RECOMMENDATIONS (Ideas - Options)
(Group 2)

Upon identifying the following themes, four subgroups applied themselves to formulating policy recommendations for Canada.

I- Access to information

- Since Internet service providers (ISPs) have no authority or legal expertise to interpret the law or decide what should or should not appear on the Internet, they should not be held responsible for what is done by individuals or groups using their services.

- To reaffirm the integrity of Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Canadian government must meet its international commitment to keep the Internet free of any exceptional measures specific to it. The Internet is only a communication tool; it must therefore remain unregulated, but also free of hate messages. This must be accomplished through existing legislation not specific to the Internet.

- It is essential to ensure that the confidentiality of information, the right to privacy and freedom of expression are respected, while guaranteeing that Internet use is not monitored in any way.

- Copyright can become a restriction on the right to information and must be relaxed so it can be adapted to the specificity of the technology, thereby ensuring free access to information by the user.

II - Interactivity of information

- The government must support civil society members involved in promoting human rights through the Internet by funding and encouraging innovative and creative projects.

- The government and NGOs must recognize the necessity of using a variety of languages and formats to better meet users' needs.

- Since technology is not a substitute for humans, we should not only supply technological equipment, but also favour investment in the hiring and training of human resources.

- The government and NGOs must establish and actively participate in mechanisms that recognize that information must travel in both directions. This can be accomplished by creating new forums where information can be exchanged.