

INTRODUCTION

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION: THE DEBATE	1
GROUP 1: HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION	2
Recommendations (Ideas - Options)	3
GROUP 2: THE INTERNET AS A COMMUNICATIONS CHANNEL	5
Recommendations (Ideas - Options)	6
GROUP 3: QUESTIONS OF ACCESS	9
Recommendations (Ideas - Options)	11
GROUP 4: THE POTENTIAL OF THE TECHNOLOGY	13
Recommendations (Ideas - Options)	14
GROUP 5: THE MISUSES OF THE TECHNOLOGY	16
Recommendations (Ideas - Options)	17

The observations made by these speakers effectively sum up the mood at the conference: the Internet is a tool with tremendous potential that could help the causes of freedom of expression and human rights, but it also has a "dark side" that could jeopardize the advantages it brings.

The goal of this conference was to make the most of the expertise of international players working in the fields of human rights and/or the Internet. It involved formulating constructive ideas focussing on five different themes: human rights education, the Internet as a communications channel, questions of access, the Internet's technological potential and the misuses of this tool. Most of the participants see Canada at once as a hub of communication between two worlds, a human rights champion and a place conducive to debate and the development of ideas on promoting human rights and the Internet. These ideas should lead to policies that would make Canada a leader in this area.