

- During the review of Canada's Report on the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*, Hon. Hedy Fry committed to set up a Committee of Parliament to hear NGO concerns about future Reports by the government of Canada. She also said she would take back a recommendation that the Canadian Commission on Human Rights be able to examine and report on implementation of international treaty rights in Canada.
- United Nations officials, including Kofi Annan and Mary Robinson, have called for increased effort in the implementation of international human rights instruments.
- Canadian non-governmental organizations that use international human rights instruments for their work at the domestic and / or international level have expressed a need for better interaction, communication, and sharing of skills, resources and information.
- During the recent reviews of Canada's Reports on the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* and on the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*, several Canadian civil society groups traveled to the United Nations to make presentations to the UN Committees. Numerous others expressed interest but could not find funding to go to New York or Geneva.
- During public consultations on the World Trade Organisation's agreement, civil society groups have called for increased citizens' participation and government accountability.
- Canada reports to six Treaty Bodies; of those 6 reports, 4 are presently due (according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Treaty Bodies Database):
  - *Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment*: the 3<sup>rd</sup> Report was due 23/07/96;
  - *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination*: the 13<sup>th</sup> Report was due 13/11/95, and the 14<sup>th</sup> Report was due 13/11/97;
  - *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*: the 5<sup>th</sup> Report was due 09/01/99; and
  - *Convention on the Rights of the Child*: the 2<sup>nd</sup> Report was due 11/01/99.
 The 5<sup>th</sup> Report of Canada on the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* will be due 08/04/2000, and the 4<sup>th</sup> Report on the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* will be due on 30/06/2000.
- Ratification by Canada of a few important international human rights instruments is still pending, for instance ratification of the *International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families*, the *American Convention on Human Rights*, the *Protocol of San Salvador on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the Americas* and the *Rome Statute for an International Criminal Court*.