Dorreen Spance
Executive Director
Institute

Muriel Stanley
President, Aboriginal Human Rights Committee

Mark Sykes
Nova Corporation

Tyra Tanchen
Director, Corporate Communications

Lawrence Thomas
Canadian Airlines

Dear Friends,

Foreign Affairs Minister, Lloyd Axworthy, and the government of Canada are committed to engaging Canadians in the development of foreign policy. Our mandate at the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development is to help identify policy development needs and opportunities and to engage Canadians meaning, first and foremost, for the next two years, Canada will host a number of Hemisphere meetings, including the next Summit of the Americas.

With these things in mind, it is a pleasure to invite you to an evening conversation about Hemisphere issues and Canadian foreign policy. Our conversation will be an opportunity to begin generating a broad discussion for and by Canadians over the next two years. This will be an opportunity to signal interests and issues that you think deserve further public discussion and policy development attention.

As you may know, human security is an important new framework for Canadian foreign policy. Therefore, it is of particular interest to look at the Hemisphere from human security point of view, including issues like illegal drugs, health, disaster response, the rights and welfare of children, women, indigenous peoples, good governance, culture, education and others.

Our Calgary meeting, which takes place at the Calgary Centre for Performing Arts, 205 – 8th Avenue, S.E. Calgary, on Wednesday, March 17, 1999, will also be an opportunity to make connections and learn about some perspectives and developments in Hemisphere affairs. We have invited one government and five non-government people to make short presentations (two panels) to help set the scene and inform our conversation. Following these presentations we will all have an opportunity to think together in three working groups. Our goal is to help shape a Canadian discussion and reflect upon where Canadians can best contribute to Hemisphere needs and issues.

We hope that this meeting will launch further discussions and contribute to developing a genuine dialogue between interested Canadians and foreign policy makers involved in the region.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Calgary. If you have any questions, please contact Marlees Geisler at (613) 992-7934 (voice mail: Penny Earnings).

Sincerely,

Steve Lee
National Director