

February 5, 2010

Dear CSO Colleagues:

You are invited to attend the March 16-18, 2010 **Canadian Consultation for the Open Forum on Civil Society Development Effectiveness** in Gatineau, Quebec. Attached is the draft agenda and a link to the [registration form](#) for this exciting initiative. Please note that registrations before March 3rd are at a lower rate.

What measures are civil society organizations taking to improve their development effectiveness? Many would simply recommend imposing on CSOs the donor/government principles and commitments of the 2005 Paris Declaration. However, as part of the global *Open Forum on CSO Development Effectiveness*, CSOs in over 70 countries have committed to lead their own process and conduct consultations to identify sector-defined key principles.

The results from these national consultations will feed into the mid-term “Global Assembly of the Open Forum” being held in Montreal this August. The final outcome of the 2011 *Open Forum* will be an International Framework of principles and guidelines for CSO Development Effectiveness. This Framework is likely to have a profound impact on all of our organizational practices since fellow CSOs, donors and governments will look to it for reference.

Given the importance of helping to build the International Framework, the *Canadian Consultation*, organized by CCIC, will bring together a cross section of Canadian CSOs working in international development, invited Southern CSO colleagues, and government officials. The three day event integrates CSO-only processes with a dialogue on enabling policies to strengthen CSOs as development actors involving senior officials from CIDA and other government departments.

To help focus the discussions for Canadian CSOs, the *Consultation* will concentrate on two broad areas of issues in CSO development effectiveness: 1) North/South CSO relationships; and 2) the ways in which Canadian CSOs engage their public constituencies in Canada. Participation is encouraged from experienced people in your organization who are well placed to discuss either of these issues. More than one participant per organization is welcome.

Additional information is available from Brian Tomlinson btomlinson@ccic.ca or Anne Buchanan abuchanan@ccic.ca. [Registration forms](#) are available. Register before March 3rd to benefit from the early bird rate. A limited number of travel subsidies are available to organizations from outside Quebec and Ontario, on a first-come-first-served basis. Subsidies apply to air and train travel costs only, at the rate of: 75% for travel from British Columbia; 50 % from other provinces. Funding can be provided for only one representative per organization. Travel arrangements should be made at the best available economy class fares in accordance with CCIC’s travel reimbursement policy.

We look forward to seeing you there.