Policy Recommendations from National Forum on Africa Working Groups (Toronto, Montreal, Saint John and Vancouver)

General

- 1.1 Canada needs to define its policies towards Africa more clearly.
- 1.2 The Canadian government needs to devote more resources and attention to Africa. The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, should, for example, have a Secretary of State exclusively for Africa.
- 1.3 While embarking on new projects and initiatives, Canada must strive to build on successes and strengths of those areas

where it is already acknowledged as the global leader. These include conflict diamonds and the eradication of landmines.

1.4 The Canadian government should determine the key elements of development and focus Africa policy from that standpoint.

Health/Social Issues

- 2.1 Canada's development projects should be human centered, putting the needs of people as a primary priority. To this end, foreign policy should be centred on a hierarchy of basic needs.
- 2.2 The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade should apply pressure on Canadian corporations active in Africa to provide social services for African communities.
- 2.3 Canada should promote primary health care in a human rights framework, as well as research and development on African diseases, including malaria and tuberculosis.
- 2.4 Canada should focus on the alleviation of HIV/AIDS as a policy priority in its own right. To this end, Canada should ensure that affordable drugs for HIV/AIDS are available for the majority of Africans, particularly pregnant women.
- 2.5 Canada should ensure that patent and licensing issues do not impede the availability of affordable HIV/AIDS drugs for the majority of Africans.
- 2.6 Education for the prevention and spread of HIV/AIDS as well as appropriate technology transfer should form a major component of Canadian policy initiatives in Africa.