

# ATLANTIC CANADA CONSULTATION FOR THE SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

## FINAL REPORT

### Context of the Consultation

In December, 1994 the first Summit of the Americas composed of representatives of all OAS Member States was held in Miami. Under the Miami Summit *Plan of Action* Canada, together with Brazil, was tasked to coordinate the "Basket" in Human Rights and Democracy.

FOCAL-Atlantic organized one of the five regional consultation workshops to discuss Atlantic Canada's position on the Summit's social and economic agenda. The event focused on democracy, human rights and economic integration.

The meeting took place on Tuesday, October 21, 1997 at the University of New Brunswick (Fredericton campus). Twenty eight people attended the workshop which started at 9:00 am and ended at 4 pm.

From the outset it was generally agreed that all governments in the Americas should give stronger support to human resources development. It was felt that, in recent years, governments throughout the region had been slashing budgets dedicated to social programs in a very indiscriminatory fashion with a complete disregard for the valuable contribution of many of these programs.

### Challenges Facing Democracy and Human Rights

In the area of social development in the Americas, participants emphatically endorse the following:

- the social agenda should be an imperative and social development needs to be considered as important as economic development;
- each country in the Americas is as diverse, complex and sophisticated as our own. Therefore, North American corporate culture needs to understand and appreciate the cultural difference of the South;