

country...where all people's rights at the end of the day must be respected."

Some ways Canada can deal with human rights in the context of trade are to talk about how we run our business in Canada and how we engage our respective publics. For example, the Minister has met with NGO communities in Canada to discuss their aspirations for free trade. As well, at a recent FTAA meeting, Canada "almost suggested as a bottom line" a plan to create a committee that gives a channel for civil society organizations to express their concerns. This committee would then evaluate the recommendations and make recommendations to the entire Council of Ministers, the same way it happens for the business forum within the FTA. This was a "make it or break it" issue for the talks, but the U.S. and Canada insisted on it, and eventually won. Similarly, the Minister would like to see a place for labour to express its concerns within APEC. Last year Canada tried to make APEC more open by holding six ministerial meetings with all types of NGOs.

Questioners:

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Gail Dugas, *CBC Newsworld*

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