

DFAIT. The themes raised by the session followed upon focus groups at different conferences and meetings, and an initial report was prepared for distribution and comment to a wide network of Indigenous peoples involved with foreign policy formation and implementation.

The broad objectives of this session were essentially three. First, as mentioned above, it was seen as a forum to share experiences, or compare notes, regarding Aboriginal participation in the creation and implementation of Canadian foreign policy. Second, participants suggested new and refined processes for promoting and sustaining the involvement of Aboriginal peoples, and their sensibilities, in foreign policy development for Canada. The continuous quest to broaden and expand these inclusive processes is meant to help advance new understandings of Aboriginal issues in this country's foreign policy. A third objective of the roundtable—especially of this report—was to provide additional information to, and promote further education of, interested members of the Canadian public, and especially members of Aboriginal peoples of Canada, regarding Aboriginal participation in Canadian foreign policy. This outreach and educational objective was specifically intended to help inform young members of Aboriginal peoples of Canada, its the future leader, about the evolution of processes which, with refinement, will ideally allow their voices and aspirations to be heard in Canada and around the world.

Prior to proceeding, invitations and attendance warranted comment. As usual, it was difficult to cordinate attendance. Although family emergencies and other unexpected obligations kept some potential participants from attending this roundtable, the multiple forums nonetheless allowed participants to share insights and exchange views on relevant subjects. A few invitees, who were unable to attend, not only offered their regrets but also forwarded their opinions on some of the substantive subjects of the session. The rapporteurs have attempted to include the insights and recommendations that were provided.

The rapporteurs for this session were: Lawrence Paskemin, an Aboriginal student in Commerce at the University of Saskatchewan who also participated in the Model Organization of American States, 2001,