

bargaining, the prohibition of child labour and forced labour, and equal remuneration for equal work (no discrimination).

The Canadian government, instead of having sporadic, ad hoc consultations with civil society at conjunctural moments, should set up an ongoing, meaningful process of consultation on trade policy. An annual consultation would be useful.

Civil society actors from the Americas recently issued a declaration at Belo Horizonte called Building an Hemispheric Social Alliance. The emerging civil society of the Americas represented in this declaration is planning to hold a parallel, alternative summit alongside that of Heads of State in Santiago. The Canadian Government is invited to support this civil society summit with resources and infrastructural support. It is encouraged to show leadership in the inter-American process in the sense of publicly recognising the importance of a social dimension. Canada should lead in opening space for civil society participation.

### *"Human Rights, Democratization, and the Summit"*

*Suzanne Rumsey, Inter-Church Committee on Human Rights in Latin America (ICCHRLA)*

- Today, throughout the hemisphere, including Canada, the majority of the people face a crisis of exclusion, politically but most especially economically. People simply do not count in the hemispheric integration process. In Brazil, where the theology of liberation has its roots, people now speak of the theology of exclusion.
- The macroeconomic growth occurring in the hemisphere is not being reflected in the microeconomic reality of the majority of Latin Americans and of an increasing number of North Americans. The crisis of exclusion has manifested itself as a crisis of security: income and employment security, food and personal security.
- In the real world of human rights, economic, social, and cultural rights are intimately linked to civil and political rights. Nonetheless, official documents tend to separate the two families of rights, limiting the human rights discussion to civil and political rights. This is particularly evident in the Canadian Government's draft implementation proposal for human rights and democracy, as well as the Canadian draft proposed work plan. Both focus exclusively on civil and political rights. Nowhere does the discussion of economic, social, and cultural rights occur. To do so would challenge the economic model that Canada seems so committed to defend.
- The perception of ICCHRLA has been that the Canadian government has been very reluctant to take substantive action on human rights in those countries where it has significant and growing trade interests. In Colombia, human rights violations and repression are most rampant in those sectors where Canadian companies are particularly active.
- There is an inverse relationship between human rights realities and rhetoric. What is missing in reality is filled in with words.
- Canada should put more emphasis on human rights observance and compliance, and less on institutions, in its proposals.
- Without additional broad-based dialogue and consultation between governments and