BEAKOUT GROUP SESSION – Advocacy around international development work

1. What do we value in International Development work?

Advancing or promoting human rights and equality

Living and working in international solidarity

Breaking through “the other” building bridges

Lifelong learning – to continue to evolve – including learning of other cultures

Studying what has gone before and what the reality is now for Int’l Development

Bringing the broader picture to people – to look at the cause of the imbalance

Practicing solidarity based on overcoming social and economic injustice both in our and others communities


Not just solidarity with others struggles but to make a better Canada – this is at the core of our political involvements

Our experience in advancing civic space for struggles overseas now needs to be applied to protecting our civic space in Canada

2. Where is our Space?

We need to be more political about educating politicians

Reach out to the public to create public momentum to demand change – not only the usual voices should be raised

Simplify our language to engage and attract people – this requires effective communicators

People who wouldn’t normally be are becoming angered and active

Power to the People Campaign in Nova Scotia

Anger leads to Action

Advocacy rules restrict charities - David Suzuki had to leave his own foundation to find space to speak
3. **What next? Should ACIC play an advocacy or facilitating role in the current debate on Canada’s decreasing support for CSO’s?**

ACIC could discover what groups are doing locally/globally and Network with these groups – more is possible if we join together.

We have the tools to link up with a global campaign in the fall, including social networking tools.

The group felt that ACIC, could be play an important role in this debate. It could be bring together groups and people to share plans and campaigns, acting as a convenor, but not a spokesperson.

ACIC can also link us up with groups from beyond our region (e.g. Results Canada).

Some groups including Development and Peace and Results Canada are planning campaigns on the issue. Brian mentioned that CCIC may be interested in bringing such campaigns under one umbrella or doing some national coordination. Their staff is down to six now, so capacity could be an issue. Brian will take the question informally to the CCIC.

Andrea will take the issue to the ACIC board.

Joan is willing to assist if ACIC will play a facilitating role.