

ANNUAL REPORT

2000

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Message from the Chair

The arrival of the millennium has brought invigorated energy and focus to Canadian engagement with the countries of the Americas. Many policy issues have come to the forefront as Canada chaired meetings relating to the Free Trade Area of the Americas and the political agenda of the Organization of American States. In this moment of heightened activity, it gives me great pride to know that the Canadian Foundation for the Americas (FOCAL) has been present at each key opportunity for fostering informed debate and contributing constructive policy advice. The growth in our programs, activities and capabilities is a testimony to the untiring work of our Executive Director, Nobina Robinson and our small team in Ottawa. I am particularly pleased to see the expansion of our networks of experts, which now include scholars, practitioners, opinion leaders and decision makers from across Canada and increasingly from places in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Board of FOCAL has also undergone some renewal with the addition of well-known experts on hemispheric issues such as Elizabeth Spehar, Brian Stevenson and Winston Cox. Placing FOCAL on a stable financial footing remains the Board's principal task, and we look to our new Treasurer, Tony Tattersfield to guide us through this perpetual challenge. We are also pleased to have Anthony Cooper and Jocelyn Coulon on the Board, who will each provide strategic advice

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FOCAL

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from their own fields of expertise. FOCAL's Board is also very grateful to Monica Gruder-Drake for her contributions to the staff in preparing our first Forum of Hemispheric Experts which took place in July, and which has become the foundation for many of FOCAL's policy initiatives in 2000.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I thank our staff for another year of dedication and devotion to our mission to enhance Canadian engagement with the Americas.

Meriel Bradford
December 2000

Executive Director's Message

The year 2000 at FOCAL brought several high points for our team. Clearly, the main event was FOCAL's presence at the General Assembly of the Organization of American States in Windsor. Along with our Vice-Chair, John Graham, we worked the corridors, attended all the plenary sessions, and built new partnerships with civil society groups, while also providing important media analysis on the event. Being present to witness the extraordinary debate on the 2000 elections in Peru, and the Special Mission of the OAS to Peru, was a rare opportunity for FOCAL to learn the value of hemispheric multilateralism.

Another highlight was the creation of our Forum of Hemispheric Experts, which proved to be a great success, both for FOCAL and for our guests. We look forward to a more substantive Forum in 2001, and I am sure that we will come to count upon the advice and views of our guest experts for years to come.

FOCAL also launched a new program area on Cuba in 2000. The objective is to create a space where Canadians can examine, on a regular basis, the results of Canada's policy of constructive engagement with Cuba. With so much focus being placed on the inter-American and hemispheric agenda, we felt it important not to lose perspective on this key bilateral relationship. We are also pleased that this new program area is fully funded by new donor-partners.

Much of our work in 2000 has been dedicated to deepening our own appreciation for the hemispheric agenda, and sharing that understanding with other Canadians. We hope that our periodic Summit Newsletters, as well as our work with the Leadership Council for Inter-American Summitry, will help Canadians to understand the importance of the Summit of the Americas in Quebec City. Beyond the event and the media circus, we believe that inter-American Summits have made a contribution to progress in the hemisphere, and can play a vital role in defending democracy, mobilizing political will and civil society engagement. Sure, there will be skeptics; but we believe that all policy change is incremental, and steady and continued engagement with the process is a responsibility for all sectors, not simply for governments.

I invite you to read this report to learn more about our millennial activities, and to read the many publications that are all available on our Web site at www.focal.ca. In closing I would like to thank the staff and Board (both past and present members) for making my first year as Executive Director such a fulfilling one.

Nobina Robinson
December 2000

FOCAL – A Policy Centre Focussing on the Latin American and Caribbean Region

The Canadian Foundation for the Americas (FOCAL) is an independent policy centre based in Ottawa that works to develop greater understanding of important issues in the Americas, and promotes hemispheric cooperation and integration. To achieve this, we engage in debate and dialogue with all participants in the policy community in Canada and throughout the Americas. FOCAL's discussions and in-house expertise result in policy papers and research papers that we bring to the attention of governments, international organizations, the private sector, the non-governmental community and the media.

FOCAL monitors developments in the Americas and, working with experts, analyzes emerging issues. We focus our policy analysis on five issue areas that are of concern to decision makers and opinion leaders throughout Canada and the western Hemisphere:

Inter-American Relations

FOCAL analyzes Canada's foreign relations with countries of the hemisphere, with special attention to integration initiatives at the regional, sub-regional and hemispheric levels, including the Organization of American States and the Summit of the Americas process. FOCAL has devoted considerable effort to promoting participation by civil society groups in these hemispheric processes.

Economic Integration

We examine broad economic and trade issues such as the negotiations for a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), the evolution of sub-regional groups, financial and trade flows, monetary and fiscal policies, trade and development, small economies, and the social and environmental impacts of free trade.

Social Policy

FOCAL studies regional responses to the continuing challenges of inequity, income distribution and poverty in the Americas. These include policies for sustainable development, gender, environment, health, tax reform and labour.

Governance and Human Security

We analyze governance challenges and the nature of democracy in the Americas, including new and older security concerns posed by corruption, drugs, human rights problems and civil and military relations.

The Research Forum on Cuba

This program fosters in-depth study of constructive engagement as a foreign policy approach toward Cuba. Its main components are a series of commissioned papers, a Web site of key resources and a speakers' series.

The Year in Review

General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the 2001 Summit of the Americas

A large part of FOCAL's work in 2000 was centred on stimulating and contributing to an informed debate on the issues before the General Assembly of the OAS, from June 4-6, 2000 in Windsor, and the April 2001 Summit of the Americas in Quebec City. FOCAL attended the OAS General Assembly as an accredited civil society organization. The Assembly provided staff members with the opportunity to gain direct exposure to the dynamics of regional multilateralism, and to meet with key hemispheric partners from governments and civil society.

FOCAL provided its views on Summit preparation at meetings of the OAS Special Committee for Inter-American Summits Management in Washington D.C. FOCAL also submitted written comments through all the institutional processes that seek civil society input, including the Free Trade Area of the Americas Committee of Government Representatives on the Participation of Civil Society and the OAS. In addition, FOCAL worked in an informal partnership with *Corporación Participa* of Chile and the Esquel Group Foundation to support *Participa's* consultations on the Summit agenda with civil society organizations in 18 countries.

A new partnership was established with the Leadership Council for Inter-American Summitry. As the result of a meeting in Washington, D.C. in December 2000 regarding the implementation of previous Summit mandates, the Leadership Council published a report called "Advancing Toward Quebec City and Beyond" in April 2001.

Forum of Hemispheric Experts

FOCAL's advisory group of leading thinkers on hemispheric issues, known as the *Forum of Hemispheric Experts*, met for the first time in July 2000 in Ottawa. The meeting addressed key regional issues within the context of FOCAL's policy work, and identified programming ideas that responded to emerging hemispheric trends looking beyond the 2001 Summit of the Americas. With representation from the academic community, private sector, and other policy institutions, the Forum enabled FOCAL to expand its policy perspectives with insights from both Canada and from elsewhere in the hemisphere. The meeting enabled FOCAL's Board and staff to establish a long-term work plan and institutional vision for the region.

Meetings and Workshops

FOCAL provided many other opportunities for experts, decision makers and opinion leaders to meet and discuss current issues in Latin America and the Caribbean. Many of these events were undertaken with partners in Canada and abroad, and included the following topics:

- Hemispheric Trends and Challenges (Newsmaker Breakfast, February, Ottawa)
- Transparency and Corruption (Workshop, February, Montreal)
- Threats to Democracy in Latin America (Workshop, February, Vancouver)
- Smaller Economies and Hemispheric Integration (Workshop, March, Montreal)
- Regional Cooperation and International Integration in Central America (Workshop, April, Tegucigalpa, Honduras)
- Adjusting Canadian Foreign Policy to Mexico's New Realities (Roundtable, August, Ottawa)
- Transition or Succession: the Cuban Dilemma (Speaker Series, October, Ottawa)
- Pan-American Integration (Seminar, November, Buenos Aires, Argentina)
- Conference on the Summit of the Americas with the Inter-American Dialogue, December, Washington, D.C.

FOCAL's expertise was also sought by numerous other organizations and individuals. Some of the events in which it was asked to participate included:

- Briefing of Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy prior to his Latin America and Caribbean trip (January, Ottawa)
- Meeting with the Costa Rican Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade (January, Ottawa)
- Latin American Studies Association (LASA) Bi-Annual Conference (March, Miami)
- Colombia: Armed Conflict, Peace Prospects & Democracy (Conference, March, Miami)
- Mexico at the Millennium (Conference, May, Washington, D.C.)
- Inter-American Dialogue's Sol Linowitz Forum (June, Washington, D.C.)
- Miami Herald's Americas Conference (September, Miami)
- Transparency International Annual Conference (September, Ottawa)
- The Carter Center Conference on Challenges to Democracy in the Americas (October, Atlanta) (CSIH)

Research Forum on Cuba

In May 2000, FOCAL launched its *Research Forum on Cuba*, a new program area dedicated to improving the quality of discussion in Canada about political and economic developments in Cuba and Canadian policy towards the island. Directed by Cristina Warren, the Forum's activities in 2000 included:

- A round-table meeting to discuss Canadian cooperation experiences with Cuba.
- The first paper in a new series called "Background Briefings on Cuba."
- The first in an ad hoc public speaker series designed to share the latest thinking of experts on Cuba.
- The development of a Web site, www.cubasource.org, an annotated directory of the most informative and useful information on Cuba available free on the Web.

FOCAL is grateful to the Ford Foundation and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) for supporting this program.

Partnerships

The Canadian Foundation for the Americas is supported to a great extent by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT). Through ongoing collaboration with these two organizations, FOCAL is able to develop and deliver many activities, including its workshops and policy papers, which enhance Canadian understanding of the issues and concerns facing the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) region.

In addition to working with DFAIT and CIDA, FOCAL consolidated and expanded its network of partners in 2000, working with a wide range of Canadian, American and LAC institutions, including:

- American Assembly
- Canadian Association for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Ottawa (CALACS)
- Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development, Ottawa (CCFPD)
- Canadian Society for International Health, Ottawa (CSIH)
- *Corporación Participa*, Chile
- Council of Presidents and Prime Ministers of the Americas, The Carter Center for Democracy, Atlanta, Georgia
- Centre for Trade Policy and Law, Ottawa (CTPL)
- *Coordinadora Regional de Investigaciones Económicas y Sociales* (CRIES), Venezuela
- Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Washington, D.C. (ECLAC)
- Esquel Group Foundation, Washington, D.C.
- Florida International University, Miami
- Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.
- Inter-American Dialogue, Washington, D.C.
- International Development Research Centre, Ottawa (IDRC)
- North South Center, University of Miami
- North South Institute, Ottawa
- Norman Patterson School for International Affairs, Carleton University, Ottawa
- Organization of American States, Washington, D.C. (OAS)
- Pan American Health Organization, Washington, D.C. (PAHO)
- Public Policy Forum, Ottawa
- *Red Mercosur*, Montevideo, Uruguay
- Transparency International (Canada)
- Transparency International (USA)
- Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario
- University of British Columbia
- York University Summer Institute

Publications

FOCAL's Policy Papers are concise, analytical pieces on issues and developments in the Latin American and Caribbean region and are provided to decision makers and opinion leaders in Canada and throughout the Hemisphere to contribute to policy development. Available free of charge at our Web site (www.focal.ca), FOCAL Policy Papers published in 2000 were:

The FTAA after Toronto and Seattle: Why It Still Matters

FPP-00-1 ISBN: 1-896301-40-1

Colombia's Stumbling Peace Process: How Supportive Should Canada Be?

FPP-00-2 ISBN: 1-896301-41-X

Building Peace and Democracy in El Salvador: An Ongoing Challenge?

FPP-00-3 ISBN: 1-896301-42-8

Cuba's Foreign and Defence Policies in the "Special Period" – Author Hal Klepak

FPP-00-4 ISBN: 1-896301-43-6

Peru's 2000 Presidential Election: Undermining Confidence in Democracy – Author Fabiola Bazo

FPP-00-5 ISBN: 1-896301-44-4

Canada's Role in Promoting Transparency in the Americas

FPP-00-6 ISBN: 1-896301-45-2

Adapting to a New Playing Field? Civil Society Inclusion in the Hemisphere's Multilateral Processes

FPP-00-7 ISBN: 1-896301-46-0

Threats to Democracy in the Americas – Author Maxwell A. Cameron

FPP-00-8 ISBN: 1-896301-47-9

The Smaller Economies of the Americas: Making the Case for Hemispheric Integration

FPP-00-9 ISBN: 1-896301-49-5

La classe politique: Parties and Political Instability in Haiti – Author Taylor Wentges

FPP-00-10 ISBN: 1-896301-50-9

The Monetary Options for the Americas

FPP-00-11 ISBN: 1-896301-52-5

Guatemala Under the FRG: Peace at a Crossroads

FPP-00-12 ISBN: 1-896301-55-X

Through its ongoing partnership with the Summit of the Americas Center at Florida International University, FOCAL published three new issues of the Summit 2001 Newsletter. A total of seven issues of this Newsletter were published between 1999 and the conclusion of the Summit in 2001.

Other publications used by FOCAL to inform decision makers and opinion leaders about the Foundation's own activities are its regular newsletter, **FOCAL Point**, and its 1999 Annual Report. Two issues of **FOCAL Point** were distributed in 2000. These are available on the Web site, along with the 1999 Annual Report.

Youth International Internship Program

In 2000, FOCAL was pleased to place eleven Junior Professional Trainees at Inter-American institutions in Washington, D.C. and Montevideo, Uruguay. The institutions at which they worked were: the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO); the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB); the Organization of American States (OAS); the United Nations Economic Commission on Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); and the Inter-America Children's Institute.



This program is funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade through the Youth Employment Strategy (YES) Program.

2000 Board of Directors

Founded in 1990, the Canadian Foundation for the Americas (FOCAL) is an independent, not-for-profit charitable organization that is guided by a Board of Directors.

Executive Committee

| | | | |
|-------------------|--|------------------|---|
| Chair | Meriel V.M. Bradford Canada Lands Company | Secretary | Carmelita Boivin-Cole Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission |
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Office of the Prime Minister

Elizabeth Spehar
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Brian Stevenson
University of Alberta

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2000 Staff

Pierre Bouchard, Senior Analyst, Trade and
Economic Policy (till September 2000)
James Buchanan, Policy Analyst

Marcelo Cadena, Webmaster
Laurie Chochinov, Manager, Finance
and Administration

José Hernández, Assistant, Policy Section
 Paula Jean, Accounting Assistant
 Florencia Jubany, Senior Policy Analyst
 Elizabeth Karner (till January 2000)
 Diane Larabie, Receptionist (since May 2000)
 Marta Montes, Financial Officer (till February 2000)
 Nobina Robinson, Executive Director
 Martin Roy, Policy Analyst (till September 2000)
 Julia Sagebien, Senior Fellow

Gerd Schönwälder, Deputy Director
 (since September 2000)
 Steve Thorsell, Technology Assistant
 (till March 2000)
 Cristina Warren, Program Manager,
 Research Forum on Cuba
 Stacey Wilson-Forsberg, Policy Analyst
 José Zaragoza, Policy Analyst

Statement of Financial Position

| | As at December 31 | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| | 2000 | 1999 |
| ASSETS | | |
| Cash | \$ 153,555 | \$ 83,202 |
| Term deposits, 4.9% average rate maturing at various dates in 2001 | 604,615 | 459,151 |
| Accounts receivable | 79,811 | 117,553 |
| Prepaid expenses | 11,212 | 9,409 |
| | <u>\$ 849,193</u> | <u>\$ 669,315</u> |
| Capital assets | 35,636 | 5,336 |
| | <u>\$884,829</u> | <u>\$674,651</u> |
| LIABILITIES | | |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | \$ 70,790 | \$ 48,394 |
| Deferred revenue | 317,762 | 144,261 |
| | <u>\$388,552</u> | <u>\$192,655</u> |
| NET ASSETS | | |
| Invested in capital assets | \$ 35,636 | \$ 5,336 |
| Unrestricted | 460,641 | 476,660 |
| | <u>496,277</u> | <u>481,996</u> |
| | <u>\$884,829</u> | <u>\$674,651</u> |

Schedule of Project Revenues

| | Year ended December 31 | |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| | 2000 | 1999 |
| Canadian International Development Agency | \$ 606,891 | \$ 697,978 |
| Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development | 25,769 | 60,000 |
| Canadian Teachers' Federation | — | 1,000 |
| Centre for Trade Policy and Law | — | 12,000 |
| Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade | 390,451 | 163,968 |
| Embassy of Chile | — | 3,379 |
| Florida International University | 6,630 | 2,505 |
| Ford Foundation | 109,238 | — |
| International Development Research Centre | 10,598 | 1,207 |
| International Institute for Sustainable Development | — | 35,000 |
| Organization of American States | 8,922 | 29,461 |
| Other | — | 9,148 |
| Public Works and Government Services Canada | — | 2,492 |
| | <u>\$1,158,499</u> | <u>\$1,018,138</u> |

Statement of Revenue and Expense and Changes in Net Assets

| | Year Ended December 31 | |
|---|------------------------|--------------------|
| | 2000 | 1999 |
| REVENUE | | |
| Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade – Core Funding | \$ 200,000 | \$ 200,000 |
| Interest income | 16,969 | 8,654 |
| Miscellaneous | — | 7,428 |
| Provincial sales tax refund | — | 5,592 |
| Publication sales | 425 | 1,961 |
| Recovery of funds advanced to Calgary office | 16,607 | — |
| Rent refund | — | 4,304 |
| Projects | 1,158,499 | 1,018,138 |
| | <u>\$1,392,499</u> | <u>\$1,245,807</u> |
| OPERATING EXPENSES | | |
| Amortization | \$ 11,098 | \$ 4,867 |
| Board and staff meetings | 452 | 4,199 |
| Communication | 17,916 | 8,547 |
| Insurance | 2,767 | 3,358 |
| Leases and maintenance | 111,301 | 63,521 |
| Office | 40,413 | 28,148 |
| Printing | 4,452 | 3,456 |
| Professional fees and consultants | 62,040 | 49,769 |
| Salaries and benefits | 599,259 | 486,237 |
| Travel | 10,952 | 10,939 |
| | <u>\$ 860,650</u> | <u>\$ 663,041</u> |
| Less: Allocation to Projects | (637,843) | (526,580) |
| | <u>\$ 222,807</u> | <u>\$ 136,461</u> |
| PROJECT EXPENSES | | |
| Communication | \$ 11,771 | \$ 7,412 |
| Internships and scholarships | 133,208 | 115,305 |
| Meetings and seminar logistics | 4,130 | 13,137 |
| Office | 13,811 | 24,232 |
| Postage and courier | 31,033 | 17,040 |
| Printing | 65,368 | 38,251 |
| Project consulting | 97,350 | 146,739 |
| Travel | 160,897 | 99,262 |
| | <u>\$ 517,568</u> | <u>\$ 461,378</u> |
| Add: Allocation of operating expenses to projects | 637,843 | 526,580 |
| | <u>\$1,155,411</u> | <u>\$ 987,958</u> |
| Total Expenses | <u>\$1,378,218</u> | <u>\$1,124,419</u> |
| Excess of revenues over expenses | <u>14,281</u> | <u>121,388</u> |
| Net assets – beginning of the year | <u>481,996</u> | <u>360,608</u> |
| Net assets – end of year | <u>\$ 496,277</u> | <u>\$ 481,996</u> |

These financial statements have been audited by
McIntyre and McLarty LLP, Ottawa, Canada and were approved by
FOCAL's Board of Directors on June 11, 2001.