

Results

Afternoon brainstorming, small group discussions and prioritizing through “dot-mocracy” (each participant has three dots to place in front of the suggestions s/he feels are most important) set options for Canadians to use to encourage fair trade. The following is a list of seventeen action suggestions they wish reported to the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development as the results of their discussion. These suggestions are passed on as policy options from a group of Cape Breton youth concerned about the effects of global trade practices on their lives and on the lives of their peers in other parts of the world.

Actions

Cape Breton Youth Conference Participants created an action list for Canadians to use to encourage fair trade. The top four suggestions were:

1. Educate the public concerning unethical labour practices in various companies.
2. Ask for fair-traded products when shopping.
3. Support Fair TradeMark labeling of products.
4. Peer Awareness. (Some excellent suggestions were made here such as “fair-trade fashion shows”).

Some of the other suggestions that were made were:

- tell investors what’s going on.
- pressure multi-nationals.
- start/support co-ops.
- encourage changes in advertising ethics.
- promote global minimum wage standard.
- list “good” companies on the www.
- ask governments to use fair traded products (eg. coffee in offices) to support ethical trading.
- encourage governments to be more self sufficient.
- boycott products and companies with unfair practices after thorough research.
- compile an international list of “unfair” companies.
- educate people about co-ops.
- buycotts!
- re-educate exploited workers for better jobs.