

Canadians Get Involved in Foreign Policy Development

In recent months, the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development (CCFPD) held consultations on various subjects across the country. Following are the results of these discussions, roundtables and other activities, starting with youth.

Youth perspectives on the Francophonie Summit

Last spring, in collaboration with DFAIT's Francophonie Affairs Division, CCFPD organized a series of consultations with young people to assist the government in preparations for the Francophonie Summit by offering a youth perspective.

The Fédération de la jeunesse canadienne-française co-ordinated six initial meetings across Canada in Edmonton, Alberta; St. Boniface, Manitoba; Sudbury, Ontario; Shawinigan, Quebec; Bouctouche, New Brunswick; and Chéticamp, Nova Scotia. More than 300 young Canadians discussed such themes as education, training and socio-economic integration; Francophone co-operation; culture and new media; and human rights, participation and citizenship.

Five representatives from each of the meetings were selected to come to Ottawa to share their ideas with each other and present their findings to government officials. Their ideas and suggestions are being taken under consideration at the Moncton summit of La Francophonie. Among the recommendations:

- The government should foster student exchanges and create a job information network to help youths find employment and gain international experience in other Francophone countries.
- Existing and new development assistance programs should add a youth component to their strategies.
- The government should promote French on the Internet as well as in cultural, scientific and sports events, etc.
- Canada should continue to play a leadership role in promoting human rights through La Francophonie and other international organizations, with particular focus on women, child labour and child soldiers.



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Renée Massicotte from St. Boniface was one of 300 youths who came to Ottawa to meet with Diane Marleau, then Minister responsible for La Francophonie. She said, "I consider myself very lucky to be here and to have had the opportunity to speak on behalf of the young Francophones of Manitoba and Canada. A big big thanks to the organizers!"

Academic Roundtable

I would like to say how fruitful the discussions were. It was extremely useful to be able to hear about the various problems experienced across the country and to realize how many of them were widely shared. I would strongly recommend that the Centre maintain this type of gathering as an annual event.

—Professor Alex McLeod, Université du Québec à Montréal

Leading international relations academics are concerned about the future of university teaching in Canada. On May 7, CCFPD hosted the first annual Academic Roundtable, on the subject of links between the university community and foreign policy needs. To strengthen foreign policy teaching at Francophone universities, the Roundtable recommended the translation from English to French of at least one Canadian foreign policy text or book. Discussions also focussed on opportunities for young scholars.

Graduate Student Seminar

In the same week as the Academic Roundtable, 14 graduate students met to present their work to DFAIT policy makers for comment and advice. This was the first annual Graduate Student Seminar. Papers were read on a wide range of topics, including trade, culture, gender, peacekeeping and human security. ●

For information on next year's Graduate Student Seminar, visit the CCFPD Web site (www.cfp-pec.gc.ca). For information on other activities, visit the Web site or contact the Centre by telephone at (613) 944-4150, by fax at (613) 944-0687 or by letter at the following address: Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development, 125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2.