This reflects the fact that we are in the ideas business. The ideas business is distinct from public opinion (general views tested by survey), from media opinion and from special interest group lobbying. These all have an impact, from time to time, on public policy. Our work is designed to provide ideas for policy development and specific policy options for policy makers.

It is necessary to keep in mind that Ministers make government policy, including foreign policy. They make policy based on a variety of "inputs" and judgements. Working in partnership with officials and reporting directly to the Minister of Foreign Affairs the CCFPD provides citizens an opportunity to add ideas and policy options directly to both the Minister's menu of available ideas and policy choices and the work of professional advisors and officials. This is an add-on to the daily work of professional policy advisors and officials. These public ideas also contribute to the work of those government officials through this process.

Very rarely is it possible to trace a policy "outcome" to one single "input". As noted in "*Canada Among Nations 1998*", (please see "Beyond Consultations") " the impact of particular ideas, options and events will always be difficult to measure and assess."

However, as we noted in *Canadian Foreign Policy* (Volume 6, Number 2) the impact of citizen engagement can be found in the development of broad foreign policy themes like human security and soft power, which are reshaping Canada's foreign policy in a significant way. The impact can also be found in the development of policies on civil society participation around international Summits.

This is an exciting time in foreign policy. Changes are underway in concepts of state sovereignty, international crime and justice, and relations among States. Non-State actors like the Red Cross, and the campaign to ban landmines have changed the shape of some parts of international relations. Human rights and other activists have successfully harnessed new technologies. The international system of frozen Blocs of States has given way to a system of flexible coalitions built around common values and specific goals. There is a role for Canada to lead or mentor these groups of States and civil society actors. Children, child soldiers, small arms and other humanitarian issues have become important areas for policy development and international attention. Energized by Foreign Affairs Minister, Lloyd Axworthy, Canada is already a leader in much of this change (for example, landmines, the World Court, the emerging human security coalition H-11).

To keep up with changes, starting this year we will publish an annual Policy Development Report to highlight areas of significant development in Canadian foreign policy and to draw attention to CCFPD projects and activities that have contributed to those areas of policy development. The target date for the first Policy Development Report is October 1999. Working with Foreign Affairs officials and the Minister, this will be an important focus of our work in the future.

As part of changing technology and improving public access, the annual Report and Policy Development Report will be published on our web site, and will include an opportunity for comments and feedback.

Getting to our third birthday has been a team effort. The team includes the five staff who work tirelessly to meet mounting demands. "Thanks" to past team members who have contributed so much: Nasreen Bhimani and Mike O'Shaughnessy. The team also includes the Minister and his staff who provide the policy vision and accountability for the public engagement process. Thanks to the dozens of officials with whom we work and a special mention for Ferry de Kerckhove as Director General of Policy Planning who provided invaluable help through two challenging growing years.

Nigel Fisher (1997-98) and Natalie Mychalyszchyn (1998-99) were our visiting scholars. Nigel (UNICEF) undertook a wide range of projects around children and conflict, human security, Algeria and Canada-Norway relations. Natalie