

economic, social and cultural rights, and women's and children's rights. The committee met twice in 1997 and in November 1998 in Vancouver. A fourth meeting is being planned for later this year in Beijing.

- Another important element of the package of human rights initiatives is the Plurilateral Human Rights Symposium series. The first conference took place in March 1998 in British Columbia and marked the first time that China co-hosted a human rights event involving several countries. The symposium series provides an opportunity for participating countries, primarily from the Asia-Pacific region, to discuss a range of human rights issues. Discussions are currently under way on the Chinese hosting the next Symposium.
- As part of a package announced in 1997, Canada is helping review China's criminal procedure law, an adversarial trial system and a legal aid system. Canada is also helping implement China's obligations under conventions of the United Nations.
- Frequent high-level contact with Chinese leaders over the past year has enabled Canada to address its concerns and to share views on issues at the forefront of Chinese reform. These include structural problems in government institutions and the role of government in China. Canada is committed to frank discussions with Chinese authorities on human rights issues and continues to urge China to quickly ratify and implement international covenants on civil and political rights and on economic, social and cultural rights.
- Development assistance is an important way of advancing human rights, democracy and good governance. Many projects are under way to encourage China to reform its legal and judicial structures by increasing the transparency of legal processes and to adapt these structures to needs arising from economic reform. Specific projects include support for research on human rights, technical assistance on revising criminal law to better protect the rights of the accused, carrying out laws to protect women's rights, criminal law reform, training for judges and senior prosecutors, support for the development of a national legal aid system, and a program to support governance and civil society.

Peace and Security

- Canada and China maintain a dialogue on regional security, non-proliferation, arms control and peacekeeping. Since 1995, the two countries have held annual political security talks. Canada intends to