

confidence-building and the Government's policies and recommendations on how confidence-building at all levels should take shape, would be of great value in the coordination of NGO and government activities.

- 3. Improved ties between Canadian NGOs and local organizations should be encouraged in order to fully realize the potential for cross-cultural partnerships in the rebuilding process.
- 4. Peacebuilding efforts should utilize and expand the role of practitioners, agencies and networks which are already involved in examining and participating in conflict resolution.
- 5. Selected Canadian universities could be designated "Centres of Excellence" in specialized fields such as peacekeeping and humanitarian law.

## **Public Education and Consultation**

- 1. There should be on-going public consultation in foreign policy development.
- 2. The dissemination of information to the wider public is important. A policy web-site should be developed to help interested citizens become more aware of Canadian international policy initiatives. Including the general public in the larger policy network would allow decision-makers to gauge public support for various initiatives, and help to create an environment in which peacebuilding would be part of an open, consultative process.
- 3. Parties in conflict should be involved in the peace process from the very beginning and must be key players in this process. This should not just occur on the policy or military level, but through the use of networks and civil society.
- 4. The Canadian government should increase public awareness of the kinds of peacekeeping interventions it undertakes. Although all

- Canadians would not be interested in meetings such as these, those who are must have ample and various ways that they can communicate their concerns to the Government.
- 5. The Government should effectively communicate to the public its rationale for participating in peacekeeping interventions.
- 6. In order to best utilize resources, and to increase the effectiveness and response time of Canadian action, it is necessary to re-tool and assist NGOs in their capacity (in Canada and in post-crisis states).
- 7. Education and training for citizens who are skilled, and interested in peacebuilding should be more available. Community-based peacebuilding bodies could train and provide focused and well-planned support for international initiatives. The education of the general public would also furnish decision-makers with the means of legitimating peacebuilding initiatives.
- 8. Canada's youth are a resource that should be tapped. The Government should look to supporting educational programmes with an international focus.

## Civil Society-building

- 1. The government should re-examine the issue of cutting funding to NGO and community-based organizations that are on the front lines of international peacebuilding initiatives.

  Adequate financial support for organizations working in the field of international peacebuilding, and the necessity for the creative use of available funds are fundamental to any successful peacebuilding operation.
- 2. A mechanism for targeting aid and prioritizing peacebuilding initiatives should be developed. (There is a need to look at past practices, successes/failures.)