

*Invitation to a workshop featuring Dr Ron Colman  
Executive Director of GPI Atlantic, Canada  
(<http://www.gpiatlantic.org/>)*

## **The Genuine Progress Index (GPI) The Canadian experience and possibilities for international cooperation**

2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room, Reserve Bank Building, 2 The Terrace, Wellington  
Tuesday 16 May 2006, 9.00am–12.00pm, followed by a light lunch

The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, Dr Morgan Williams, is pleased to invite you to a half-day workshop, in association with Anew NZ, on the Canadian experience with GPI.

The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment is currently contributing to research by the New Zealand Centre for Ecological Economics (<http://www.nzcee.org.nz>) into the development of a GPI for New Zealand.

This is an ideal opportunity to explore the possibilities for further international cooperation on the use of GPI as a measure of sustainability, wellbeing, and quality of life. The workshop will consist of a presentation by Dr Colman, followed by a break out into groups to discuss and feed back ideas.

***Seating is limited so please RSVP by Monday 8 May to Clare Brockett  
([Clare@pce.govt.nz](mailto:Clare@pce.govt.nz)) or telephone (04) 471 1669***

### **Background**

The GPI consists of 22 social, economic and environmental components. It is an alternative to the practice of equating progress with economic growth alone, usually expressed as GDP. The GPI links the economy with social and environmental variables to create a more comprehensive and accurate measurement tool. The GPI accounts for the value of human, social, and natural capital, in addition to standard measures of produced capital, and assigns value to assets like population health, educational attainment, community safety, voluntary work, and environmental quality. GPI Atlantic's work advances the work of Redefining Progress, which produced the first GPI in the United States in 1995. Though GPI Atlantic's methods differ somewhat, particularly in not aggregating index components for a single bottom line, it shares with the original GPI the attempt to build a more comprehensive and accurate measure of well-being than can be provided by market statistics alone.

### **Dr Ron Colman**

Dr Colman is founder and Executive Director of GPI Atlantic, a non-profit research group. He previously taught for 20 years at the university level and was a researcher and speech-writer at the United Nations. Dr Colman has researched and written many reports on indicators of population health, community wellbeing, natural resource health, and environmental quality for the Genuine Progress Index, advises governments and communities on indicator work, and regularly speaks on the subject to government, university and community groups. Aside from his work in Canada, Dr Colman recently advised the New Zealand government on development of quality of life indicators and has lectured on population health indicators in the USA. In cooperation with three Nova Scotia communities, Dr Colman and GPI Atlantic are also developing measures of wellbeing and sustainable development at the community level.

Dr Colman sat on the sustainable development indicators steering committee of the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy in Canada, and is editor of a national magazine Reality Check: The Canadian Review of Well-being.