

telling example of how we must be careful not to equate democracy with human rights in the field of health. That democracy has a "down" side is evident in that, if a person contracts tuberculosis, they have a much better chance of survival if they are in Central America than if they are in Harlem or many inner-cities in the United States. Others rejected the "us/them" dichotomy that casts people in Latin American as "others" living in "infantile democracies" who are acted upon, rather than as actors in their own right and that exempts "us," that is, people in Canada, from scrutinizing ourselves and from seeking ways to strengthen democracy and human rights not just in Latin America, but throughout the Americas, including Canada.

Many participants were also concerned that, despite the emphasis on democracy in the background documents, secrecy and a lack of democracy seemed instead to characterize the consultation process itself in Canada. Some feared that meetings like the present one were more cooptation than consultation, designed to foster consensus and give the appearance that people had some input into the process when they really did not. Participants wondered about getting results out of a process that seems fundamentally skewed before consultation takes place. This concern underlines that fact that, for most of those attending the consultation, from all the sectors represented, the participation of people at all levels of the decision-making process was a priority. Some wondered, for example, if First Nation peoples had even been consulted on the sections in package of materials provided by FOCAL dealing with indigenous proposals. In addition to the fear that this was an elitist process involving little public debate, another concern was that Free Trade Agreements