

- 4) **Education on the Accords for indigenous groups:** This is needed immediately, to increase understanding and realistic expectations of the Accords.

### *Discussion*

- Once the police forces are improved we may want to look to the work of the BC Citizen Coalition for Public Security organization which focuses on community-based initiatives for creating public security. We should also look to lessons learned in initiatives of citizen security and the involvement of indigenous peoples in other Latin American countries (e.g. the ICHRDD meeting on indigenous and municipal mechanisms for citizen security held in Peru). Also, the OAS is working towards an hemispheric convention on illicit trafficking in firearms. This is an initiative of the Central American countries, but Canada could play an important supportive role. It is important to build up civil society support for this initiative.

### **Potential Resources**

Peacebuilding Fund: It is difficult to determine the rationale for using this fund for support to Guatemala as it is a country with a high level of Bilateral funding. The political will of the Guatemalan government for initiatives must be clear. We must be certain that a lack of political will would not undermine the benefits of a project. Security issues in particular, must be government initiatives.

*Comment:* Studies on political will have demonstrated that international pressure is the most effective means of influence. The proposed action research project will improve the capacity of civil society to know their rights and to better hold their government accountable. This is another means to pressure government through the building of a countervailing pressure.

### **Information Gathering, Exchange & Coordination**

- The Canadian government should formalize a coordination of Canadian initiatives which could include: 1) bringing Canadian groups in Guatemala together every year (potentially via the Canadian Embassy in Guatemala, 2) CIDA providing a snapshot of all the organizations funded in the current year, their funding level and project activities, 3) creating a website for the sharing of information through the Internet.  
\* Info exchange is a useful tool - but we must recognize that it is not coordination.
- Canadian NGOs should enhance their coordination and work towards deepening their analysis on Guatemala. The CCIC Americas Policy Group could potentially facilitate this process.
- We must not forget to consider, and gather information concerning, what is being done by other non-Canadian actors. We want to confirm that we are filling key gaps in our interventions.