

For Immediate Release

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THE ENVIRONMENT IS A FAMILY CONCERN

A new report released today by The Vanier Institute of the Family - *Families and environment: Understanding, cultivating and celebrating their links* - examines what today's environmental problems mean for Canada's families - the impacts of environment on family life, and the impact of family life on the environment. Barbara Vogt was commissioned to write the 20 page report, which is described as "a first step in exploring the relationship between families and the environment".

Highlights include:

- Urban sprawl and suburbs have widened the distances between home, work and community services. For a great many families, the result is a higher daily dependence on the automobile, entailing losses of time and money, generating pollution, and cutting down on physical exercise.
- Children's vulnerability – From the earliest stages of development to the end of their growing years, children are most vulnerable to environmental pollutions.

Author Barbara Vogt writes that, "Families are faced with a huge challenge: understanding environmental problems and knowing what to do about them".

Executive Director of The Vanier Institute, Clarence Lochhead states that "a family lens" on the environmental issues could help with the design of "family-friendly environmental policies that make sense for the environment and for families".

- Families and environment: Understanding, cultivating and celebrating their links, Barbara Vogt

Also Released Today:

- An interview with Margrit Eichler and David Chernushenko
 - Spring 2008 issue of *Transition* magazine, *Families and the Environment*
- Family Friendly Environmental Policies (Fascinating Families)

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