

In February 2000 we assembled a large group of Canadians interested in Cyprus, and other experts in various fields that might be relevant to a Cyprus solution (including conflict resolution, diplomacy, social sciences, community relations, education, federalism) along with members of the House of Commons and Senate, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and foreign affairs officials charged with Canada's relations with Cyprus. After reviewing the history of Canada's interests in Cyprus and current events at that time, we encouraged participants to think about the necessary aspects of "living together." The results include a snap shot of how the two Cypriot communities (and their supporters in Canada) view key issues. The meeting concluded with a general sense that Canada and Canadians have experiences and perspectives on "living together" that could be of value to the communities in Cyprus. In particular, Canadian experience with flexible federalism, multicultures and a human security approach to problem solving could be useful for Cypriots seeking a settlement.

From this discussion and our earlier work exploring possible international applications of the Canadian experience with federalism (*Living Together: International Aspects of Federal Systems*, W. Kymlicka and J.R. Raviot) and with managing diversity (*Managing Diversity in Plural Societies*, Magda Opalski editor), we undertook two follow-up meetings, with participants from each of the two Cypriot communities: Turkish Cypriots in Banff and Greek Cypriots in Larnaca. The goal of these parallel meetings was to test the interest in Canadian experience with "living together" (especially federalism and majority-minority relations), mutual learning for both Canadian and Cypriot participants, and the promotion of a solution in Cyprus through inter-communal contact, dialogue and confidence building. Participants included several figures close to the two political leaders on the island (Ergun Olgun and Kypros Chrystostomides), leading academics, figures in business, politics and civil society from Cyprus and well known Canadian experts, foremost among them federalism expert, Professor (and former Queen's University Principal) Ron Watts. Several foreign affairs officials including Bob Hage, Director for South Europe, participated and three Canadian Ambassadors (for Cyprus, Turkey and Greece) sat in on the Larnaca meeting.

The results of these two meetings are not encouraging but offer some hope.

While Cypriot participants at the Banff meeting showed a sincere interest in overcoming the "tyranny of terminology" around federalism and signs of thinking out of the box, neither side of the aging political leadership seems prepared to engage in any real negotiations toward a settlement. Both sides appear unwilling to give up their preconditions to negotiations. For the Turkish Cypriot leadership this means a continuing presence of the Turkish army in Cyprus, increasing reliance on Turkey and pre-negotiations recognition of a separate and equal political status of Northern Cyprus. For the Greek Cypriot leadership this means continual reference to international law and various resolutions passed at the United Nations General Assembly and a determination to recreate the failed 1960s federal arrangements of majority rule which (they must know) the Turkish Cypriots will never accept a second time.

The Banff and Larnaca discussions do provide two points worth further consideration by people