

The 2004 Doug Purvis Memorial Prize was awarded to Erwin Diewert (University of British Columbia) for his contributions to *Consumer Price Index Manual: Theory and Practice* (Geneva: ILO, 2004) and to *Producer Price Index Manual: Theory and Practice* (Washington: IMF, 2004).<sup>1</sup> Erwin had planned on and bought an air ticket to attend, but could not due to illness. Alice Nakamura received the \$10,000 prize on behalf of Prof. Diewert at the Purvis Lunch held May 28, 2005 as part of the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the CEA held at McMaster University. Erwin and Virginia Diewert have donated the prize money to the University of British Columbia's "W. Erwin Diewert Award Fund", a scholastic fund that Erwin's mother, Linda Diewert, asked to have created in the name of her son.<sup>2</sup>

The new international CPI and PPI Manuals were sponsored and published jointly by a consortium of international agencies: the International Labour Office (ILO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the World Bank. These manuals explain the economic and statistical theory underlying price indexes and describe the practical methods of the index number construction followed by leading statistical offices throughout the world, including Statistics Canada. While many experts from a large number of national and international statistical offices collaborated on the chapters on index number practice, the international agencies entrusted all the chapters on index number methods to Erwin Diewert in recognition of his international reputation and outstanding contributions to the subject over the last few decades. Divisions of Statistics Canada and of the Government of Canada are already using the Diewert chapters of the new CPI and PPI Manuals to address the measurement of services prices and for dealing with new goods and quality change. Also, portions of the Manual chapters are a direct response to Industry Canada concerns about how the growth of the service economy is affecting Canada's measures of productivity growth.

The Doug Purvis Prize is awarded annually to the authors of a highly significant, written contribution to Canadian economic policy. The award was established in 1994 in honour and memory of noted Canadian economist Doug Purvis. The competition is open to all forms of print media in which material relevant to Canadian economic policy appears, including books, single articles in scholarly journals, government studies including monographs done for royal commissions, think tank reports and a series of articles in newspapers or magazines. The Doug Purvis Memorial Prize selection committee is made up of five Canadian economists from academia, government and the private sector. This year's committee was comprised of Ralph Winter, Jack Mintz, Joseph Macaluso, John Hoicka and Herb Emery. For more information on the Purvis Prize, you can visit the Doug Purvis Foundation's web site, <http://www.dougpurvis.org>.

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<sup>1</sup> The CPI Manual is available online at [www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/stat/guides/cpi/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/stat/guides/cpi/index.htm), and the PPI Manual is at [www.imf.org/external/np/sta/tegppi/index.htm](http://www.imf.org/external/np/sta/tegppi/index.htm). These are living documents that will continue to be available online in their most recent forms.

<sup>2</sup> Linda Diewert felt that the fine education Erwin got at the University of British Columbia was what opened the doors for him to a career he loves as a professor in the Department of Economics at the University of British Columbia, and she remembered working hard to help him pay for the textbooks and other things he needed for his studies. Linda also remembered how much it helped Erwin when, as an undergraduate at UBC who had been bagging peas and working in a sawmill to make ends meet, he was awarded a modest prize that he could use to purchase textbooks.