

after the roundtable, invested the discussion with a unique dynamic and vitality.

The Native Law Centre offered a relaxed and familiar forum for participants. With its traditional receptiveness to open dialogue to share diagnoses of the existing situation and formulate new policy recommendations for promoting and sustaining increased involvement of Aboriginal peoples in Canadian foreign policy.

The roundtable and focus groups was intended to help inform Aboriginal peoples, especially the awaking Aboriginal youth as well as other Canadians about ongoing, sustainable processes and partnerships that encourage Aboriginal voices to be heard in Canada and around the world.

While the roundtable did not include officials from the Centre for Foreign Policy Development, nor from the DFAIT, it represented an initial session of reflection and candid dialogue to be followed after the report by a second session in Ottawa, including key officials from DFAIT and other government units and departments.

The roundtable addressed a number of issues: from the types of activities Aboriginal Canadians undertake as members of Canadian delegations through to means that might be employed to encourage young leaders from Aboriginal peoples of Canada to engage in international initiatives.

Although there were a number of recommendations that emerged from this session, most evolved from a core consensus regarding the constitutional nature of Aboriginal peoples voice in policy formation. This informed the importance of Canada establishing both an Aboriginal Secretariat to help co-ordinate, encourage, and sustain Aboriginal participation in Canadian foreign policy and a certificate program for effective training new Aboriginal appointments or participants in foreign

Especially important were the subsequent focus groups on these issues among Indigenous peoples at the Impact of NAFTA on Aboriginal Business in North America on Monday night (May 27 - 29, 2001) in Saskatoon and the discussion with the Canadian Embassy in Washington DC (June *, 2001).