

*act as engines/enforcement mechanisms for the implementation of adopted resolutions, among other things.*

Kelly McBride, Office of Secretary-General OAS, pointed out that the institutional constraints of the OAS may seriously limit what can Canada do to help Indigenous Peoples in the Hemisphere. Since the OAS operates on consensus, cutting edge issues including corporate social responsibility, may be hard to push. Human rights are observed hesitantly in some new and still fragile Latin American democracies. *Perhaps, the most Canada could achieve is to foster dialogue between states and Indigenous Peoples. Canada could elevate the discussion/discourse and push for stronger language on Indigenous Peoples' issues at the OAS.*

William Young, Canadian International Development Agency, said that while Paul Chartrand's paper indicated that Development Assistance does not have as much bearing in Latin America as private business, it remains vital. Historically CIDA has not directly supported Indigenous Peoples of the Hemisphere because it was politically impossible to programme such projects. Indigenous Peoples issues have been addressed through general poverty reduction and equity enhancing programmes. However, the changing context has opened the window of opportunity. On March 22, National Chief Phil Fontaine met with Minister Minna and other CIDA officials and agreed to collaborate in targeting CIDA's programming towards Indigenous Peoples' needs.

The importance of history and education/learning was stressed by many participants. *Indigenous Peoples will not forget their history in order to focus on the future, as governments and others constantly urge them to do.* Developing a common vision and mutually beneficial policies may take a long time, but the process of building trust and relationships must start now. Dialogue and the necessity to be listened to and heard were underlined. Indigenous Peoples face the same problems across the Hemisphere at different levels. Linkages among them are important. Collective pressure may prove effective in ensuring Hemisphere Indigenous Peoples' rights. Development assistance projects should be sustainable. Foreign government pressure is sometimes much more effective than monetary contributions, which often end up in government coffers.

In conclusion, Marc Lortie expressed his commitment to build bridges. He encouraged National Chief, Phil Fontaine, to convene more meetings of Indigenous Peoples' leaders to feed into the agenda-building process for the Quebec City Summit. Ideas expressed during this roundtable would be useful to the government of Canada and the Prime Minister himself, he said. On corporate social responsibilities, he also argued that the behavior of Canadian corporations abroad is fundamentally proper and codes of conduct based on standards they are respecting in Canada. However, in the eventuality that corporations do not behave properly he encouraged activism on the part of Indigenous Peoples to counter any harmful corporate action. John Clarke reminded participants that social corporate responsibility is one of Minister Axworthy's priorities. Steve Lee, Chair, thanked all for their contributions. The roundtable was closed by a ceremony performed by an elder from the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs.