

atmospheric change. The peso crisis of the mid-1990s prompted the three Finance Ministers and heads of Central Banks to meet annually to discuss North American fiscal and monetary issues. Through the Tri-National Agricultural Accord, federal and provincial/state agriculture officials and industry stakeholders from all three countries meet regularly to improve understanding and strengthen collaboration among agriculture sectors. In 2001, the North American Energy Working Group (NAEWG) was established as a technical-level forum to foster communication and coordinate efforts in support of efficient North American energy markets. The Program for North American Mobility in Higher Education, administered jointly by the Governments of Canada, Mexico, and the US, promotes a student-centred North American dimension to education and training.

***Encouraging a better understanding of the North American space.*** In their first trilateral meeting in Quebec City in April 2001, the three North American leaders called for wide public discourse and for increased research on the future of North America. Through the Policy Research Initiative (PRI), launched by the Clerk of the Privy Council to increase the capacity of the Government to identify, address and understand longer-term policy issues facing the country, North American Linkages has been identified as a key priority area for study. The PRI brings together policy researchers from 30 Government departments, other governments and academia, and continues to actively investigate possible new sectors for trilateral cooperation, where it is in the Canadian interest, and to encourage the academic community to continue its research on, and participation in, the trilateral dynamic. Recent PRI projects include the 2002 forum *Integrating North America*, organized jointly with Canada's Public Policy Forum, the US-based Brookings Institution and Inter-American Dialogue, and several Mexican partners, including the Instituto Autonomo Tecnologico de Mexico (ITAM).

## **Recommendation 2**

*The Government should address Canada's diminished international policy capabilities in the next and future budgets, ensuring that sufficient resources are provided to allow the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade to provide leadership in developing and implementing a strong, credible, strategic framework for Canada's relations with its North American partners.*

***and***

## **Recommendation 33**

*The Government of Canada should increase both the number of DFAIT personnel resident in Washington and the number of Canadian diplomatic consulates in strategic locations elsewhere in the United States. It should also again increase the advocacy*

