Online Appendix – Media Summaries

Instructions to Research Assistant:

Instructions for Media Summaries, Saskatchewan and Ontario

I'd like you to generate raw material narrative summaries of a few policy areas/issues in Saskatchewan and Ontario from about 1995-2004, with the emphasis toward the end of the period. Fortunately, we're dealing with no changes of government over that period, except at the very end in Ontario between the prov (Oct) and federal election (June). In my research on federalism and responsibility I want to include perhaps a two-paragraph summary of what these issues would have looked like to a well-informed voter in the two provinces (separately). I'm most interested in the general feeling about what each level of govt had or hadn't done with respect to the issue and connections between action or inaction and the consequences (how the public would be affected). I'm also interested in an impressionistic sense of the state of federal-provincial relations on each issue in each province over that period. And, finally, how distinctive the federal or provincial policy had been.

The issues are

Ontario: economy; health care; changes to health care; taxes (deliberately vague about provincial versus federal, so cover both); electricity/power/Ontario Hydro; provincial debt/deficit; social services (educ & welfare).

Saskatchewan: economy; health care; farm/rural “crisis“; social services (education & welfare)

Now, I don’t want you to write a full article on each of these. Instead, produce bullet points describing major developments over each half-year period. You should do this almost exclusively by reading articles from online news sources from whatever databases the library subscribes to. The key is major developments. And the standard is what a well-informed voter, not policy analyst, would know about these policy domains.

Full summaries to be provided in online appendix. Example provided here:

Saskatchewan

**Economy**

Jan- June 1996

- 1995, province only had 0.8% economic growth, USask economist suggests this means that the economy isn’t doing so well, even when the gov says that it has “the pedal to the metal”

- falling interest rates will benefit economy

- housing market doing really well in Saskatoon

- concerns that businesses are relocating to Alberta

- province’s credit rating gets a boost from B+++ to A- , this is first major upgrade in 20 years

July- Dec 1996

- provincial economy expected to expand by 2.25% in following year, slightly less than current year’s growth of 3%—resource sector to do well, but agri output to decrease slightly

- suggesting that Sask will outperform national average + every other prov this year except for Alberta in terms of economic growth, according to TD Bank

- Martin considering federal tax cuts—selective tax cuts, to make Canadians more productive

- Canadian economy doing well because of low interest rates

- national unemployment goes up, but belief that it will do better next year

- real estate market continues to do well

- strong wheat prices result in a growth in Sask economy of 1.75 % this year, and 2.75% next year

Ontario

**Healthcare/changes to healthcare**

Jan – June 1995

- Feb, Martin announces separate transfer payments (CHST), states that it will be cut by $7 billion over first two years

- ON Tories to introduce a new health card, replacing the old ones

- intro’d by prov NDP

- Alberta proposes private health care, Federal Gov opposes it

- a lot of discussion as to whether or not health care will die under current efforts of fiscal restrait (both fed and prov), discussion as to how best to cut costs

July- Dec 1995

- Sept: health ministers meet in Victoria to discuss health care, Fed Health Minister claims will punish provinces that violate Canada Health Act’s 5 principles

- prov Tories warn that major cuts are coming for hospitals

- public hearings at end of the year in ON, re: prov gov’s proposed “omnibus bill,” plans to make massive cuts in different areas of health care: hospital closings, increased co- pay for drugs, redefine “medical necessity” and what’s covered, etc.

Jan- June 1996

- Conservatives’ omnibus bill is passed in Jan

- ON prov gov introduces new “fair share” health care levy. Tax tied to income, offsets the income tax cuts they introduced earlier, and moves the tax away from employers’ health tax in small business—basically just a tax-shifting program, attempt to recoup some of the cuts they made elsewhere

- Tories announce investment of $170 million into homecare program, at the same time as it cuts funding for old age homes/long term care

July- Dec 1996

- David Dingwall (fed health minister) suggests that annual review of health care system is a good idea – annual report card would monitor threats to medicare (i.e. privatization)

Jan- June 1997

- concerns about downloading cost of health to municipalities, after Harris announces that municipalities will share long- term health costs evenly with the province…local govs to finance public health while prov sets policy. Another exchange program of sorts, after prov gov removed some of the responsibility for education away from local level

- hospital closings begin

- Liberal party claims it will freeze cuts (election promises)