

postcards and letters to the Finance Minister each year before the budget, opposing further cuts to ODA. Some have also presented briefs on the same theme to parliamentary committees. Organizations as diverse as OXFAM-Canada, World Vision Canada, the Inter Church Committee on Africa, and the Manitoba Council for International Co-operation all reported action of this kind.

There is a wide range of formal and informal advocacy for improvements to Canada's ODA program to make it more effective in eradicating poverty, promoting human rights, improving food security programs, and transferring resources from military expenditure to social development. Much of this has been reported in other sections. Here are a few other areas of work not mentioned elsewhere.

The CCIC itself has a policy unit that gives priority to research and analysis of Canada's aid program and to relations between NGOs and government in the field of international co-operation.

The Steelworkers Humanity Fund is conducting a research study on Labour Rights and Development Assistance. It studies aid flows as they affect labour rights, including both ODA and credit provided by the Export Development Corporation. This study has spun off work on child labour as a sub-set of this general interest.

CARE Canada participates in a joint research program on "NGOs in Complex Emergencies" on the role of NGOs in preventing complex emergencies and alleviating their effects. This receives support from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the Department of National Defence, and IDRC, among others.

The Aga Khan Foundation (AKFC) has established a Development Policy and Research Department to conduct research on public policy issues and to use this as a basis for promoting policy dialogue with government, particularly with CIDA on aid policies. The current program is focused on 3 areas: creating an enabling environment for NGOs, improving the institutional performance of NGOs, and cross-cutting themes related to the first two, particularly gender and the environment. In each case, the focus is primarily on southern NGOs, but there is some consideration of the capacity and enabling environment for NGOs in Canada as well. AKFC has completed work on two publications in these areas to date: Speaking Out, described above in the section on gender equity, and Strategies of Public Engagement: Shaping a Canadian Agenda for International Co-operation, a book forthcoming in September 1997, based on a Round Table on the roles and capacities of NGOs. On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of independence in