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**North Korea Roundtable
January 22, 2001
Sidney, British Columbia**

On January 22, 2001, the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development organised a roundtable on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) at the University of Victoria Conference Centre in Sidney, British Columbia. The roundtable brought together security scholars, NGOs, Churches, academic specialists, students, business people, and government officials to share information and to contribute ideas to the development of Canada's foreign policy. Participants included Paul Evans (University of British Columbia), Tiger Lee (Canadian Food for the Hungry), Mary-Wynne Ashford (International Physicians for Prevention of Nuclear War), Michael Hwang (Korean Presbyterian Church), Charles Kim (Trans-Pac Fibre Inc.), David McLellan (Deputy Director, Korean and Oceania Division, DFAIT), and Bohdana Dutka (CIDA). Steven Lee (CCFPD) chaired the meeting. Marketa Geisler (CCFPD) was the Rapporteur.

This report is a summary of key themes discussed during the roundtable, they included:

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1. The Economic, Social, and Political Conditions in the DPRK
 2. The Role of Foreign NGOs: from Aid to Development?
 3. Canada - DPRK Relations: Engagement without Illusion
 - 3.1. Diplomatic Relations
 - 3.2. Track II Initiatives
 - 3.3. Future Business Relationships
 4. Concluding Remarks

The participants were broadly supportive of the recommendations made by the *Canadian Research Delegation to the DPRK*, led by Senator Lois Wilson, September 16 - 23, 2000 (outlined in a Box below). Some of these recommendations were emphasised and other ideas added:

- Canadian Track II initiatives should be diversified and involve a wide-range of sectors including health, forestry, agriculture, Parliament, and businesses.
- Canada should build on its existing Track II relationships in the future. The importance of Track II should not be diminished as diplomats begin their work.
- There is a growing need for bottom-up leadership and resources to maintain (and expand) Canadian Track II initiatives in the DPRK.
- It is better to be engaged, formally and informally, than leave the DPRK isolated. Doing nothing to relieve human suffering is not an option, especially for the humanitarian