

The Chair of the WGIP has been engaged in drafting a set of principles for a declaration on indigenous rights. The Government of Canada has provided extensive comments on the draft. The Canadian government is particularly concerned that the draft principles contribute to the development of international standards relevant to indigenous peoples throughout the world.

Canada has and will continue to cooperate with the work of the WGIP's Special Rapporteur, who has been given the mandate to undertake a study on existing indigenous treaties, agreements, and other arrangements. The rapporteur has visited Canada, and met with some native representatives. The Canadian Government remains convinced that no significant indigenous population in the world should be ignored in the study, regardless of the degree of formality with which particular populations relate to national authorities. The Canadian Government looks forward to studying the Rapporteur's report once he has completed it.

#### THE VOLUNTARY FUND FOR INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS

As one of the largest contributors to the Voluntary Fund, the government of Canada is pleased to see increasing attendance at the WGIP by a wide variety of the world's indigenous populations. Many of these groups would be unlikely to attend the WGIP without the assistance of the Voluntary fund. The variety of experiences and concerns brought to the WGIP by these diverse groups helps it to broaden the scope of its relevance to all indigenous issues. In 1989 38 groups (as opposed to 27 in 1988) received assistance from the fund to attend the WGIP.

#### ILO CONVENTION 169 (Formerly 107)

In September, 1986, an international group of experts (including one from Canada) concluded that the ILO Convention 107 of 1957 on Aboriginal and Tribal Populations, which reflected the integrationist model for dealing with indigenous groups was no longer appropriate, and should be revised. The experts also concluded that aboriginal and tribal populations should enjoy greater control over their own economic, social and cultural development.