

Using these same principles, the Canadian International Development Agency has worked with the International Labour Organization, the World Bank, and KIVU Nature Inc. to develop a set of guidelines on the use of traditional knowledge in development planning. These guidelines enhance the depth of information on which decisions are based, promote the cooperation and mutual understanding of all peoples involved in and affected by such decisions, and respect the traditional rights of Indigenous peoples.

Other initiatives in Canada that promote the value of traditional knowledge include the following:

- the University of the Arctic
- the Aboriginal Health Institute, which focuses on health information and research, traditional health and healing, health policy, capacity building, and public education
- the Community Fisheries Workers Project, sponsored by Fisheries and Oceans Canada, in which Aboriginal organizations demonstrate cooperative fisheries management at the community level
- the First Nations Furbearer Monitoring Project under the Canadian Rural Partnership, which will employ local First Nations trappers and youth to gather data to monitor the population density of furbearing mammals in part of Kluane National Park and Reserve.

### **University of the Arctic**

*In October 1998, Ministers of the Arctic Council announced the establishment of the University of the Arctic. A partnership of academic institutions, Indigenous peoples organizations, the Arctic states, and other stakeholders, the university is designed to meet the needs of northern peoples as they face the challenges of greater global influence. Once operational, it will serve the northern community by helping to protect fragile ecosystems, preserving traditional cultures and languages, developing a sustainable basis for northern societies, building new political frameworks, understanding North-South relationships, and enhancing the northern voice in global issues.*

## **BUILDING INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND TOOLS**

### **Canadian Information System for the Environment**

As part of its commitment to improve environmental decision making and accountability, the Government of Canada has established a national task force on a Canadian information system for the environment. The report of the task force, expected in October 2001, will provide a vision and a design for an integrated national system for environmental information, which will be linked to existing and planned information systems for economic, health, and social information. The system will span the collection, management, assessment, and communication of environmental