

# VANCOUVER COMMUNIQUÉ

Vancouver, British Columbia  
September 10-13, 1993

In reaffirming the spirit of Wingspread, the participants in the Vancouver Symposium call on our colleagues in teaching, research and training institutions, as well as those in business, government and other concerned organizations, to join us in forging new partnerships for sharing knowledge across traditional boundaries.

We view Canada, Mexico and the United States, along with the other regions of the world, as poised on the threshold of the new century, a century in which higher education, research and training cooperation will be central to innovation and human resource development, essential to achieving our goals for social, economic and cultural development.

We recognize that our countries cannot fully prosper in all the ways that matter if they remain no more than trading partners. A new sense of a North American community, made up of our 360 million people, should be forged, one which will provide impetus to greater cooperation among and within our countries, support our relations with countries outside the region, enhance our distinct cultural identities and acknowledge our asymmetries.

The compelling vision of Wingspread has motivated the participants in this Vancouver Symposium to take concerted actions to enhance the mutual well-being of the countries of North America and beyond.

Current economic, social and cultural forces reshaping our three societies and the rich diversity of our cultures – from the native peoples to the most recent immigrants – have created a climate in which the North American community can flourish.

The expansion and strengthening of intellectual links and academic collaboration across the continent are fundamental to North America's vitality. They underpin the stability, civility and respect for human rights and freedoms necessary to democratic societies. They are fundamental to genuine sustainable development.

Wingspread and Vancouver have revealed the vast opportunities which trilateral collaboration offers to build on existing programs and activities and to stimulate new thinking about the directions of education, research and training.

We accept the challenge now to go beyond the defining of shared conceptual goals and broad objectives. We have developed concrete strategies to implement the Wingspread objectives through increased contact and collaboration among students, researchers, administrators and partners in business and government, and other institutions. The variety of trilateral partnership projects announced at the Symposium, those currently being designed, as well as those envisioned during the meeting, are evidence of significant momentum.