

## FOREWORD

### *from the National Director*

June 10, 1999 marks the third birthday of the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development. Reporting to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, working in partnership with Canadians across the country, and with a wide range of Foreign Policy officials in Ottawa, the Centre is now at a third stage of evolution in meeting our mandate to facilitate greater public input into foreign policy making. The first stage was connections, the second partnerships and the third, policy development. This combined Annual Report presents an overview of the past two years of projects and activities.

As noted in the 1996-97 Report, the first steps were "identifying people across Canada with an interest, or potential interest, in contributing to foreign policy making." Included are university experts and NGO activists. Identifying and connecting with Canadians is also undertaken in mind of the Treasury Board directive to "engage Canadians who are leaders in their own fields or regions, but who are not specialists in international affairs."

Some of the earliest projects were by leading academics like Professors Albert Legault, Caroline Andrew, Ann Bayefsky, Charles-Phillippe David, Ron Deibert, Phillip Oxhorn, and Fen Hampson. Others were undertaken with NGOs like Mines Action Canada, Pueblito, Aids and Development, the Canadian Council for International Cooperation, Vues d'Afrique, Forum Eastern Europe and Oxfam. Outreach beyond specialists in international affairs included projects by rehabilitation experts at Queen's University, the Committee to Protect Journalists, and major efforts to reach Youth and Indigenous Peoples (among them, the Marquis Project, internet teaching materials, the Pauktuutit Inuit Womens Association, the Saskatoon Native Law Centre and Fredericton Native Studies Program, the Vancouver Childrens Festival and the International Youth Summit on Sexual Exploitation).

Identifying, connecting and widening the circle of Canadians contributing to foreign policy dialogue and thinking has continued through the past two years. This includes a view to provide opportunities to Canadians in regions and communities far from Ottawa, to academics at smaller universities and to those who have been traditionally left out of foreign policy dialogue.

For example, the Centre has organized and hosted 18 meetings of the National Forum on Canada's International Relations in 15 different cities and towns since 1996. More than 1000 citizens have been involved in these day-long policy discussions in communities like Whitehorse, Saint John and Waterloo as well as in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver. (National Forum reports and lists of participants and the 96-97 Annual Report available at [www.cfp-pec.gc.ca](http://www.cfp-pec.gc.ca)).

The second stage in helping the public to contribute to foreign policy making is building partnerships. For more than two years a common theme expressed at roundtables has been – the value, and often novelty, of bringing together academics

