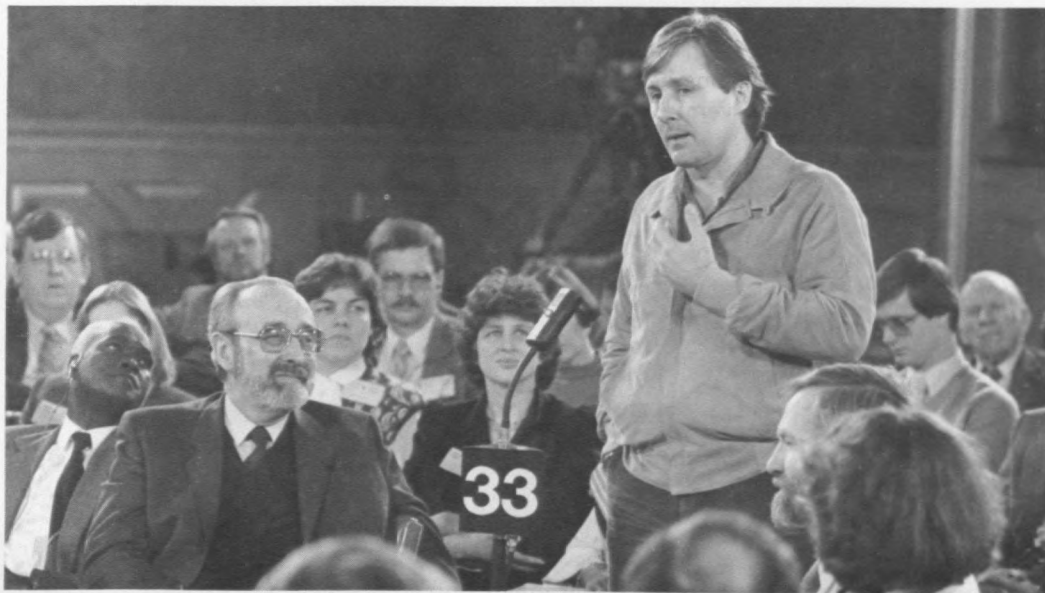


A Canadian Tradition

At least two earlier approaches influenced the design and development of Forum Africa. First, some 500 organizations involved in development education activities have been educating Canadians about the need for global development for almost 20 years. Second, consultation, discussion and action at the community level have long been a part of Canadian life through programs and activities such as Farm Radio Forum, Citizens' Forum and the People's Food Commission. In keeping with the spirit of these forerunners, Forum Africa was community-based, and made use of television and teleconferencing technology to link people in different and sometimes isolated communities.

From start to finish, the Forum process took almost seven months. Forum Africa was launched in September, community discussions began in British Columbia and the Yukon in October 1985, moved to the Atlantic provinces in November, the Prairies in December, the Northwest Territories, Ontario and Quebec in January and February, culminating in a National Forum held in Ottawa in mid-February. In all, more than 50 Canadian communities became involved in discussions about Canada's future policy towards Africa. These meetings attracted not only Canadians previously involved in Africa, but a new group of Canadians concerned with the famine emergency.

Forum Africa attempted to mobilize and channel the nation's humanitarian response to the crisis. While the initiative came from the Office of the Canadian Emergency



Rick Patten at the National Conference, Forum Africa