

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

- In March 1998, Canada hosted in Victoria, B.C., "Out from the Shadows", an international summit on sexually exploited youth. It brought together some 55 youths from the Americas who had experienced some form of sexual exploitation. Participants successfully developed a Declaration and Action Plan, which Canada is now promoting at the United Nations and other multilateral organizations.
- As follow-up to the Victoria Summit, and in partnership with Canadian NGOs, Canada is funding projects for sexually exploited youth in Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Honduras, Bolivia, Peru and Chile. The projects will focus on counselling and rehabilitation, education and training, and reintegration into the workforce and community.
- Amendments to the Canadian Criminal Code now make it possible to prosecute in Canada those Canadians who go abroad to abuse children sexually.

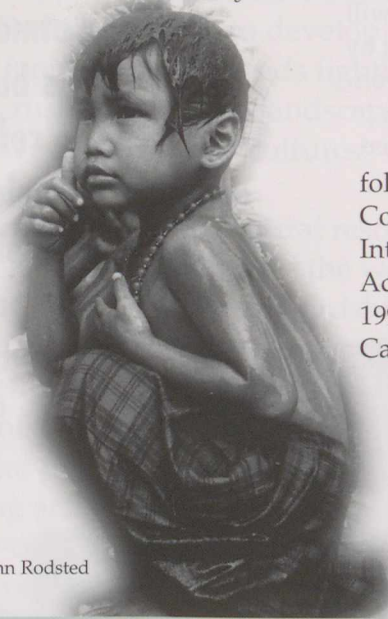


photo: John Rodsted

CANADA'S STRATEGY FOR INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS ISSUES

- Minister Axworthy announced the appointment of Blaine Favel as Counsellor on International Indigenous Issues on January 9, 1998.
- Mr. Favel provides policy advice on Canada's positions regarding Indigenous issues to the United Nations, the Organization of American States and other international organizations. He is also formulating recommendations for strengthening international Aboriginal trade policy.

RIGHTS OF WOMEN

- Canada was instrumental in securing the position of the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women in 1994. This mandate was renewed in 1997 for a second term as a result of a Canadian-led resolution at the UN Commission on Human Rights.
- Canada successfully pressed for provisions that focus on the plight of women in armed conflict in the International Criminal Court Statute adopted in Rome in July 1998.

For further information, including follow-up to the 1995 Beijing UN World Conference on Women, see "Canada's International Activities to Promote the Advancement of Women, Highlights 1990-1997" at the Status of Women Canada Web site: www.swc-cfc.gc.ca

CANADA-NORWAY PARTNERSHIP: THE LYSÇEN DECLARATION

- Minister Axworthy and his Norwegian counterpart, Knut Vollebæk, signed the Lysçen Declaration in Bergen, Norway, on May 11, 1998.
- The Declaration commits Canada and Norway to a framework for consultation and concerted action on landmines; the establishment of an International Criminal Court; human rights; international humanitarian law; women and children in armed conflict; small arms proliferation; child soldiers; child labour; and northern Arctic co-operation.
- As a result of the Declaration, Canada and Norway are helping to demine Bosnia. The Bosnian army had been removing mines, but had to stop because they lacked the insurance necessary to perform at the standard required for civilian use of the land. Canada and Norway agreed to co-fund insurance for two years, which has allowed the Bosnian army to increase its demining force by 70 percent.

THE CANADIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

The Canadian Human Rights Commission, which operates independently of government, is responsible for ensuring that equal rights are understood and respected in Canada. Internationally, it shares human rights expertise with groups who want to create or strengthen human rights commissions and it assists organizations working directly in human rights, rather than particular governments.

The Commission is part of a network of national human rights organizations operating under the umbrella of the United Nations.

See the articles on the International Criminal Court, page 1; Makwa International: An Inter-Indigenous Venture, page 6; and the AP Mine Ban Convention, page 15.

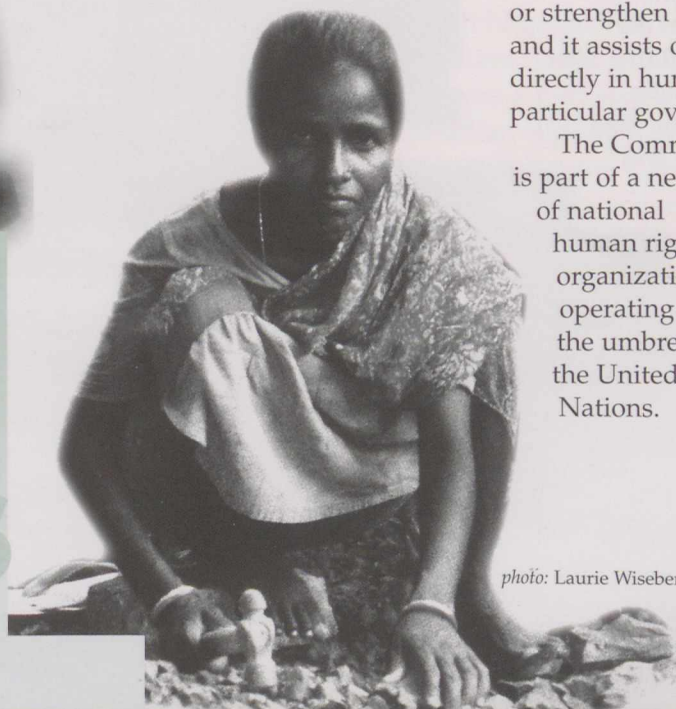


photo: Laurie Wiseberg

D E C E M B E R

DECEMBER 10

Formal Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, United Nations General Assembly, New York
Canada will participate in the ceremony organized by the United Nations.

RATIONS