

- Through CIDA programs, Canada should continue to assist with projects to provide potable water and basic sanitation services.
- Increased support should be given to Canadian programs that advance the living standards, education, economic endeavour and political participation of indigenous communities throughout the Americas. The work of Canadian NGOs in these areas should be supported.
- In its proposal for the Summit, the Canadian government should recognize the ancestral rights of First Nations and their right to self-government. In doing so, it should be guided by the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Royal Commission on First Nations (Erasmus-Dussault).
- The issue of racism as distinct from discrimination should be addressed during the Summit.
- Canada should develop programs to advance women's education and health in Latin America. The work of Canadian NGOs in these areas should be supported.
- On sustainable development, an Environment Charter should be adopted during the Santiago Summit. The basis of the charter should be the conclusions of the Rio Summit to which Canada has already signed on.

## FINAL WORD

This report was submitted to the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Affairs on December 4th 1997. A copy was sent to each of the approximately 140 civil society representatives across Canada who participated in the regional consultations. The report is posted on the FOCAL website mentioned in the introduction. FOCAL will undertake efforts to promote and disseminate the results of the consultations and ask for a government response before the Summit. It will attempt to organize a meeting of representatives of the regional forums with key ministers of the Canadian government in the early months of 1998.

The organizations and individuals that met in Toronto expect to hear back from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade regarding the use and impact of, and follow-up to, their recommendations. They expect to be informed by the government about what it will do to encourage ongoing civil society participation in the process leading to, and following up, the Summit as well as the forthcoming FTAA negotiations.