



THE 1997

PEOPLE'S

SUMMIT

on APEC

DAILY SUMMIT

COMMUNIQUE

day 2

YOUTH  
FORUM

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1997

## CCPA CAUTIONS YOUTH

ON THE

## CORPORATE AGENDA

Seth Klein of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives opened the second day of the Youth Forum as a guest speaking on the corporate agenda, APEC and youth.

Klein, who is the coordinator of the new BC office of the Ottawa-based think tank, covered a wide range of issues in his presentation, beginning with an analysis of the corporate agenda and the central role that trade liberalization plays in entrenching its needs.

Klein then set out specific implications for youth, the specific effects of APEC in further enforcing the corporate agenda, and what people can do about it. He described working conditions for young workers in Asia-

Pacific countries, noting that "no countries win in the APEC world," and that transnational corporations simply move on to more desperate and poor jurisdictions.

In citing issues of particular concern to youth, Klein warned about the message the corporate agenda wants youth to buy into: expect less; the days of

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job security and a decent social safety net are over; be mobile, and be committed not to your community, but to where you can get a job; don't press for your rights, because there are other waiting to take your job; and, choose an educational focus that responds to corporate demands, not ones that meet the greater good.

Klein said he found the Youth Forum delegates to be a "very impressive group" with a good cross-section of youth from different cultures and countries. "I was also impressed by the quality of the youth organizing and leadership," said Klein, 28, who spoke across Canada as a teenager on a Peace Tour. "I was not expecting to see such a big turnout at nine o'clock on a Saturday morning."

## Rediscovery workshop: with the earth, physically and spiritually

by Salimah Ebrahim, 16, West Vancouver

The Rediscovery Program was started nearly 20 years ago, on Haida, Gwaii in the Queen Charlotte Islands. It was set up to empower youth with the idea of getting back in touch with the earth both physically and spiritually. What started out as a relatively small organization now boasts programs throughout BC, New Zealand, Mongolia and the United States.

Susan Powell Martin, who facilitated the workshop, said the Rediscovery Program promotes "the cleansing of the spirit and the mind." Martin, who is of both Celtic and Native descent, was raised a Roman Catholic in Virginia, later embracing her mother's culture and becoming an advocate of the program.

Youth in the workshop discussed the physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual presence of themselves in relation to the environment around them, and focussing on the balance of these elements. Martin summed it up when she said it was "the concept of being able to see the universe in a grain of sand and eternity in an hour."