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NEWSLETTER

Summer 1999, Issue 17

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The Van Horne Institute has been established to address important **transportation** and related **regulatory** issues confronting industry and government, in North America and internationally, through research and education.

The Institute was incorporated federally in 1991 as a not-for-profit organization,

CENTRE FOR REGULATORY AFFAIRS EVENTS

The Centre is pleased to announce a joint course offering with the Faculty of Management, University of Calgary. "*The Economics of Regulation and Regulatory Restructuring*" is a four-day course offered September 7-10, 1999 at the University of Calgary.

This course is intended to provide an overview and a forum for discussion and analysis of the main concepts, theories, and practice of economic regulation. Economic regulation is government oversight of pricing; service offerings and quality; and entry. Topics addressed include: rationale for regulation; optimal pricing; incentives for investment and cost minimization; the practice of regulation and incentive regulation; and the opportunities, challenges, and consequences of introducing competition and relaxing/restructuring regulatory constraints.

There will be 6 hours of lecture, discussion, and class exercises per day. Student preparation time of about one hour per hour of lecture should be expected. Formal economics, mathematics or business training is not a prerequisite, though some general understanding of business and economics principles is helpful. There will be a heavy reliance on examples, case studies and application of the principles rather than formal theory or complex mathematics.

Instructors, Dr. Robert Mansell and Dr. Jeffrey Church, from the Department of Economics at the University of Calgary, bring a wealth of practical experience to the course.

The Centre is also jointly involved in a conference on Intellectual Property Guidelines to be held in Toronto, October 29th, 1999 with the Institute for Policy Analysis at the University of Toronto. The conference will provide a forum for a broad discussion on the economic, legal and policy implications of the Intellectual Property Enforcement Guidelines (IPEGs) announced by the Competition Bureau.

IMPORTANCE OF TRANSPORTATION

If you would like further information about the conference or courses offered by the Centre, please call the Institute.

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, the Institute is collaborating with the Western Transportation Advisory Council (WESTAC) to produce a handbook on the importance of transportation. It is intended as a reference guide to the "intelligent lay person." Sections of the handbook will include:

- What transportation does for us
- How the system developed
- Two systems: one for people, one for freight
- Governments and transportation

**CENTRE FOR INFORMATION AND
COMMUNICATION EVENTS**

- Questions for the future
- People in transportation

The handbook will be published this Fall. If you would like to receive a copy, please call our office. Help us spread the word on how important transportation is to Canadians!

COURSES

Graduate level courses are now available in professional communications, to both Van Horne members and non-members, for the Fall 1999 and Winter 2000 semesters. Registration is subject to space available, as these courses are currently offered under existing graduate programs at both the University of Calgary and the University of Alberta. Registrants do not need to be registered in the graduate programs or require prerequisites to take the courses. All courses have distance learning alternatives as set out in the following course descriptions.

Fall 1999 Courses

Knowledge Management and Communication Technologies

Instructor: Kirby Wright (University of Alberta)
 Delivery: Collaborative, asynchronous distance delivery, WEBCT**
 Program: MACT

Learners will examine issues related to the strategic design, implementation, human factors and technologies of knowledge management. Participants will explore specific case studies, engage in discussions with leading knowledge management practitioners and investigate issues related to emerging technologies, intellectual contributions, and organizational behaviour.

Communication and Cultural Industries: Policy and Development

Instructor: David Mitchell (University of Calgary)
 Delivery: Distributed, WEBCT, video-conference***
 Program: GPCS

This course will provide a survey of historical and contemporary issues related to the politics of culture and communications in Canada. The course will consider the wider picture of politics in this sphere – not simply the actions of governments (i.e. through the exercise of instruments such as legislation and regulation), but also the interplay of technologies, private sector firms, and public interest advocacy groups. Historically, each new wave of innovation in communications and information technologies and services has presented opportunities and challenges for each of the players involved.

Winter 2000 Courses

Introduction to E-Commerce

Instructor: Norman Archer (University of Alberta)
 Delivery: Asynchronous, WEBCT**
 Program: MACT

The objectives of this course are to provide an introduction to the concepts, technologies and functions of electronic commerce as they exist today, and to develop a broad understanding of how this major shift in doing business is affecting and will continue to affect business and consumers in the future.

GLOBAL CROSSROADS UPDATE

Using and Managing Communications Networks

Instructor: Terry Anderson (University of Alberta)
Delivery: Asynchronous, WEBCT**

This course is designed as an introduction to the technologies, applications and social impact of networks in post-industrial society. The first part of the course introduces the technology

CENTRE FOR TRANSPORTATION COURSES

of networks and particularly of the Internet. The second part of the course focuses on established and emerging applications of networks, including email, computer, video and audio conferencing, groupware, application sharing, database access and e-commerce. The third part of the course focuses on ethical and social impact of network use on individual and social life.

Social and Economic Impacts of Communication and Information Technologies

Instructor: David Mitchell & Doug Brent
(University of Calgary)
Delivery: Distributed, WEBCT, video-conference***

This course will consider a variety of perspectives related to the social context of information and communications technologies (ICT) – where social context will be broadly interpreted to include cultural, political, legal, historical, environmental and technological issues. The course is designed to provide students with both a theoretical and a practical appreciation of some emerging trends in communications and information technologies and services.

** The course implements technologies that will permit it to be accessed from student's homes or workplaces at times of their own choosing, but will also allow group work and other collaborative learning opportunities. The course is also supported by Internet-based course materials.

*** The course is delivered in real-time to local and distance students using video-conference technology. The course is also supported by Internet-based course materials.

If you would like to find out more information about the courses, or if you would like to register for a course, please contact the Institute office.

SYMPOSIUM

Mark Friday, October 22, 1999 on your calendar for a one-day

symposium on *"Emerging Trends in Networking and Information Technology: Applications and Issues."* The symposium will feature four keynote speakers in the following areas: e-commerce, telehealth, telelearning, and smart communities. Presentations will be followed by a panel

WESTERN CANADIAN CORRIDORS & PORTS INITIATIVE

discussion of the key issues in each area.

The location is the University of Calgary, Learning Commons, Bio Sciences Building Room 587. Edmonton attendees will be able to participate in the symposium via video-conference link from the University of Alberta. Industry, academic and government employees involved or interested in communications technology development and application should attend. This symposium is a preview of the global-scale Smart2000 Conference and Exposition to be held October 23-26, 2000 at the TELUS Convention Centre.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

VHI MEMBERS

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