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**The Democracy Canada  
Institute: A Blueprint**

**Domestic and Inter-  
national Consultations**

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**The Democracy Canada Institute: A Blueprint**  
**Summary of Domestic and International Consultations**  
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Following the launch of our paper in September 2004, the CSD, in cooperation with the Office of the Speaker of the House of Commons, organized a roundtable discussion among a group Canadian democracy promotion experts and practitioners. The meeting took place on November 4, 2004. A roundtable discussion on December 7, 2004, hosted by the National Democratic Institute in Washington D.C., followed the Ottawa roundtable. Following the Washington consultation, the CSD, with International IDEA, hosted a European consultation at IDEA's headquarters in Stockholm on December 14 and 15, 2004. The CSD was interested in learning from the participants based on their experience in the field of democracy promotion and in receiving recommendations based on the ideas outlined in the our discussion paper.

***Democracy Canada Institute Roundtable***  
***Ottawa, November 4, 2004***

Participants included Thomas Axworthy, Queen's, David Donovan, Queen's, Steven Langdon, Parliamentary Centre, Karl Nerenberg, Forum of the Federations, Donald Dennison, Forum of the Federations, John Lobsinger, CIDA, Francoise Ducros, CIDA, Nancy Thede, Université du Québec, Claire Dansereau, CUSO, Isabel Metcalfe, Lobbyist, Paul Davidson, World University Service of Canada, Grant Kippen, NDI

- Participants at the Ottawa meeting raised several questions relating to the form and function of a possible Democracy Canada Institute. The discussion focused principally on pointed issues such as the mandate, funding requirements, etc... of a new Institution. The suggestions raised at the Ottawa meeting are presented below:
  - If there is a lack of coordination among existing Canadian organizations, the blueprint paper should discuss how a Democracy Canada Institute would overcome this more explicitly
  - Discuss how Democracy Canada would fit within the Canada Corps framework
  - Arrive at a detailed funding formula, determine the composition of the Board of Directors, and select an organizational model that the Democracy Canada Institute would adopt

- Make the mandate and role of Democracy Canada clear – for example, would it be involved in democratization or governance?
- The CSD was reminded that Canada has multiple organizations active in various aspects of democracy assistance internationally and the structure of a new organization should not duplicate existing activities.
- In addition to making recommendations on the form and function of a possible Democracy Canada Institute, the participants at the Ottawa conference assisted us in directing future research priorities. Advice and suggestions for future research included:
  - Several organizations present at the consultation stressed the need to incorporate partner organizations into decision-making to gain a contextual understanding of those we are assisting. Therefore, it was suggested that the CSD consider how it would incorporate partner countries into its decision-making process.
  - The CSD should undertake additional international consultations to assess, firstly, the level of international demand for democracy assistance, and secondly, whether a new Canadian organization could make a useful contribution to the field.
    - Specifically, the CSD was encouraged to analyze European models as alternatives to the US model
  - Learn from other organizations as to how political party representatives could be usefully included in the framework of a Democracy Canada Institute

The Ottawa consultation raised several important questions and provided the CSD with concrete advice to undertake additional research and consultations. The assistance of the participants at this conference greatly assisted the CSD in developing our blueprint paper, which includes a detailed analysis of the form and function of a possible Democracy Canada Institute.

***Democracy Canada Institute Roundtable  
Washington, DC, December 7, 2004***

Participants included Thomas Axworthy, Queen's, Les Campbell, NDI, Joe Clark, former Prime Minister of Canada, Christopher Sands, Canada Scholars CSIS, Patricia Fortier, FAC, Carl Gershman, National Endowment for Democracy, David Lowe, National Endowment for Democracy

- Like the consultation in Ottawa, the participants raised basic questions about the structure and operation of the Institute. These questions included:
  - Would Democracy Canada give grants to others and oversea or co-ordinate the field (National Endowment model), or would it run programs (NDI model), or would it do both?
  - Who would make up the board and how would it be nominated?
  - Do Canadian parties have any capacity to do programs abroad? (the impression was that they currently lack this capacity)
  - Who supports the idea? What links, if any, with the Quebec Liberal Party or the Quebec National Assembly?
  - Is there any possibility of establishing something similar to a Dutch multi-party institute in Canada? What sort of model would work best in the Canadian context?
  
- All of the American participants were enthusiastic to help. NDI and the IRI and the National Endowment would be prepared to:
  - Invite members of Parliament to Washington to brief them on how an American system runs
  - Hold a conference to gain publicity for the idea
  - Engage prominent American participants to endorse the idea
  
- Specific advice and useful observations about process included:
  - Move quickly since the subject is topical with world events in, for example, Ukraine and Iraq
  - Several Conservative MP's would be interested: get in touch with MP's as well as party directors, research bureaus etc.
  - Bring Quebec into the process
  - Create a high level advisory group (such as Joe Clark, Lloyd Axworthy) who would be in favour of the idea
  - Create the above, an ad hoc committee to advise on observers for Ukraine, Iraq, etc., and then use that to endorse idea of Institute

Those present at the Washington meeting, particularly those from the US democracy promotion community, were open and receptive to the idea of creating a Democracy Canada Institute. The participants encouraged the CSD to undertake further study into how such an Institute would be formed and how it would operate.

***Democracy Institute Roundtable and European Consultation  
Stockholm, December 14 and 15, 2004***

Participants included Thomas Axworthy, Queen's, David Donovan, Queen's, Karen Fogg, IDEA, Roger Hällhag, IDEA, Francesca Binda, IDEA, David French, WFD, Marieke van Doorn, Netherlands IMD, Marcus Lens van Rijn, Netherlands IMD, Eva Langslet, Norwegian Centre for Democracy Support, Dr. Wolfgang Sachsenröder, Friedrich Naumann Stiftung, Magnus Öhman, Department of Government, Uppsala University, Siv Ramsell, Centre Party International Foundation, Sweden, Maria Elgstrand, Jarl Hjalmarsson Foundation, Sweden, Sanna Johnson, Olof Palme International Center, Kenneth Macartney, Canadian Embassy, Sweden.

- This conference brought together representatives from various European democracy promotion organizations. The following questions were put to the participants:
  - Is there a case to be made for a Democracy Canada internationally?
  - If a Democracy Canada Institute were created, what could this entity accomplish?

It was concluded from the conference that a Canadian democracy assistance organization would be welcomed by the European democracy assistance community and that there is significant demand for new players in this field – both from partner countries as well as from the democracy assistance community itself.

- The following questions and suggestions were raised by the participants regarding the possibility of creating a Democracy Canada Institute:
  - A new Canadian organization should reflect Canada's middle power status and focus on Canada's unique political composition

- The CSD should determine whether Canada should create a political and democracy assistance organization or a broad umbrella organization to overtake activities of existing organizations
    - Funding requirements should be determined based on this assessment
  - The CSD should learn from the experiences of other democracy assistance organizations
    - Democracy Canada Institute should take advantage of these experiences as a late arrival to the democracy assistance community
  - Determine the degree to which Democracy Canada would be independent from political parties and government departments
  - Assess how Democracy Canada would involve local partners from countries it would seek to assist
- The CSD asked the organizations present two additional questions:
    - What role do the national parties of European democracies play in international democracy promotion?
    - To what degree are European democracy promotion organizations independent (from organs of Government, reporting to Parliament, etc...)?
- The CSD learned from first hand discussions and gained a better appreciation for the distinction between differing European models for democracy assistance, specifically the differences among and between single party, multiparty, and multilateral foundations
  - The CSD also learned that independence from government is important to achieve success in democracy assistance. Importantly, even single party foundations have separate spheres from the political functions of their associate parties.
  - Importantly, we learned from accountability practices of the European organizations and discussed the need for coordination in the field to achieve success on the ground.

In addition to discussing the merits of a Democracy Canada Institute, the CSD learned from the best practices of the organizations involved in the European consultation. The discussion of these experiences encouraged a process of mutual learning among the parties involved and was of particular value in shaping the CSD's conception of a blueprint paper for a possible Democracy Canada Institute.