



The Year in Review

Universities

A starting point for the work of the Centre was the survey of foreign policy research capacity at Canadian universities carried out by a group of 18 leading specialists under the direction of Professor Maureen Molot, Director of the Norman Patterson School of International Affairs at Carleton University. This study is available as the Centre's Occasional Paper #1.

The study identified areas of strength and weakness in the academic community in foreign policy functional areas (environment, human rights, trade, security, law, development, etc.) and in geographic areas (US, Latin America, Africa, Asia-Pacific, etc.).

Of particular importance for our work were the report's recommendations on collaboration,

university-policy community links, conferences, civil society and opportunities for youth.

The paper noted the two solitudes that exist between academics and NGOs. It recommended "*the Canadian research and scholarly community work harder to strengthen networks between universities and NGOs, and within the university community, between its own members across disciplines and regional divides.*"

The paper also noted that the "*policy oriented research capacity was not being effectively harnessed or utilized by the policy community. The absence of formal and informal institutional links which facilitate communication and consultation between the academic and policy communities was cited as the principle reason for this problem.*"

