

participate in the decision-making and implementation processes of the NAFTA side agreements on the environment and labour. Alberta, Quebec and Manitoba have signed the Canadian Intergovernmental Agreement regarding the NAAEC, which provides mechanisms through which provincial participation can be achieved. Decision-making on issues related to the NAAEC are made by consensus by all signatories. Regular FPT meetings at the ministerial and officials levels are held to discuss the inter-governmental dimensions of the NAALC. The Canadian Intergovernmental Agreement regarding the NAALC has been signed by Alberta, Manitoba, Quebec, and Prince Edward Island, and consultations are underway to improve collaboration and increase the number of signatories. In the meantime, any province or territory, whether a signatory or non-signatory, is able to participate in or host cooperative NAALC activities and a number have done so.

Recommendation 6

In order to better position Canada and Canadians to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing North American policy environment that includes Mexico, the Government should:

- *foster increased understanding through knowledge generation and dissemination of North American research results to the public;*
- *work to increase support for North American studies and education in cooperation with provincial and territorial governments, expand public information programs, and enhance its own policy research initiatives;*
- *investigate the idea of creating a knowledge-orientated entity or centre of excellence devoted to analyzing all aspects and impacts of North American integration, and invite the cooperation of US and Mexican partners in such an endeavour;*
- *explore other means of promoting networking and dialogue on North American issues, seeking to involve the broadest possible social participation.*

and

Recommendation 7

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade in particular should look at ways to deepen knowledge and understanding of Canada's North American relationships, particularly with the United States and including those with Mexico. DFAIT should also promote public engagement in better defining and promoting Canadian foreign policy objectives in North America. For example, the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development could be tasked with building links in this regard among

