

*Development does not start with goods; it starts with people and their education, organization and discipline...development...can succeed only if it is carried forward as a broad, "popular movement of reconstruction", with primary emphasis on the full utilization of the drive, enthusiasm, intelligence and labour power of everyone. (E.F. Schumacker in Youth Source Book on Sustainable Development)*

Young Canadians from diverse backgrounds and perspectives are working toward sustainable development. They deal with issues that have environmental, social, and economic aspects.

*Global problems have escalated to such a degree that environmental action needs to involve all sectors of society. Each individual can not avoid playing an integral role in either formulating environmentally sound practices or perpetuating the status quo. This is a key in understanding how to build a sustainable society. (Westcoast Youth for Habitat II Canada)*

## **YOUTH ISSUES AND INITIATIVES IN CANADA**

**Y**outh contribution to action on sustainable development in Canada begins with their analysis of the issues. Many youth organizations and young people identify current lifestyles and practices in our society and economy as detrimental to the world's general health.

### **Consumerism and Personal Choice**

Consumption practices in Canada (along with geographic and climatic factors) make us one of the largest per capita consumers of energy and generators of waste in the world. Consumerism promotes unsustainable lifestyles and products. A consumer culture influences youth to "go shopping" as a form of regular activity. The creation of an automobile-based society has