

# Perspectives on the Borderless World - Issues for Canada

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In August, 1999, a multi-disciplinary group of boundary scholars assembled in Vancouver to discuss a wide range of issues arising under the general heading of the 'borderless world'. The gathering took place under the aegis of the International Boundaries Research Unit (IBRU) of the University of Durham, England. IBRU conferences have a loyal international following, but the Vancouver Conference injected a stronger North American flavour to the proceedings than is usually the case with its annual conferences. Accordingly, much attention was focused on the Americas. Groups

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A Policy Paper Submitted to the CCFPD

by

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The papers were presented in an... Vancouver, Fall 2000... as is usual, addressed over-arching themes identified by the... it seemed to the present writers (who are editing the proceedings for publication) that many of the themes and issues explored had some relevance for contemporary Canadian policy-making as regards borders and boundaries. This paper attempts to synthesise some of the ideas discussed at the Conference and to focus them on aspects of the Canadian 'borderless world' agenda.

One of the recurrent themes in these conference papers is that of the projected end, or survival, or re-definition, of the nation-state. Some months after the conference, this was the theme of an address to both Houses of the Parliament of

*Possible Borders and Boundaries in a Globalising World: New Questions and Old Problems?* Conference organized by the International Boundaries Research Unit (IBRU), University of Durham, UK with the Department of Geography, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada, 25-27 August 1999.

IBRU is an inter-disciplinary research and teaching unit at the University of Durham, England. It provides a range of services, primarily in relation to boundaries, international research and teaching, and also organizes programmes on various aspects of boundary studies. The unit has been instrumental in the organization of a number of conferences on a range of contemporary topics by IBRU in Canada. The present writers co-

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