

policy Both projects would allow for "lessons learned" to be shared from past and ongoing international negotiations with future Aboriginal delegates, while also providing a forum for young Aboriginal leaders to learn best practices from their Elders. The Secretariat would act as an "incubation centre for enhancing Aboriginal leadership" especially among young people seeking to engage in foreign affairs and international development.

#### Aboriginal Secretariat

Projecting the constitutionally protected values and heritages of Aboriginal peoples require that they voice be engaged in all aspects of foreign policy-making on a regular basis. The federal government, in partnership with Aboriginal leaders and stakeholders of constitutional weight, should develop an Aboriginal Secretariat to help consolidate and coordinate official international activities undertaken by members of Aboriginal peoples of Canada. A key focus would be on incubating leadership and emphasizing capacity and continuity. Under the umbrella of the Secretariat, a number of "pockets" or functional areas of specialization are envisaged, allowing for increased expertise in key areas and advanced continuity on foreign policy issues. It is recommended the Secretariat be placed under the AIT and the authority and auspices of the Governor General, ensuring Aboriginal institutions