

Backgrounder

**Approved Projects for Round Two
Voluntary Sector Initiative
Sectoral Involvement in Departmental Policy Development (SIDPD)**

NATIONAL PROJECTS

1. Policy framework for the Development of Co-operatives in Low Income Communities

The project will develop a policy framework for using a co-operative model in low income communities in Canada. Under the guidance of a representative steering committee, the project research will include: a literature review of the use of the co-operative model in low income communities and/or among disadvantaged groups in Europe, the United States and Canada; a review of case studies of co-operatives currently operating in low income communities; interviews with federal and provincial government officials; and consultations with stakeholders. Regional workshops will be convened to share the results of the work and to refine the draft policy framework.

Lead Organization: Canadian Co-operative Association
Department: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

2. Strengthening the Role of the Voluntary Sector in the Development of Agricultural Policies that Benefit Biodiversity

The project will enable the voluntary sector to contribute to the development and implementation of policies to conserve biodiversity. The focus will be on building partnerships between conservation groups and the agricultural sector by forming community conservation teams in selected rural areas of the country. A collaborative learning method will be used to encourage participatory development projects.

Lead Organization: Canadian Nature Federation
Department: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

3. Policy Development Roundtable on the Integration of Internationally-Trained Professionals and Tradespeople

The project aims to develop and enhance the capacity of organizations responding to the needs of internationally-trained professionals and tradespeople, and the policy/advocacy groups working to support them. It will also provide credible policy input to government forums on the effective economic integration of internationally-trained professionals and tradespeople. The project has three objectives:

- To create a policy roundtable to provide well-informed and credible policy and best practice input to government forums on Access to Professions and Trades;

- To create a national resource of research and policy materials on credential recognition and the integration of internationally-trained professionals and tradespeople into the labour market; and
- To facilitate and coordinate the voluntary sector-based development of occupation-specific, cross-occupational and broad interdepartmental policy and program initiatives on Access to Professions and Trades.

Lead Organization: Council of Agencies Serving South Asians
 Department: Canadian Heritage

4. Private/Voluntary Partnerships to Build Community Capacity

The project is designed to help government develop policy that will foster a strong, collaborative working relationship between the private and voluntary sectors. The result will be an increase in the number of corporations in Canada involved in helping build sustainable communities and the voluntary organizations that support them. The project will be coordinated through three lead partners and will involve research, stakeholder consultations, capacity building and policy recommendations. The partnership is a unique attempt to formally bring together the private and voluntary sectors with the support and interest of the public sector.

Lead Organizations: Canadian Centre for Philanthropy, Conference Board of Canada, and the Public Policy Forum
 Department: Canadian Heritage

5. Heritage Policy Development for Greater National Park Ecosystems

The project is designed to enhance the ability of the voluntary sector to effectively participate in policy development for greater park ecosystems. The objective of the project is to protect the ecological integrity of Canada's national parks. This will be done by developing map-based, stakeholder-driven citizen information systems for three national greater park ecosystems.

Lead Organization: Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
 Department: Canadian Heritage

6. Peacebuilding and Human Security: Development of Policy Capacity of the Voluntary Sector

The project is designed to strengthen policy capacity and policy dialogue among voluntary sector organizations and federal government departments. Activities will focus on the three emerging and interrelated policy areas of children and armed conflict, gender and peace building, and small arms. Reflecting on the key priority areas identified at the Winnipeg International Conference on War-Affected Children led by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) in September 2000, the project will support the development of knowledge networks between government and civil society.

Lead Organization: Canadian Peacebuilding Coordinating Committee

Agency: Canadian International Development Agency

7. Women and Policy Development in Controlling HIV Infection and AIDS

The project will enhance the capacity of women's organizations to develop policy on HIV/AIDS in Canada and beyond. It will do this by collaborating with the national women's groups of developing countries that have a high risk of HIV infection/AIDS, such as Vietnam and Thailand. The project will use electronic tools to develop and communicate training methods among women's groups in Canada and Asia and to share lessons learned on policy issues. The project will allow more women's voices to be heard, which will contribute to informed decisions based on an inclusive policy that more clearly reflects the values and experience of the community.

Lead Organization: National Organization of Immigrant and Visible Minority Women of Canada
Agency: Canadian International Development Agency

8. Building Policy Capacity for Poverty Eradication

The project will focus on the development of civil society models and approaches for poverty reduction in developing countries, which will be articulated in the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) country policy frameworks. The project will also focus on the development of skills and methods to translate the experience of civil society in Canada and developing countries into policy proposals for use by CIDA. It will facilitate knowledge-sharing networks among Canadian civil society, international partners and CIDA. The project will support CIDA's interest in developing new approaches to consultation issues and strategies regarding civil society. It will promote mutual learning and capacity building for effective policy dialogue between the federal government and the international voluntary sector. The project will involve at least three pilot projects to test approaches to collaborative policy development, focussing on capacity building in field-based policy research, consultation processes, and policy impact and knowledge networks.

Lead Organization: Canadian Council for International Co-operation
Agency: Canadian International Development Agency

9. Strengthening Policy Partnerships

The project will create a learning network that will link policy experts from government and the voluntary sectors in Canada, the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia. The project will provide recommendations to improve the Canadian International Development Agency's programming methods to strengthen the voluntary sector's ability to support good governance through more effective state-civil society partnerships.

Lead Organization: Institute on Governance
Agency: Canadian International Development Agency

10. Policy Capacity Developments and Communication within Oxfam International

The project will enhance the policy capacity of Oxfam Canada, and other voluntary sector organizations in Canada, by taking advantage of its membership in the Oxfam International network. It will allow Oxfam Canada to develop the research and policy capacity necessary to participate effectively in the global policy work of Oxfam International. Oxfam Canada is interested in learning about and influencing local, national and global regimes in four areas: trade, HIV/AIDS, basic education, and democratization. The lessons learned from this collaborative policy development model will be shared within the voluntary sector, with southern partners, and with government departments. Oxfam Great Britain, for example, has extensive policy research capacities. This expertise will be made available to Oxfam Canada as part of its work on this project.

Lead Organization: Oxfam Canada

Agency: Canadian International Development Agency

11. Building a Non-profit Housing Policy Network

The project is designed to strengthen the policy capacity of Habitat for Humanity Canada and its affiliates, as well as other not-for-profit groups. It will engage in developing affordable housing strategies to provide policy input to all levels of government. A policy network will be developed consisting of volunteer groups, and the private and public sectors, to support information sharing on “what works” and “best practices.” The network will be developed through an Affordable Housing Summit where public, private and voluntary sector participants can engage in a productive dialogue on affordable housing issues and share knowledge on specific themes: public/private/voluntary sector partnering for success; partnering with First Nations Communities; and how the voluntary sector may best participate in government policy making. Results will be documented and widely shared.

Lead Organization: Habitat for Humanity Canada

Agency: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

12. Feasibility of Establishing a Canadian Council on Self-Help Housing

The aim of the project is to establish a Canadian Council on Self-Help Housing to enable the voluntary sector make an important contribution to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation’s (CMHC) policy development in housing choice and affordability. The project will focus on conducting research and other preparatory work to examine the potential of a council, discuss the council concept with self-help groups across Canada at a national conference, and, if consensus is reached, proceed to establish the council. The council would be a key mechanism to support networks and alliances within the self-help housing subsector, and between CMHC and the subsector. The council would also facilitate knowledge development and knowledge sharing to increase voluntary sector involvement in departmental policy processes. Results will be documented and widely shared.

Lead Organization: Frontiers Foundation Inc.

Agency: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

13. Ratifying and Implementing the Kyoto Protocol: Climate Change Policy Development and the Canadian Climate Action Network

The Climate Change Action Networks (CANet) capacity will be enhanced to more effectively engage the voluntary sector in policy development to increase understanding of climate change science and impacts, and to promote actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. CANet will expand its membership to include more voluntary organizations, such as conservation groups, faith communities, labour rights and health organizations. Through a series of training and information sessions with these voluntary organizations, CANet will raise the profile of climate change and build support for public policies designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Canada.

Lead Organization: Canadian Climate Action Network
Department: Environment Canada

14. Children's Environmental Health: Building Capacity for Policy Development and Facilitating Policy Change

The Canadian Institute of Child Health (CICH) has long-standing experience in children's environmental health issues. The CICH will lead a project involving child, health, environmental and aboriginal organizations to enhance their policy capacity to address children's environmental health issues and increase public understanding of these issues. This will be accomplished through the launch of a web site, background papers, a national multimedia social marketing campaign, and a series of workshops. The project will raise the profile of children's environmental health issues and highlight for Canadians the importance of protecting children from environmental contaminants. By doing so, the project will encourage more responsible behaviour that will reduce exposure to contaminants, especially for children.

Lead Organization: Canadian Institute of Child Health
Department: Environment Canada

15. Stewardship Canada Web Portal and Citizen Science Project

The project is designed to enhance the capacity of the Stewardship Canada web portal to include an additional knowledge management tool (a "smart" application for gathering, storing and displaying citizen science data), to develop citizen science through new protocols, and to expand networks among the Department of Fisheries and Oceans' voluntary sector partners. The key activities to be undertaken include expanding the Stewardship Canada internet portal linking environmental non-profit organizations across the country; developing an application tool for gathering, storing and displaying citizen science data and information; developing citizen science protocols; and building and expanding networks among voluntary sector organizations, including the Pacific Streamkeepers Federation, and others across Canada.

Lead Organization: Wildlife Habitat Canada
Department: Department of Fisheries and Oceans

16. Integrated Prevention System

The project will be undertaken by an alliance of three organizations involved in the design and implementation of a uniquely Canadian comprehensive prevention system to significantly reduce the human and financial costs of health care in Canada. The project will address the major causes of premature morbidity and death (cancer, cardiovascular disease and stroke) and the risk factors and conditions that contribute to these diseases (tobacco use, poor nutrition and lack of physical activity).

The project team will undertake a number of stakeholder engagement and environmental scan activities ranging from stakeholder forums and websites to economic analysis. This will help them to determine the current status of the chronic disease policy area, which will inform voluntary sector organizations and federal officials about areas in need of further development.

Lead Organizations: Canadian Cancer Society, Canadian Diabetes Association and Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada
Department: Health Canada

17. Proposal for a Multicultural Coalition for Equity in Health and Well Being

The project is designed to create a multicultural health coalition made up of leaders of ethnic minority communities, and others within government and community organizations, committed to equity in health. The coalition will become an organizational vehicle through which ethnic minority communities can articulate a policy agenda for health, and create the space for progressive and meaningful participation. The policy agenda will be grounded in shared values, experiences and aspirations of diverse cultural communities.

Lead Organization: Multicultural Health Brokers
Department: Health Canada

18. Citizens for Mental Health

The project is designed to build a common Canadian vision for a national policy on mental health. Through a series of provincial and territorial mental health forums, consumer and family groups, service providers, and government representatives will be brought together to develop strategies on the role of communities in the development of a national policy on mental health. The focus of the discussions and activities will be the promotion of population health.

Lead Organization: Canadian Mental Health Association
Department: Health Canada

19. Reducing Poverty through Multisectoral Collaboration

Five communities will fight poverty by participating in a project that will help build strategies to overcome the exclusion of low-income people. The project, led by the voluntary sector and other stakeholders committed to poverty reduction, will involve a partnership with representatives

from government and the private sector. The partnership will include dialogue, reflection and action. By sharing knowledge and strategies with other communities across Canada, this multisectoral consultation will help build tools to improve public policies that reflect the Government of Canada's social inclusion commitment to all Canadians.

Lead Organizations: Caledon Institute of Social Policy and Tamarack Institute for Community Engagement

Department: Human Resources Development Canada

20. Connecting People to Policy: A National Initiative to Build Capacity of the Disability Community to Participate in and Contribute to the Policy Process

The project will enable the disability advocacy community and other stakeholders to play a significant role in developing strategies and partnerships to overcome the exclusion faced daily by people with disabilities. The participants will create a pan-Canadian policy agenda for disability and citizenship that reflects the Government of Canada's commitment to inclusion and focuses on the needs of Canadians with disabilities.

Lead Organizations: Council of Canadians with Disabilities and Canadian Association for Community Living

Department: Human Resources Development Canada

21. To Establish and Operate the Public Interest Network "PIN"

The Consumer's Council of Canada (CCC) will establish a Public Interest Network (PIN) of leading Canadian experts who will be consulted on specific consumer issues affecting the Canadian marketplace. To establish the network, the CCC will organize a workshop of representatives from consumer organizations and other stakeholders to obtain buy-in to the concept and develop categories of potential experts. The CCC will then invite associations representing those categories to participate in the PIN. A PIN omnibus survey will be conducted annually. The results of the survey will be used to enhance the ability of the Canadian public (notably, organizations with a consumer focus) to participate in the development of policy priorities. Each participating association will be offered access to the results of the PIN omnibus survey.

Lead Organization: Consumers Council of Canada

Department: Industry Canada

22. Personal Debts, Insolvency and Poverty: Building Canadian Tools for Effective NGO Participation

Action réseau consommateur (ARC) and the /Fédération des associations coopératives d'économie familiale (FACÉF) du Québec (ARC/FACEF) will develop a base of credit counselling data collected by Association coopératives d'économie familiales (ACEFs) and credit counselling agencies. Results will be published in an annual report that will identify trends on how Canadians are managing their debts and incomes. ARC/FACEF will also develop a

Canadian Internet Budgeting Tool for Canadian consumers and an Internet Exchange Forum to provide concerned organizations with a way to communicate and exchange information and research on debt, insolvency and income management. The project will culminate in a national symposium on the impact of debt, insolvency and poverty on Canadians to be held in the first half of 2003. Participants in the symposium will include representatives from NGOs, academia, governments and the private sector.

Lead Organizations: Fédération des ACEF du Québec and Action Réseau Consommateur
Department: Industry Canada

23. Working to Strengthen Interdependent Relationships and Capacity

The project will provide opportunities for First Nations child and family service providers to network, access information, share best practices, conduct research and develop effective policies. Activities will include the establishment of a national web-based data base; creation of an interactive web site to promote information sharing; and development of an information package and workshop for governments, non-governmental organizations and the general public, and professional development programs on policy development, implementation and evaluation within a First Nations child and family service context.

Lead Organizations: First Nations Child and Family Caring Society Canada
Department: Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

24. Social Inclusion, Gender Equality and Policy Capacity Enhancement Project

The project will promote an alliance of national, provincial and regional Aboriginal women's organizations. The project will develop strategies to build partnerships among Aboriginal women's organizations, federal government departments and other stakeholders, and to build the collective capacity of Aboriginal women and Aboriginal women's organizations to carry out policy research and engage in public policy development. The project will also develop strategies to improve Aboriginal women's economic autonomy, to eliminate violence against Aboriginal women and children, and to advance Aboriginal women's human rights.

Lead Organization: Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women
Department: Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

25. Enhancing the Capacity of the Voluntary Sector and the Justice System to Respond to Violence Against Immigrant and Visible Minority Women

The project is designed to develop a deeper understanding of the nature and causes of partner violence against immigrant and visible minority women, to identify recommendations for actions that will ensure victims receive support and access to services from community agencies and the justice system, and to promote services that are responsive to the needs of an evolving and diverse population.

Networks will be developed between the justice system, social service agencies and the visible

minority community. These networks will help to increase awareness of partner violence in the visible minority community and facilitate the collection of information through surveys and consultation. This information will form a valuable resource base that will help the voluntary sector to better inform the Department of Justice about the needs of immigrant and visible minority women.

Lead Organization: Canadian Council on Social Development
Department: Justice Canada

26. Cultural Diversity Policy Framework Development: Immigrant and Refugee Sectoral Engagement Project

The project will provide information and recommendations to the RCMP on how to enhance understanding and awareness of diverse cultures. The project will also support the development of new approaches at the national and regional levels to better enable the RCMP to engage partners in the immigrant, refugee, and visible minority women service sector in policy development and the implementation of culturally-appropriate practices.

The project will help build the policy capacity of the immigrant and visible minority subsector by forging new partnerships among immigrant and refugee voluntary sector representatives, such as the National Steering Committee on Cultural Diversity Policy Framework. These new partnerships will help the immigrant and visible minority subsector compile and synthesize existing viewpoints, which, in turn, will enable the subsector to better present its views to federal policymakers.

Lead Organization: Multilingual Orientation Service Association (MOSAIC)
Department: RCMP

27. Developing Policy Capacity in the Visible Minority GroupBA Partnership Approach with Solicitor General Canada

The National Organization of Immigrant and Visible Minority Women seeks to enhance the capacity of visible minority communities to provide input into policies and programs regarding restorative justice, youth and children, and effective corrections. The project will develop an awareness in visible minority organizations of current policy issues in these areas, review existing programs, and develop training tools for members of visible minority organizations to ensure their continued development as leaders in visible minority communities across Canada.

Lead Organization: National Organization of Immigrant and Visible Minority Women
Department: Solicitor General Canada

28. Using the Internet to Affect Social Policy

Womenspace will lead a two-year project to build the online capacity of women's equality-seeking groups to participate in developing and implementing social policy. The project will use a variety of methods to encourage women's participation in online consultations using a publicly

accessible web site containing project materials and a policy tool kit. A pilot online consultation will review and report on women, equality and information communications technology in preparation for the March 2003 United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. In addition, a large national consultation involving women's equality-seeking groups and government representatives will take place in 2003 to prepare a set of protocols for using the Internet to involve women's equality-seeking groups in the social policy process.

Lead Organization: Womenspace Association
Department: Status of Women Canada

29. Advancing a New Model of Regulation

MediaWatch seeks to promote gender equity in Canadian media to effect long-term systemic change. MediaWatch will engage in consultations with the Canadian public, civil society organizations (CSOs) and self-regulatory organizations to determine to what extent these stakeholders are seeking to participate in advancing a new model of media regulation. The project will produce a policy brief outlining a new regulatory model that incorporates Canadians' experiences with media. It will develop a broad-based strategy to help CSOs effectively intervene at the regulatory and policy levels to ensure gender analysis and greater public input are incorporated into federal changes in legislation and policy.

Lead Organization: MediaWatch
Department: Status of Women Canada

30. Federally Sentenced Women's Human Rights Review Project

In order to strengthen its capacity to influence government policy and legislation, the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies (CAEFS) will build a coalition of national women's organizations concerned with the unique problems faced by federally sentenced women. This will help to ensure that the concerns of federally sentenced women who are particularly vulnerable, such as Aboriginal women, visible minority women and women with physical, mental and cognitive disorders, are reflected in the special report to be prepared by the Canadian Human Rights Commission. The project will also provide policy development experience for the members of CAEFS and other NGOs.

Lead Organization: Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies
Department: Status of Women Canada

31. Giving Voice to Seniors' and Veterans' Interests

The project is designed to ensure the ongoing home and community care needs of veterans and seniors, which is a growing segment of the Canadian population, are met. The project will address specific policy objectives through extensive stakeholder consultation. It is anticipated that the project will also result in increased capacity among key voluntary sector organizations to address the broader policy concerns regarding this issue with Veterans Affairs Canada and other departments.

Lead Organization: Victorian Order of Nurses
Department: Veterans Affairs Canada

REGIONAL PROJECTS

Maritime/Atlantic Region

32. Annapolis Valley Climate Change Policy Response Pilot Project

Climate change is a significant environmental, economic and social issue facing Canada in the twenty-first century. Efforts to address the issue from a policy perspective have been a challenge since current climate change data often do not allow for accurate local predictions of the probable impacts of climate change. The Clean Annapolis River Project will work with Environment Canada to perform further climate change research and analysis. The results will be captured in 'Adaptation change scenario fact sheets' which will be used as the basis for discussion in a series of consultations, open houses, and other policy forums with community, government and First Nations representatives. The discussions and resulting recommendations will increase the capacity of the communities in the Annapolis Valley to provide meaningful input to the policy processes related to regional climate change. It is anticipated that the process will serve as a model for other regions in Canada.

Lead Organization: Clean Annapolis River Project
Department: Environment Canada

33. Achieving Balance with Restorative Justice

The project is designed to provide guidance and support on the dissemination of information on restorative justice. This will be done using a multi-sectoral framework to increase voluntary sector involvement in policy development on the justice system. The project will assist in encouraging proactive, meaningful citizen engagement, closing communication gaps, establishing and enhancing networks, integrating social and legal policy, and sharing best practices to create an enhanced and supportive environment for the voluntary sector to understand and influence public policy on the justice system.

Lead Organizations: John Howard Society of New Brunswick and Mennonite Central Committee, Maritimes
Department: Justice Canada

Quebec Region

34. Consultation with Volunteer and Community Organizations in the Rimouski-Neigette Regional Council Municipality

The Community Futures Development Corporation (CFDC) will hold consultations with volunteer and community organizations (in the Rimouski-Neigette region) to identify their needs

for the purpose of developing the policies and programs of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions.

This project will examine the needs and extent of the voluntary sector in the Rimouski-Neigette region (number of organizations and projects underway) and then assess whether the needs can be met by the current federal priorities for rural regions at AAFC and CED. Once the project has identified potential policies and programs that could fill these needs, these policy suggestions will be forwarded to AAFC and to DEC in a consultation report. Project activities will increase communication and cohesiveness amongst voluntary sector and community organizations in the Rimouski-Neigette area and increase the ability of these organizations to provide policy input to federal departments that deal with rural regions.

Lead Organization: SADC de la Neigette

Department: Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions

35. Development of Community Economic Tools

This project will develop information, community leadership and networking tools for stakeholders in the field of community economic development. This will encourage them to take ownership of economic principles, apply these principles to social economy enterprises and cooperatives, and share valuable experiences in the area of the social economy.

Lead Organization: Centre St-Pierre

Department: Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions

Ontario Region

36. Ontario Seniors Participation in Health and Housing Policy

The project is designed to provide opportunities for seniors to actively take part in a process for renewing the health care system through knowledge development and knowledge sharing. It will explore alternatives to institutional long-term care, such as supportive housing and other aging-in-place initiatives. The project also aims to create a sustainable health care alliance and e-mail network and to enhance the policy capacity of the voluntary sector.

Lead Organization: Ontario Society (Coalition) of Senior Citizens' Organizations

Department/Agency: Health Canada and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

37. A Community Based Strategy for the Assessment and Recognition of Skills and Foreign Credentials of the Immigrant Population

New immigrants have a better chance of integrating into Canadian society when their skills are recognized. The project is designed to develop new ways to address qualification recognition in Canada. Local voluntary sector organizations in Ottawa will work in partnership with federal, provincial and city (Ottawa) governments to test new approaches that will contribute to the improvement of labour market policies for immigrants to Canada. The project reflects the

Government of Canada's and HRDC's commitment to social inclusion.

Lead Organizations: United Way of Ottawa and Canadian Labour and Business Centre
Department: Human Resources Development Canada

Prairie Region

38. Rural Voices for Early Childhood Education and Care

The project, centred in the prairie region, will enhance policy development of rural early learning and child care initiatives. It will focus on building networks and the leadership capacities of community voluntary sector organizations using community mentorship, a child care directory, a support line and a web site. It will review how different jurisdictions facilitate or impede the development, operation and growth of rural early childhood education and child care programs and services. It will hold both a fact-finding forum and a rural child care symposium to bring together experts and practitioners to exchange and promote ideas, and to identify and share best practices and mobilization strategies.

Lead Organization: Childcare Family Access Network
Department: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

39. Promoting Fisheries Renewal through Environmental Training and Stewardship

The project is designed to increase the knowledge and capacity of voluntary organizations in Saskatchewan on issues of conservation and enhancement of freshwater fish habitat and to enhance their contribution to the development of environmental policies. The key activities to be undertaken include establishing a co-ordination and steering committee; advertising availability and regularly updating a conservation directory; working with the Saskatchewan Network of Watershed Stewards to post a directory on the Stewardship Canada Portal web site; surveying volunteers in conservation organizations to identify training and capacity building needs; providing riparian assessment and enhancement training sessions and volunteer water monitoring training sessions; and advertising training and volunteer opportunities through partners, weekly papers and a web directory.

Lead Organizations: Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation and Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation
Department: Department of Fisheries and Oceans

40. First Nations Veterans Policy Outreach

First Nation veterans organizations across Canada will identify their policy priorities in each region. They will also identify the joint policy objectives of First Nation veterans and the Government of Canada, improve communication practices among relevant partners regarding policy issues that affect First Nation veterans, and develop a communications policy and strategy to address the barriers First Nations veterans face in accessing information on federal policies and programs that affect them.

Lead Organization: Saskatchewan First Nations Veterans' Association
Department: Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

41. No More Victims: Developing Our Voices for Effective Solutions

In collaboration with police, social services, victims groups and legislators, up to fifteen women will learn to communicate their needs and concerns to both influence and implement change. Participants will develop skills in assertive communication, parliamentary procedure and chains of command, laws and individual rights, mediation and basic choice theory. Participants will then choose specific areas of concern for themselves, their families or communities and develop a proposal to government to address those concerns.

Lead Organization: Moose Jaw Transition House Association
Department: Solicitor General Canada

Pacific Region

42. Food and Sustainability: National and Provincial Law and Policy Reform

The project will focus on developing proposals for sustainable food law and policy reform, including developing law and policy models. Consultations will be undertaken with a wide variety of stakeholders to identify opportunities to include "local knowledge" in regulatory regimes, and food law and policy. Outcomes of the project could be used to develop federal and provincial policy in areas such as the environment, sustainable development and food safety. The project will increase the input from voluntary sector organizations into Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's (AAFC) policies and help to build relationships between voluntary sector organizations and AAFC policymakers.

Lead Organizations: West Coast Environmental Law, POLIS Institute and Farmfolk/Cityfolk
Department: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

43. B.C. Network of Associations for Foreign Trained Professionals

The project is designed to enhance and strengthen the involvement of ethno-cultural communities in developing policy on the recognition of foreign credentials across a range of professions and trades in Canada. The project will involve five communities in British Columbia. The project aims to develop links between key stakeholders, regulatory bodies, governments, educational institutions and community-based agencies to identify barriers to the recognition of foreign credentials and identify solutions. It will provide policy options to government and other regulatory bodies.

Lead Organizations: Immigrant Services Society of B.C., Multilingual Orientation Service Association (MOSAIC), and Surrey Delta Immigrant Services Society
Department: Canadian Heritage

44. National Watershed Stewardship Network

This proposal addresses Fisheries and Oceans' Environmental Stewardship, Oceans Management and Fisheries Renewal policy priorities through the creation of a National Watershed Stewardship Network. The network's objectives will include organizing communities to participate in watershed management, oceans management and fisheries renewal policy development with DFO through a combination of a national discussion forum, a national web site and policy development training components for volunteers. The capacity building benefits will be concentrated in British Columbia.

Lead Organization: Langley Environmental Partners Society
Department: Department of Fisheries and Oceans

45. Aboriginal Health Planning in the North Okanagan

The project is designed to develop a framework to formally engage native communities in policy discussions on the development and delivery of health services. Discussions will take place with non-aboriginal health stakeholders within government and the voluntary sector. The focus of the project is to develop a culturally appropriate alternative to the rigidly defined discussion frameworks characteristic of non-Aboriginal collaborative processes. Several communities and stakeholders will work with Health Canada to enhance the capacity of First Nations to contribute effectively to policy development.

Lead Organizations: Social Planning Council of the North Okanagan, North Okanagan Health Region and other Aboriginal organizations
Department: Health Canada

Northern Region

46. Increasing Collaboration Among Voluntary Sector Organizations in the Yukon

The project will create a volunteer management service to enhance opportunities for voluntary sector organizations to collaborate and to foster the development of true partnerships. The project will increase the sharing of resources and reduce the duplication of effort among organizations; facilitate increases in the rate and quality of volunteerism in the Yukon; and create tools to coordinate consultations among voluntary sector organizations to develop sound policy.

Lead Organization: United Way Society of Yukon
Department: Indian and Northern Affairs Canada