



Institute for  
Research on  
Public Policy

Institut de  
recherche  
en politiques  
publiques

For immediate distribution – January 13, 2009

## NEWS RELEASE

### ***IRPP contributors weigh in on the future of North America***

#### ***IRPP releases The Art of the State II: Thinking North America in book form***

**Montreal** – The Institute for Research on Public Policy is releasing its forward-looking project *The Art of the State II: Thinking North America* in a new single volume format. This edition reproduces all of the original material, including an introduction and an article from renowned economist and IRPP Senior Scholar **Thomas Courchene**, and contributions from some of Canada’s leading thinkers, such as **Scott Vaughan, Robert Wolfe, Michael Hart, Sylvia Ostry** and **Daniel Schwanen**.

“It is our view that the proposals, issues and ideas discussed in the volume remain as salient as they were when they were first published,” says France St-Hilaire, the Institute’s vice president of research. “This volume provides rich material and sound analysis for those who will be called upon to think about the future of North America in years to come.”

*The Art of the State II: Thinking North America* is based on presentations made at the Art of the State conference held in Montebello in October 2003, which examined the prospects for trade relations, economic integration and related governance and institutional issues in North America.

The economic fallout from the tragic events of 9/11 continues to be felt today, and while some progress has been made on a number of particular files and trade issues, the overall trend has been toward a thickening of the US border. Recent efforts have focused on alleviating specific irritants rather than considering big or even small ideas to improve NAFTA, according to the IRPP.

“With the current global financial crisis and economic downturn, the North American trade environment is not likely to be conducive to greater liberalization in the near future,” says St-Hilaire. “Still, our governments are confronted with the same key policy challenges – emerging economies, energy security, border security, labour mobility and climate change – which will inevitably require coordinated or concerted action in order to be effective and to avoid undue spillover effects. It is in this context that we are reissuing *Thinking North America*.”

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