

**Toward the Santiago Summit: A National Consultation
Workshop for Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba
Edmonton, Alberta, Friday, October 17, 1997.**

Introduction:

The Edmonton Consultation convened at 9:15 on October 17, 1997, with approximately thirty-five delegates representing the private sector; the provincial governments of Alberta and Saskatchewan; a broad selection of NGOs, youth delegates with Latin American experience from universities and colleges, academics representing the Universities of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Regina, Alberta, Calgary, and Lethbridge; labour delegates representing the Alberta Federation of Labour and the Canadian Labour Congress; and approximately ten to fifteen student and faculty observers mostly from Alberta universities. Profesora Milena Gómez de Gavia of the Universidad Externado de Bogota, a distinguished visitor at the University of Calgary, observed this distinctive Canadian process of formulating civil society recommendations to the federal government for the Santiago Summit. Although there were minor transportation difficulties due to distance and the limitations of airline connections from Winnipeg and Saskatoon, most delegates participated fully throughout the day which ended approximately at 16:30. The Minister of State for Latin America, the Caribbean, and Africa, Mr. David Kilgour, joined the meeting during the late afternoon as an observer. The NGO delegates stayed on in Edmonton for a consultation meeting with Mr. Kilgour on Saturday morning, October 18th.

The Edmonton Consultation workshop opened with brief comments by Project Coordinator Odette Langlais, Mr. Michael Brock of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, and Ms. Margaret Ford, Regional Director, Central American Division, Americas Branch of CIDA. The chair, Dr.