

Social capital must encourage inclusion, by bringing diversity into the streets and other public spaces and creating positive linkages, otherwise there is a real risk that it will breed exclusion and intensify dividing lines. According to Robert Putnam, inclusive social capital is characterized by relationships that are *outward looking* and that *include people of diverse social groups*<sup>8</sup>.

Building inclusive social capital and communities is affected at three levels and therefore requires a multi-pronged approach to development. At the individual level lies the potential to increase trusting relationships and cooperation, creating opportunities for regular community meetings.

At the community level there exists the possibility for wider action and collaboration as well as the development of a community's identity and therefore the desire to maintain and strengthen community links and supports. Policy implications at this level include increasing visibility of marginalized groups through 'smart architecture' – architecture that is accessible to all members. Investments in playgrounds, sidewalks and other public spaces should be designed through an inclusive lens from the outset to ensure that it can benefit community members who are aged, who have a disability as well as others. This too contributes to more diverse and inclusive public spaces, leading to greater visibility of people who are often hidden.

Finally, building inclusive social capital at the national level means investing in processes that encourage participation of marginalized groups and other citizens. The OECD has identified inclusive governance as a key in both developing a 'culture of prevention' and in beginning to reconstruct societies after conflict has occurred (also see *Good Governance* below)<sup>9</sup>.

*"Canada prides itself on having an inclusive society - one that encourages civic engagement and public participation. Just as a strong economy allows us to pursue our social values, an inclusive society is a prerequisite to a strong economy... there are still many challenges we must face - including addressing poverty and removing the barriers to full participation in society for those at risk of being left behind. This is particularly important for our children."*

- The Honourable Alfonso Gagliano to the Special Session of the General Assembly for an Overall Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the Outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (HABITAT II), New York (June 7, 2001)  
<http://www.un.org/ga/habitat/statements/docs/canadaE.html>

<sup>8</sup> Robert Putnam (2000) *Bowling Alone: The collapse and revival of American community*, New York: Simon and Schuster

<sup>9</sup> OECD (2001). *The DAC Guidelines: Helping Prevent Violent Conflict*. <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/15/54/1886146.pdf>