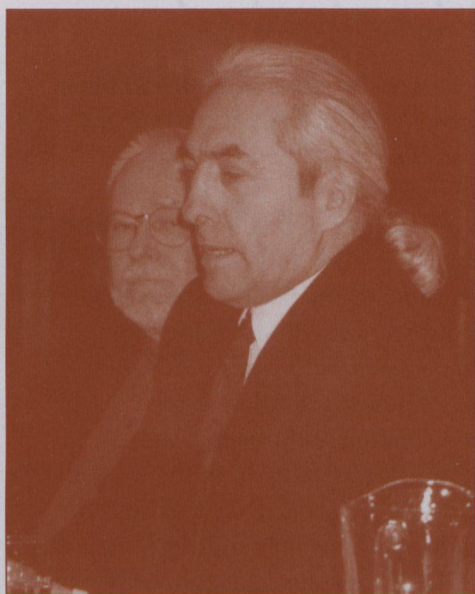




The recommendations provided in the course of public discussions reflect concerns about globalization and broadly fall into 8 thematic groups:

- Strengthening Democracy: Civil Society and Democratic Governance
- Social Structure and the Economy
- The Environment
- Education
- Technology
- Aid, Emergency Assistance and Disaster Preparedness
- Institutional and Procedural Challenges
- Security Issues: Small Arms



Alan Torbitt, Phil Fontaine

1. Strengthening Democracy: Civil Society and Good Governance

Despite the general euphoria about the triumph of democracy in Latin America there still remain some serious challenges including: the nature of democratic institutions, respect and observance of human rights, and more generally, backsliding by some governments to authoritarianism. From the Northern or Western perspective, part of the problem relates to defining democracy. Maxwell Cameron (*Halifax, July 9, 1999*) pointed out that there has been an apparent shift in perceiving the viability of a democracy: "The focus on procedures and institutions, elections in particular, has shifted to evaluating democratic behaviour and outcomes." The number of elections is no longer considered a sufficient indicator of a consolidated democracy.

It was assumed, in general, that *human rights* are at the core of democracy. Many agreed that Canadian foreign and trade policy should respect human rights, as enshrined in the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. The Canadian government was encouraged