

consultations, while acknowledging the serious challenges Canada faces working with diverse Aboriginal nations and political organizations. The mutual benefits of real partnership in the APEC context justify a much larger investment of effort--on both sides--than has been customary in the past.

1. First and foremost, there is a critical need to inform more Aboriginal people about APEC. Aboriginal people are still trying to understand NAFTA, and have minimal access to analyses of the next stage of regional integration represented by APEC. A simple factsheet-style pamphlet accompanied by a 20-minute video would be a useful first step, and could be prepared well in advance of the Vancouver summit, by Aboriginal people, with assistance from the NFB, CIDA, and/or DFAIT. A second roundtable at Vancouver--coordinated by the Institute of Indigenous Government and UBCIC --would also enhance Aboriginal awareness and involvement, and might usefully be given financial support by DFAIT.

2. DFAIT should recognize that Aboriginal people in Canada express themselves, and exercise their creativity through scientific and academic institutions, professional and business associations, and grassroots organizations as well as elected bodies. Inclusivity, taking full advantage of this diversity, is the key to an effective and accountable collaborative process.

This indicates an advisory body that is open-ended, flexible--and enjoys adequate financial support to maintain a small secretariat for research, logistics, education and exchanges of information with other sectors such as business.

3. Aboriginal peoples will expect to be included in Canada's official delegations to relevant APEC meetings at all levels, both in technical and political capacities. A small but growing number of countries, including the Nordic Group, Colombia and Bolivia, have begun to include indigenous experts and national leaders in their delegations to intergovernmental meetings of special concern. This practice could only serve to enhance Canadian credibility and help build trust between Ottawa and Aboriginal peoples. An inclusive, robust advisory process would facilitate the selection of Aboriginal attaches.

4. Aboriginal peoples in Canada can strengthen the quality and weight of their contributions to APEC by coordinating closely with indigenous peoples in other APEC countries, many of whom as yet possess little information on the APEC process, while others have useful access and influence with their governments. There is an existing indigenous telephone information network, housed at the University of Lethbridge, which already reaches organizations in APEC countries, and at modest expense could arrange telephone consultations across the region on an ongoing basis. DFAIT could consider providing operating funds for this purpose.

The Roundtable made 26 further recommendations for the Canadian government and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, on APEC policies.