GROUP 1
HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

The participants in the workshop on human rights education and the Internet first made a list of the various issues surrounding this subject. This involved defining the target audience, identifying the objectives to be reached when developing strategies to promote human rights on the Internet, evaluating the possibility of monitoring information on the Internet, and implementing strategies to evaluate the content of the messages and information being circulated on the Internet.

The issue of cultural and ethnic communities within Canada having access to educational programs, and the impact on the general public of establishing such educational programs, was mentioned during the workshop but not discussed in depth.

The participants thus underlined the importance, first, of identifying the target audience, that is, whether programs and strategies for human rights education tend to target children, parents, educators, teachers, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) or governments in general.

The second step consists in defining the reasons why the government would want to establish programs to promote human rights: would it be to develop awareness of this issue, to mobilize an apathetic public with a view to specific action, to pass on knowledge and information or to educate?

The debates that took place during this workshop on the issue of human rights education on the Internet led to the development of several recommendations for the Canadian government in its role as leader in promoting human rights on the Internet.