequalities.”

He proposes that the concept be subjected to a process of criticism and deconstruction and proceeds to do this using “the dialectic of democracy”. With the aid of an illustrative figure, he shows the dialectic relations among equality, liberty, and solidarity, that is, the elements form a totality and yet also contradict each other.

In the paper’s final section, Bernard moves from the “universal political ideas about social order” to examining the “very concrete meanings that have been given to the concept of social cohesion in social debates in Canada”. To the five dimensions of social cohesion [derived from the empirical work of O’Connor (1998) and classified by Jenson], Bernard adds a 6th dimension of equality/inequality and presents them, distinguishing between the formal and substantial dimensions as follows:

Character of the relation/ Spheres of activity	Formal	Substantial
Economic	Inclusion/Exclusion	Equality/Inequality
Political	Legitimacy/Illegitimacy	Participation/Passivity
Sociocultural	Recognition/Rejection	Belonging/Isolation

Applied Research Branch, Strategic Policy, Human Resources Development Canada.1998. *Investing in Children: Ideas for Action: Report from the National Research Conference* held in Ottawa, October 27-29.

“The objectives of the conference were to showcase the most recent NLSCY (National Longitudinal Survey for Children and Youth) research on Canadian children and families, and to engage researchers, practitioners, and policy-makers in discussion on the application of these findings to policy and program development. This report describes the ideas for action generated

at the workshop discussions ... The first cycle of data collection and analysis is complete and findings have provided an informed view of how Canada's population of children is doing during the early stages of development, and what types of family and community factors are influencing their young lives."

Eight workshops were held, which covered issues on (1) family structures, (2) parenting and work, (3) school, (4) community influences, (5) health, (6) problem behaviour, (7) childhood experiences, and (8) vulnerable children. Each workshop included brief presentations by the researchers and comments on the potential application of the results by policy specialists and practitioners. A total of 28 research studies were presented, all based on the NLSCY.

Among the findings of interest to us are: (a) on family structures - "The NLSCY has provided a mass of data on lone-parent families. It confirms the general impression that children from these families fare less well than children from intact two-parent families; they are apt to have more health problems and poorer social and motor development. ..." (b) on parenting and work - "Researchers found that maternal employment does not, in itself, affect the cognitive outcomes of 4- and 5-year old children. What does affect children's outcomes is the degree of parental engagement. ..." (c) on community influences - "(N)eighbourhood quality has a considerable impact on child outcomes, although it has less effect than family characteristics. Certain neighbourhoods have a high proportion of low-income lone-parent families, and children from these neighbourhoods are more apt to show emotional and behavioural problems and poor school achievement. ... Repeated household moves also have a negative effect on children, weakening their attachment to school, church, and community, and stressing their parents. ..." (Excerpts from Introduction)

From methodological point of view, two studies presented may be relevant: (1) Boyle, M.H. and E.L. Lipman, 1998, *Do Places Matter? A Multi-level Analysis of Geographic Variations in Child Behaviour in Canada* and (2) Kohen, D.E. C. Hetzman, J. Brooks-Gunn, 1998, *Neighbourhood Influences on Children's School Readiness*. Both study used data gathered by NLSCY and matching 1996 census data on enumeration areas. Interestingly, "(T)he researchers (of the first study) found that the characteristics of the neighbourhood by itself seemed to have less relationship to child outcomes. Characteristics of the family and the child account for more variation than do neighbourhood characteristics." (Workshop 4 - Community Influence) Whereas, from the second study, the report notes that: "Children from unsafe neighbourhoods ... and from neighbourhoods low in social cohesion ... were apt to have lower cognitive scores and more behavioural problems. ... Children from neighbourhoods with large numbers of lone-parent families were more apt to have poorer scores, because these neighbourhoods tend to be unsafe, not because the child is being raised in a lone-parent family." (Workshop 3: School)

In its conclusion, the report lists some critical research issues. It recognizes the cross-sectional nature of the first wave of NLSCY and hence, the limitations of the findings. In addition to the need to develop indices of *vulnerability* and *readiness to learn*, it notes that an area for future research is the influence of community/neighbourhood on child development. It points out that existing indicators of community influence are limited.

Lesthaeghe, R. and G. Moors. 2000. Recent Trends in Fertility and Household Formation in the Industrialized World. IPD-Wp 2000-2. Paper prepared for the Welfare Policy Seminar to be held at the National Institute of Population and Social Security Research, Tokyo, March 14, 2000.

This paper examines the second demographic transitions in the European countries and in the US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and Japan. Fertility trends between 1965 to 1996/97 are analyzed using various indicators (period total fertility rates, mean ages at first childbearing, teenage fertility rates, abortions per 100 live births and proportion of non-marital births). Also covered are determinants of independent living, cohabitation, and marriage postponement, levels of non-marital births, and living arrangements of women aged 20-24.

“In the countries studied in this paper, the second demographic transition is characterized by no less diversity than the historical first transition. The Princeton Project and subsequent studies of the historical first transition all pointed to the marked heterogeneity with respect to *timing, process* and *explanation*. ... As evolution is per definition path dependent, there is a similar unfolding of the pace and patterning of the second demographic transition. This patterning exhibits the highest degree of diversity with respect to the unfolding of the intermediate stages of household formation between home leaving and parenthood, but the picture is more cohesive with respect to the postponement of childbearing.”

“The evolution of fertility industrialized countries is essentially characterized by postponement. The date of onset of this feature varies greatly, but at present there is hardly any population left in the industrialized world that has not started this process. Nevertheless, in several Eastern European countries, such a tempo shift is of a recent date and it does not fully account for the rapid fall in fertility during the 1990s. In western countries, though, further postponement has had a major fertility depressing effect. However, fertility levels vary greatly, with several countries keeping PTFR values above 1.70 or close to replacement level and others maintaining values well below 1.50. *The main cause of this differentiation is the degree of fertility recuperation at older ages and especially above age 30 among the cohorts that initiated or continued the tempo drift.* The literature abundantly covers the reasons for the postponement aspect, but it is still silent on the underlying causes for such large national differences with respect to fertility recuperation in the age group 30-39.” (Excerpts from Conclusions)

A glance at the various indicators show that the second demographic transition in Canada is largely similar to the Western European patterns – in both fertility and household formation.

Peters, Suzanne. 1996. Examining the Concept of Transactions as the Basis for Studying the Social and Economic Dynamics of Families. CPRN Working Paper No. F01.

“The objective of this paper is to take a first step in operationalizing a “transactions approach” to research on the social and economic dynamics of Canadian Families. It does this by attempting to: 1) conceptually integrate into a holistic framework a range of literature on how families use physical supports, financial resources, time, knowledge, sociol-emotional capacities, and biological functions and commodities; and 2) identify the variables that must be considered in designing future studies.”

“Family transactions are viewed as having two aspects: “domains” and “dimensions”. Domains are essentially a categorization of transactions by type and dimensions are the circumstances under which transactions take place.”

“The conditions that shape family transactions are termed dimensions. ... Three levels of dimensions are considered and links among levels of dimensions will be an important focus for future analysis. (1) Individual Level Dimensions: These are the sociol-demographic characteristics of the individuals involved, such as gender, employment status and working conditions, ... Individual factors tend to be concrete but not explanatory. (2) Situational Level Dimensions: These dimensions reflect the specific circumstances under which transactions occur, roughly equating to the who, when, where, why and how of transactions. ... (3) Systemic Level Dimensions: Such dimensions describe the external context in which the transactions takes place. The difficulty is to find operational indicators of different contextual factors. The dimensions include: (1) the policy and legal frameworks. ... (b) economic conditions. ... (c) community (or social group) characteristics. Community is defined as any discrete unit whose social demographic characteristics can be aggregated. Community level characteristics are likely to have different kinds of effects for families at different points in the life course.” (Excerpts from the Executive Summary)

Thomas, Derrick. 1999. Indicators of Social Cohesion. Statistics Canada.

This paper puts together a comprehensive set of statistical indicators (a total of 58) “identified in the context of differing theoretical perspectives on social cohesion”. The indicators relate to three types of cohesion (affective, normative, and instrumental) and to social networks and structures, conflict, trust, communications and political participation, all of which were then included in a factor analysis.

Thomas’ conclusion on the basis of factor analysis is as follows: “ ... The main rotated orthogonal factor includes all of the clearest trends of the past third of a century. ... It contains most of the indicators that track the rise of markets and bureaucracies and the decline of families, religion and other organizations. ... A second completely autonomous factor appears to capture dramatic shifts in personal identity beginning in the late 1980s. ... A third factor is ... arguably related to informal cooperation between households.” (From section XI. Factor Analysis)

“A plausible hypothesis, which explains or links together some of the data has been put forward. A rational and formal variety of social control seems to have expanded at the expense of informal and traditional bonds. As the returns to this rationalization apparently diminish a nostalgia for older forms of cohesion has set in. It is expressed in ethnic particularism, religious fundamentalism and what is termed post-materialism. Through the management of these conflicts, improved structures and institutions with the capacity to foster understanding and democratic decision making may eventually emerge. This hypothesis along with others need to be tested.” (From section XII. Conclusions)

Vanier Institute of the Family. 1999(?). Families: Architects of Social Life. A Discussion Paper

prepared for the Board of Directors of the Vanier Institute of the Family. Ottawa.

The principal contentions of the paper are: “(1) The Vanier Institute of the Family attributes an active role to families as agents or responsible change (2) The notion of a “civic” society implies ‘personal’ commitments to the ‘public’ good. ... (3) The notion of “civic renewal” has emerged at the end of an era of “expressive individualism”. ... (4) The investment in human capital begins with an investment in our children and the families that we hope and expect to foster their development. ... (5) Implicitly and explicitly, the programs of the Vanier Institute of the Family are built on an appreciation of the family as the essential foundation of character, identity and conscience. ...”

(Excerpts from the summary)

The paper concludes with points for possible areas of involvement of the Institute and topics to pursue at the empirical level as follows: “(a) The nature of the family biographies and circumstances of those individuals who grow up with civic identities and sentiments as fundamental building blocks of their character. (b) Time use and patterns of giving and volunteering to explore the extent to which today’s families are isolated in their cocoons or, alternatively engaged in pursuing common purposes with others beyond the front doors of their individual households which we know as one of the central characteristics of strong families. (c) Where and how does civic learning take place and what resources are necessary to foster it; and (d) What kinds of resources and opportunities, be they family-friendly workplace policies and programs or public libraries and arts programs or recreational opportunities or income supports can best support families in their efforts to foster the development of responsible citizens upon whom the vitality of our communities and civic institution depends.”

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