

How are we going to ensure democratic governance of these increasingly-diverse societies? Inside societies, exclusion must be addressed through policies of social cohesion that are working on behaviour and attitudes which include building self-confidence, better mutual understanding between groups, better laws to protect minority groups, and citizenship education programs that are supposed to make everybody a responsible citizen of this world. Education for peace, human rights, and democracy is vital to empowering people and preventing potential conflicts.

Regularly UNESCO requests member states to report on education for peace, human rights, and democracy. The Canadian report is due at the end of 2000. Its first draft signals the many ways in Canada we have begun to think about education in our rights and responsibilities. Interesting work is being done in some provinces where students, the community, and the school representatives come together to develop the rules by which they will run their class. Conflict resolution is democratically organized and is linked with courses on human rights and the pacific resolution of conflict.

Public parks and festivals are effective tools to create common experiences and memories.

In Canada we do not have ready solutions to all the complex issues raised by social diversity, but we are very conscious of the importance of our diversity and we are carefully looking for ways to better organize to live together. Research on this area at the municipal, provincial, and federal levels are improving our capacities to respond to the challenges of cultural diversity.

Such is not the case everywhere. For example, displaced persons are a burden for many countries. Often in these countries the legal status of displaced persons is not settled and they become victims of all kinds of abuses. Comparative studies are being undertaken by UNESCO on the management of social transformation in pluri-ethnic societies. It is vital to support research into how we live together in multiethnic societies, and contribute to the development of legislation and institutional capacity of all countries to support and foster human rights.

As part of working towards a culture of peace, we must respect and promote cultural diversity while respecting the rights of everyone to live in harmony with nature.

### **Inequalities in information technology**

(3) Given the immense impact of revolutions in communications technologies and the new knowledge-based economy, there is an especial urgency to considerations of the 'public good' when dealing with access to information. Clearly we must have grave concerns about whose interests are being represented in these new developments. Differences in wealth, education opportunities, and national production capacities mean different levels of access (and exclusion) to these new information-based developments. Furthermore, corporate concentration, intellectual property rights, the dominance of English in cyberspace, privacy issues, the sophistication of surveillance technologies, and government efforts to restrict electronic information flows all raise important concerns about access to, and control of, knowledge.