



photos: CCFPD

Marc Lortie of DFAIT talks with Grand Chief Phil Fontaine.

## "People need to be the focus of the hemispheric agenda,"

says George Haynal, DFAIT Assistant Deputy Minister for the Americas. That's what Canadians have said at nine roundtables organized by the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development (CCFPD) over the last year.

In meetings from Halifax to Victoria, Canadians have called for attention to human rights, democracy and Indigenous peoples, and for participation of poor and marginalized communities in hemispheric affairs.

Guatemala and Panama. They met with Marc Lortie, the Prime Minister's Special Representative for the Québec Summit of the Americas in 2001.

Themes of other roundtables were good governance, education, civil society and democracy. In Ottawa in April, roundtables were held on two topics: "Look Ahead to Windsor" and "The OAS and Small Arms." Joining in the discussions were Ryerson University Professor Wendy Cukier, Juan Ronderas from the Nathanson Centre for the Study of Organized Crime and Corruption at York University in Toronto, Inspector Alan Goodall from the RCMP's Canadian Firearms Registry, and Melissa MacLean of the Canadian Council for International Co-operation.

# Listening to Canadians: Shaping policy toward the Americas



Consuelo Cutzel of Guatemala at Winnipeg roundtable

George Haynal is the senior Canadian government official responsible for the June General Assembly of the Organization of American States in Windsor. For the event, he says that policy makers have developed a human security theme closely reflecting the foreign policy goals of Foreign Affairs Minister Axworthy and the public input from the roundtables.

### Here are the main points:

- Democracy is fundamental to every thing and needs to be strengthened in some countries.
- Human rights protection is essential in building viable democracies.
- Democracy in the region must include women, children, Indigenous peoples and small states.
- Inequalities within societies need attention.
- Citizens throughout the Americas need access to services such as education, health and the digital world of new technologies.

Experts and academics also wrote several CCFPD policy papers on Canada's role in the Americas. For example, in "Le Canada et la ZLEA : Réflexion sur les stratégies" [Canada and the Free Trade Area of the Americas: Consideration of Strategies], Joël Monfils and Martin Roy of Université Laval recommended that trade not be the only priority for Canada in the Americas.

Policy developments include the broadening engagement of Indigenous peoples in the Americas and a review of the Inter-American Indian Institute, plus attention to the small arms trade. These and a wide range of issues will be placed before OAS foreign ministers when they meet in Windsor to address what Mr. Axworthy has called "the darker side of globalization."

A partnership is thus shaping the agenda for Windsor and identifying issues for Canadian foreign policy attention. It is a key to Canada's success as host to the Hemisphere this year and next, and it can be a model for others.

"We ignore civil society at our peril," Mr. Axworthy told an OAS meeting in Washington on February 11, 2000. The concerns he expresses and those of Canadians have much in common because they emerge from the same Canadian values that have fuelled discussion at the Americas roundtables. This is Americas policy development, Canadian-style. ●—

Among participants in the Winnipeg roundtable on "Canada, Indigenous Peoples and the Hemisphere" were Assembly of First Nations Grand Chief Phil Fontaine, Métis representatives and other Indigenous leaders from Mexico,



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