

- "Implementing International Human Rights Commitments: The Difficulties of Divided Jurisdiction," by David Schneiderman.

The consultation was attended by invitation only. Participants were selected on the basis of their expertise in the field of human rights, and with a view to bringing together as inclusive and representative a group as possible. Among the constituencies represented were: aboriginal peoples, refugees, women, disabled people, religious communities, the poor and the homeless, prisoners, children, workers, visible minorities. Experts on development and trade issues were also present. A total of 42 participants, all noted activists and academics, attended the Consultation. The complete list of participants is annexed.

Participants had been provided with reading materials prior to the consultation: the 3 above discussion papers, 1 newspaper article by Jeffery Wilson on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and 2 documents from the United Nations: the *Concluding observations of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: Canada* (E/C.12/1/Add.31, 10 Dec. 1998) and the *Concluding observations of the Human Rights Committee: Canada* (CCPR/C/79/Add.105, 7 April 1999).

DAY 1: Friday November 26, 1999, 9:30am – 9pm.

The methodology was to alternate plenary sessions and small working group sessions. The first morning was spent in plenary. The day started with opening remarks by the Hon. Lois M. Wilson, Senator. Tom Clark of the Inter-Church Committee for Refugees and a member of the Ad Hoc Organizing Committee for the Consultation followed, reviewing objectives and methodology. After self-introductions by all in attendance, there were panel presentations on the following topics:

1. Civil society and the review of the *Canadian Human Rights Act*
2. Civil society participation in the reporting and monitoring process
3. Ratification and implementation of international human rights instruments and the issue of federal-provincial jurisdictions.

In each case, the author of the relevant discussion paper presented a summary of the main points of the paper. This was followed by comments from a pre-assigned discussant, and clarification questions from the group.

For the afternoon sessions, participants chose to participate in one of three working groups, to discuss the above three topics. Each of the three working group included the author of the discussion paper, the discussant, one facilitator and one rapporteur. Each group was asked to make action recommendations.

In the evening, a panel on "the Role of Parliamentarians in Implementing Human Rights Domestically" was chaired by Senator Wilson. The other participants on the panel were Hon. Senator Raynell Andreychuk, Raymonde Folco, M.P., Dr. Carolyn Bennett, M.P., and Tom Clark, Co-ordinator, Inter-Church Committee for Refugees. Two