Title: In search of new alternatives to the World Bank and International Monetary Fund

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i) Basic Project Information

**IDRC Project Number:** 105445-001

**IDRC Project Title:**
In search of new alternatives to the World Bank and International Monetary Fund

**Country/Region:** Canada

**Full Name of Research Institution:** The Halifax Initiative, a project of Tides Canada Initiatives Society

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**Abstract:** The Halifax Initiative seeks to make export credit agencies, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund democratic, transparent and accountable institutions. To this end, the Halifax Initiative researches and monitors the policies and practices of these institutions; develops proposals for alternative policies and practices; and builds support for their adoption. During 2010, the Halifax Initiative convened a number of events to promote civil society collaboration and collective strategizing. The coalition hosted a series of public roundtable discussions to engage parliamentarians on global finance issues. In addition, the coalition produced several key publications on these issues. Moreover, coalition work on a legislative reform initiative concerning public support to the private sector was successful in consolidating civil society alliances, strengthening relationships with key parliamentarians and identifying new allies. Civil society used the legislative process to create political space and capital that will form the basis of future efforts. Finally, the Halifax Initiative continued to engage in policy discussions at the United Nations concerning government and corporate accountability.

**Keywords:** international financial institutions, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, Export Development Canada, development, accountability.

ii) The Research Problem
The Halifax Initiative (HI) was formed in 1994 to transform the international financial system and its institutions. In particular, the Halifax Initiative seeks to make export credit agencies (ECAs), the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) democratic, transparent and accountable institutions. HI seeks to build support for this objective among Canadian decision-makers and the general public by:

- researching and monitoring the policies and practices of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and export credit agencies;
- developing proposals for alternative policies and practices;
- building public support for these alternatives through education and outreach;
- facilitating policy dialogue with national government officials and parliamentarians;
- engaging directly with decision-makers at the target institutions; and
- building new alliances in Canada and internationally among civil society organizations and academics.

The coalition seeks to enhance parliamentary awareness regarding the international financial institutions (IFIs) and the need for robust accountability mechanisms regarding their operations. HI has also placed increased emphasis on the role of the IFIs in global economic governance, as significant shifts take place in the wake of the financial crisis.

iii) Objectives

The Halifax Initiative’s stated objectives for the 2010 funding period were met through the following coalition activities.

**Goal 1:** Explore emerging alternatives, as well as opportunities and challenges, to the current international financial system and its institutions, and deepen the knowledge and understanding of Canadian CSOs on current economic paradigms and policies.

- Explore proposals to make the international financial institutions more effective, efficient and accountable, including by promoting alternatives to these institutions where they are not seen to add value.
- In the lead up to the Group of Eight (G8) meeting, increase the awareness of Canadian parliamentarians and the general public regarding models and alternatives to the existing international financial architecture and its institutions, and encourage parliamentarians to become more active in monitoring and engaging on these issues.
- In collaboration with Southern partners, deepen knowledge and understanding among new Canadian constituencies about some of the challenges of global development finance and alternatives to the current system, and identify opportunities for action.

*Enhance IFI accountability by promoting alternatives*

The Halifax Initiative proposed to achieve this objective through the development of a report card that would review the record and performance of the IFIs between 1995, when the Halifax Group of Seven (G7) summit focused on IFI reform, and 2010, when the G8/G20 returned to Canada. As noted in our interim technical report, in light of the global financial crisis and
subsequent events, the timing for such a report card was ideal. However, it soon became evident that an evaluation of progress made within these institutions would miss important elements that emerged in 2009 and 2010. Many civil society organizations have used the crisis as an opportunity to identify and promote far reaching, transformative changes to the status quo. Some of these proposals would have been missed in a report that focused exclusively on the IFIs. Consequently, the Halifax Initiative reconceived the report card as a broader publication that would assess what has happened since 1995, as well as focusing on the failures of the current financial system, and identifying reforms that are needed to generate a truly sustainable and equitable financial system.

The outcome was *Fifteen Years is Enough – What’s changed in the international financial system, what hasn’t and what needs to*, a series of articles providing forward looking perspectives on international development finance issues. The chapters address the following: new innovative mechanisms for financing global development and climate change; global governance in the context of the G20 and United Nations; the parameters for developing a new global reserve system; policy conditionality in the context of both the crisis and a revitalized International Monetary Fund; the issue of tax justice and capital flight; and debt in the context of the crisis. The majority of the chapters were North-South collaborations by staff from ActionAid International, Centre National de Coopération au Développement – 11.11.11, Christian Aid, the European Network for Debt and Development, the Freedom from Debt Movement, Jubilee South, Tax Justice Network (and TJN-Africa) and Third World Network. The report was published in April 2010 and launched at the Spring Meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund in Washington.

Several of the chapters have been translated into French, and others have been re-published and disseminated by civil society organizations, worldwide. A professor at American University in Washington uses the publication in his course materials. Both the publication and a conference policy paper (see below) were sent to members of the Foreign Affairs and Finance Committees in the House of Commons, and have been distributed at public events organized by HI in the lead-up to the G8 and G20 meetings (see below).

As detailed in the interim narrative report, HI organized a major conference on the global financial crisis in October 2009 in partnership with The North-South Institute and the University of Ottawa. In January 2010, we completed the conference report, a bilingual policy paper jointly released by The North-South Institute and the School of International Development and Global Studies at the University of Ottawa. Rather than synthesizing the conference itself, the policy paper builds on key findings from the meeting. Moreover, it provided recommendations for decision-makers on eight different issues related to the international financial system and its institutions ahead of the June 2010 G8 and G20 meetings in Canada.

One of the alternatives discussed in these publications is the financial transactions tax, more popularly known as the Robin Hood Tax. The taxation of private capital received a great deal of media and political play internationally in 2009-2010. In collaboration with a broad range of organizations, the Halifax Initiative actively promoted the financial transactions tax (FTT) in Canada. This included work with the Robin Hood Tax coalition to produce a web site, an animated public education video, fact sheets, a toolkit for engagement on the issue, media
interviews, opinion editorials, public workshops, and meetings with government officials and parliamentarians.

*Increase the awareness and engagement of parliamentarians and the public around alternatives to these institutions*

In 2010, the Halifax Initiative produced a range of materials to educate multiple constituencies (parliamentarians, civil servants, coalition members and the general public) about our issues. These included comprehensive publications, policy papers, coalition platforms, monthly Issue Updates, fact sheets, on-line blogs, sign-on statements, opinion editorials and podcasts. These outputs are listed in the annex to this report.

In addition, HI engaged decision-makers and the general public in 2010 through parliamentary hearings, roundtables and workshops. In the absence of parliamentary hearings on the G8 and G20 agendas, HI worked with members of the Canadian 2010 G8/G20 civil society platform to organize a series of parliamentary roundtables. The roundtables engaged parliamentarians from all opposition parties, civil society representatives and invited experts on a number of the issues highlighted in the civil society document, *An Agenda for Global Development: G8/G20 Civil Society Coalition Platform*. The Halifax Initiative led the organization of these events, which focused on climate change and climate finance; the financial crisis; and the Millennium Development Goals.

Participants in the roundtable panels included Keya Chatterjee (World Wildlife Fund USA), Clare Demerse (Pembina Institute), Dean Baker (Centre for Economic Policy and Research), Charles Abugre Akelyira (UN Millennium Campaign) and Gerry Barr (CCIC). The roundtables were co-sponsored by the Bloc Quebecois, the Liberal Party and the NDP, and representatives from each party participated in roundtable panels. The Conservative government was invited to co-sponsor and participate in the event but declined to do so.

Roundtable discussions represented an excellent opportunity to actively engage MPs on the issues included in our civil society platform, and to encourage the development of party positions. The NDP, Bloc and Liberals, as well as the Conservative government, are now all actively positioning themselves around the issues of global governance and the G20, and innovative mechanisms for financing development, with particular focus on the FTT.

In June, just ahead of the G8/G20 summits, we released the first in a series of three podcasts, which addresses the Millennium Development Goals. We’re currently producing podcasts on the G20 and the FTT. Produced like radio documentaries, the podcasts include interviews with a host of individuals. In general, each podcast frames the issue, identifies challenges, government solutions and proposed alternatives. The podcasts are available on our web site and can be downloaded from iTunes.

Finally, we abandoned plans to organize traveling teach-in workshops with local university and college students, church groups, labour unions and local community activists in the lead up to the summits. HI staff worked to capacity on *Fifteen Years is Enough*, the conference policy paper, the parliamentary roundtables and in the promotion of the FTT. Instead, we organized a
major strategic discussion with colleagues from the South around the time of the G20 meeting (see below).

**Collaborate with Southern colleagues and Canadians around opportunities for action in the changing context of global development finance**

As identified in the 2008 HI proposal, the coalition planned to bring Southern partners to Canada to appear before parliamentary hearings on the G8 and G20 agendas. Because those hearings did not take place, we arranged for colleagues to participate in the parliamentary roundtables described above and in the alternative summit organized by Toronto-based groups. Charles Abugre also participated in a public event co-organized with KAIROS and the University of Ottawa on the climate and financial crises.

HI also organized a major initiative around the G20 meetings to explore opportunities for collaboration among Southern and Northern CSOs, and to begin to identify common positions and priorities with respect to the G20. Under the banner of *Building a bridge to South Korea*, the Halifax Initiative organized a major strategic discussion on the G20 and its agenda with representatives from twelve of the nineteen G20 countries, as well as national, regional and international networks. The meeting was held just ahead of the G8 summit in Huntsville and the G20 summit in Toronto. The meeting’s objective was three-fold:

- develop a greater understanding of the key issues on the G20 agenda, as well as alternative agendas seeking to influence the G20;
- strengthen and solidify strategic connections among G20 and non-G20 countries in the lead up to the South Korean and French G20 meetings, and enhance CSO capacity to develop analysis and strategies for confronting the G20; and
- develop concrete ideas and proposals for collaboration with South Korean colleagues for the November 2010 summit.

The meeting also sought to create a nucleus of civil society organizations working together and sharing experiences from past, current and future G20s. In this vein, it brought together those who organized the “Put People First” campaign and “Americans for Financial Reform” in 2009 (London, Pittsburgh), the “At the Table” and South Korean campaigns of 2010 (Toronto, Seoul) and those who will organize around the 2011 summit in France. The meeting provided a highly useful opportunity to enhance the degree of cooperation and coordination among groups, worldwide.

**Goal 2:** Critically assess IFI project finance policies and practices regarding the environment, human rights, decent work, gender rights and transparency. Research and advocate for the adoption of effective accountability mechanisms to ensure that IFIs meet international environmental and human rights standards.

- Provide critical assessment and proposals on EDC/World Bank project finance practices and policies.
- Foster partnerships with the human rights community. Contribute to international debate on IFIs and human rights, particularly through the mandate of the Special Representative on business and human rights.
• Assess and take action around new opportunities for holding public international financial institutions to international standards on the environment and human rights.

As described in the interim report, Bill C-300, An Act Respecting Corporate Accountability for the Activities of Mining, Oil and Gas in Developing Countries, was tabled in the House of Commons in 2009. The bill establishes binding human rights and environmental standards for extractive projects that receive support from Export Development Canada, and creates a complaints mechanism that is accessible to affected communities. The bill was the subject of lengthy hearings before the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development during both 2009 and 2010.

The Halifax Initiative played a central role in the campaign to adopt Bill C-300. HI was actively involved in the identification and preparation of witnesses. Halifax Initiative staff produced analysis on the bill and provided briefings for parliamentarians, civil society colleagues and the general public. The Halifax Initiative drafted amendments to address a number of short-comings with the legislation and briefed opposition MPs on their content. Coalition staff participated in a debate on the legislation at the Faculty of Law of the University of Western Ontario. In addition, HI participated in numerous media interviews regarding the legislation, including a live television interview in the House of Commons minutes before Third Reading.

While the bill was ultimately defeated by a narrow margin, it provided an extremely effective vehicle to raise awareness among decision-makers and the public regarding the human rights abuse associated with Canadian corporate operations, and the need for enhanced government and corporate accountability measures. The campaign in support of Bill C-300 consolidated civil society alliances, strengthened relationships with key parliamentarians and identified new allies. Civil society used the legislation to create political space and capital that will form the basis of future efforts.

The Halifax Initiative was very active throughout 2010 in the Canadian Network on Corporate Accountability (CNCA). HI participates on the network’s steering committee and supervises the network’s coordinator. Among other tasks, HI provides the network with information and analysis regarding legal issues, including legal reforms regarding government and corporate accountability in other jurisdictions, initiatives in Canada (a number of private members’ bills have been tabled since Bill C-300), relevant jurisprudence and as yet untapped legal reform opportunities.

During 2010, the Halifax Initiative continued to engage with the mandate of the UN Secretary-General’s special representative on business and human rights, John Ruggie. In January, HI participated in an expert multi-stakeholder consultation titled, Closing Governance Gaps: Application of the U.N. “Protect, Respect, Remedy” Framework. The event, which took place in Berlin, was organized by the German Institute for Development and Peace and the German government, and involved the participation of Mr. Ruggie. The following day, HI spoke on a panel concerning export credit and human rights at an international conference that was also convened by the German government titled, THAT’S RIGHT! Corporate Responsibility for Human Rights. In addition, HI staff spoke at a meeting with German parliamentarians from all
political parties. The meeting was organized by HI allies and revealed great interest in the Canadian legislative initiative on the part of German decision-makers.

In April, Mr. Ruggie submitted a progress report, *Business and Human Rights: Further steps toward the operationalization of the “protect, respect and remedy” framework*, to the Human Rights Council. As in previous reports, Mr. Ruggie draws attention to the important link between export credit and human rights. He explains that “[d]espite the State nexus, relatively few export credit agencies and official investment insurance or guarantee agencies explicitly consider the human rights impacts of the ventures they support, even where the risks are known to be high.” However, Mr. Ruggie’s recommendation for addressing this failing is disappointingly weak. Mr. Ruggie does not emphasize the obligation of export credit agencies, which form part of the state apparatus, to comply with international human rights norms. Instead, he capitulates, accepting export credit agencies’ argument that human rights considerations represent a competitive disadvantage for their clients. The Special Representative backs the agencies’ proposal that human rights “guidance” regarding export credit be provided through the Common Approaches. This non-binding OECD Recommendation is routinely ignored by its signatories.

Following the release of his report, the Halifax Initiative and its allies in ECA-Watch learned that the Special Representative would address the Export Credit Group (ECG) of the OECD. Members of ECA-Watch, including the Halifax Initiative, engaged with Mr. Ruggie’s staff ahead of that meeting to share information and analysis regarding the Common Approaches’ significant weaknesses and the instrument’s poor record as a vehicle for change. We encouraged the Special Representative to rethink his approach and at the very least, to use his engagement with the ECG to call for structural reforms that would strengthen the Common Approaches. Mr. Ruggie was unmoved by ECA-Watch’s interventions and the ECG has since formed a ‘working group’ on human rights.

The Halifax Initiative continued to engage with Export Development Canada during 2010 on its lending policies and practices. This included participation in an expert meeting at EDC regarding the World Bank Performance Standards, as well as the EDC annual meeting. The Halifax Initiative used these opportunities to push for greater transparency and accountability regarding EDC operations.

As described in our interim report, in 2009 Barrick Gold announced that it would request export credit support for the Pascua Lama project in Chile. The Pascua Lama project is proposed for development in a glacial field and is opposed by downstream communities. In 2010, Barrick applied for funding from the U.S. Export-Import Bank, an American export credit agency. HI convened a number of conference calls between American and Chilean colleagues to develop strategies for blocking public support for this extremely damaging project. Working together with these international colleagues, a letter was drafted and translated for the American export credit agency, outlining the serious problems associated with the project. The application for funding has since remained on hold. The civil society letter was also sent to Export Development Canada, which has not yet announced plans to fund the project.

In September, HI participated in a civil society tribunal organized by the Latin American Observatory of Mining Conflicts (OCMAL) in Chile. The event focused on transborder mining.
Until recently, international borders were protected from mining operations. However, in recent years, these areas have been opened to mining investment including, for example, through a bilateral treaty between Chile and Argentina. Lack of clarity regarding regulatory oversight in these often fragile areas has led to conflict. In Latin America, Canadian companies hold the majority of mining concessions in international border areas. Kinross, which holds a contested concession on the border between Peru and Ecuador, has received financing from EDC. The Halifax Initiative participated on a panel of five “judges,” who received information about transborder mining projects from affected community representatives. The panel released a statement following the event. The Halifax Initiative focused attention on the role of host governments in promoting corporate accountability during the event.

In 2010, the North American Congress on Latin America (NACLA) devoted an edition of its magazine, *Report on the Americas*, to Canadian foreign policy in Latin America. The Canadian edition features an article by the Halifax Initiative on Canadian mining investment in the region. The article describes efforts to reform domestic policy and law regarding the overseas operations of Canadian extractive companies, including Bill C-300. HI had the article translated into Spanish and it has been widely disseminated among colleagues in the region.

**Goal 3:** *Increase the level of awareness of Canadian decision-makers and the general public about the IFIs and government actions at these institutions, and engage them to play a more active role in monitoring these activities.*

- **Raise the awareness of key decision-makers regarding CSO concerns around emerging IFI involvement in development issues.**

It has been difficult to secure meetings with the Finance and CIDA ministers over the past few years, although we continue to have meetings with officials at the director and chief levels, and are in constant contact with lower level bureaucrats. We continue to meet with the Canadian Executive Directors at the World Bank and IMF, and officials in their offices. The government continues to request our presence at meetings on various issues related to international finance and development. Government officials also regularly participate in the events that we organize, and request and use the materials that we produce.

Our monthly Issue Update remains a key communications tool with government officials, Members of Parliament, civil society partners and the public. The newsletter continues to profile three key issues each month and provides a more in-depth fact sheet on one of the featured issues. People continue to subscribe to the Updates and our outreach is expanding. As described above, we also produced a diversity of publications during 2010 to raise awareness and foster understanding on our issues among a range of constituencies.

The financial crisis has increased the interest of a much broader community of groups and individuals in our work and has brought greater recognition of our accomplishments. Internationally, we continue to coordinate a number of strategic discussions and global actions around the global financial crisis, raising the profile of the organization among hundreds of international organizations, labour groups, grassroots movements and academics. For example, we helped to coordinate consultations with the IMF on the financial transactions tax and a
global sign-on statement laying out principles for a global leaders’ forum. For this work, we continue to manage a number of national and global listservs on the G8 and G20 in Canada, the financial transactions tax, and the global financial crisis, and coordinate periodic international calls to help move the work forward.

Throughout 2010, HI staff was asked to speak in a number of different fora including public meetings, conferences, parliamentary hearings, government sessions, academia, civil society events, and in radio and TV interviews.

iv) Methodology

The coalition takes a “root-cause,” or structural, approach to environmental and social sustainability by focusing on macro-economic policies, external debt and IFI governance. The Halifax Initiative builds support among the Canadian public and decision-makers to transform the international financial system through four areas of activity:

1. Analysis of existing policies and practices, and the development of alternative proposals.
2. Public education and awareness-building concerning the socially and environmentally destructive practices of the World Bank, the IMF and export credit agencies.
3. The promotion of policy dialogue with decision-makers to encourage the adoption of alternative proposals.
4. The development and strengthening of international civil society alliances to promote IFI reform, economic justice and solidarity with affected populations.

v) Project Activities

Project activities are identified in the discussion above concerning project objectives, in the discussion below regarding project outcomes and in the annex to this report.

Learning regarding the implementation and management of project activities

Both the political and financial contexts in which we work have experienced major shifts during the funding cycle. The coalition needed to be creative and flexible in adapting its strategies to capitalize on emerging opportunities. Relationship development with parliamentarians remained an important focus, as did national and international civil society alliance-building.

Another important lesson was exposed through the C-300 process. While this private member’s bill was ultimately defeated in the House of Commons, it provided an effective vehicle to build awareness and support for enhanced accountability mechanisms. In some contexts, legislative proposals can form part of an effective strategy for reform, even when they have little chance of being adopted in the short term.

vi) Project Outputs
Key project outcomes include:

- The publication, *Fifteen Years is Enough – What’s changed in the international financial system, what hasn’t and what needs to* and the policy paper, *What’s Missing in the Response to the Global Financial Crisis?*
- Robin Hood Tax web site, video, fact sheets, toolkit, workshops and meetings.
- Parliamentary roundtables on climate change and climate finance; the financial crisis; and the Millennium Development Goals.
- MDG podcast.
- *Building a bridge to South Korea* strategic discussion on the G20.
- Article on government accountability in NACLA *Report on the Americas.*

vii) **Project Outcomes**

Key project outcomes include:

- Enhanced dialogue and collaboration among international civil society actors on the G20 and associated strategies.
- Stronger engagement by opposition parliamentarians on issues related to global finance.
- Enhanced awareness among the Canadian public, civil society and decision-makers regarding the need for accountability mechanisms in connection with the provision of public support to the private sector. A number of private members’ bills have been tabled since Bill C-300 and there is more political momentum on this issue than ever before.
- Foreign governments and civil society organizations followed the Bill C-300 debate and remained interested in its outcome.
- The UN special representative on human rights continues to issue recommendations regarding export credit and human rights.
- Export credit agencies have not supported the damaging Pascua Lama project.

viii) **Overall Assessment and Recommendations**

*Partnerships*

The Halifax Initiative’s work is premised on partnership, and 2010 saw HI staff advance the coalition’s work through new and more effective partnerships. Examples include collaboration with The North-South Institute and the University of Ottawa in the production of an important policy paper based on a joint conference; relationship development and strategic work with national and international civil society organizations around the emergence of the G20; and effective advocacy work with the Canadian Network on Corporate Accountability.

*Contributions to development*

Our work seeks to reform the broad macroeconomic policies that shape developmental
outcomes. This work is slow and highly incremental. Quantifiable developmental outcomes are difficult to identify. However, it’s clear that progressive reforms concerning fiscal policy and government accountability have a positive impact on development.

Lessons for the future
Collaboration with opposition parliamentarians remains key in the context of a minority government. Relationship building is slow but can yield results, as seen with Bill C-300.

Value and importance of the project
HI’s work became even more relevant following the recent financial crisis. Civil society organizations have increased awareness regarding the links that exist between their issues and global finance. The Halifax Initiative continues to play a critical role in support of civil society colleagues through the dissemination of information and analysis, and by convening diverse stakeholders in meaningful discussion regarding financial issues.

Recommendations to IDRC
The project was successful and we have no critical feedback for IDRC. We are grateful for IDRC’s support, which we hope we will continue to receive.
ANNEX - Project Outputs

HI Reports

- Policy Paper: What’s missing in the Response to the Global Financial Crisis? (February)
- Fifteen Years is Enough: What’s changed in the international financial system and its institutions, what hasn’t and what needs to (March)

External Publications

- *The G8 is Dead! Long Live the G20?* in the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung publication, *Canadian Perspectives on Global Economic Governance and the G20*

Letters and Comments

- ECA-Watch letter to OECD re the Common Approaches revision (January 12)
- ECA-Watch letter to G20 Chair re ECAs and phase out of fossil fuel subsidies (January 22)
- Letter to Ministers Flaherty and Cannon re debt cancellation for Haiti (February 1)
- Submission by civil society organizations to the International Finance Corporation on its policy review process (March 11)
- ECA-Watch letter re OECD Sector Understanding on Export Credits for Renewable Energies and Water Projects (March 26)
- International civil society statement on a new global leaders’ forum (April 16)
- International civil society statement on financial transaction taxes
- Civil society comments on draft IFC policies (August 27)
- Civil society statement on CSR Counsellor (October 26)

Issue Updates

- Monthly bilingual Issue Updates

Meetings and Consultations

- Consultation with the UN Secretary-General’s Special Representative on business and human rights (Berlin, January 20)
- Meeting with German Parliamentarians on Bill C-300 (Berlin, January 20)
- Meeting with Jean-Francois Perrault, Director, Finance Canada, on the financial transaction tax (January 21)
- Consultation with the International Monetary Fund on the FTT (January 28)
- EDC consultation on the IFC Performance Standards (February 1)
- Meeting with David Angell, Director General, International Organizations Bureau and Prime Minister’s special representative to Africa for the G8, about the Africa Partnership Forum (February 23)
- Meeting with Eric Madueno, Economist, Finance Canada, to discuss developments on the
replenishment of the International Development Agency (April 19)

- Meeting with Canadian Executive Director to the World Bank (April 22)
- Meeting with Keith Christie, G8 Foreign Affairs Sous-Sherpa and Assistant Deputy Minister, Global Issues Branch (May 11)
- Meeting with the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea (May 12)
- Meeting with French Deputy Ambassador regarding the FTT (June 1)
- Civil society meeting with G8/G20 Sherpa on summit agendas (June 15)

Presentations and conferences

- Presentation at international conference titled, *THAT'S RIGHT! Corporate Responsibility for Human Rights* (Berlin, January 21)
- Participation in a debate on corporate accountability, University of Western (March 18)
- Presentation to the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development on the FTT (May 7)
- Presentation on the FTT at workshop at Alternative Summit (June 20)
- Presentation on the FTT at a workshop organized by the United Steelworkers (June 25)
- Presentation on government and corporate accountability at a workshop organized by the United Steelworkers (June 25)

Events organized by the Halifax Initiative

- Parliamentary roundtable on climate change and climate financing (April 20)
- Parliamentary roundtable on the global financial crisis (April 26)
- Parliamentary roundtable on the Millennium Development Goals (April 27)
- Bridge to South Korea – global civil society meeting on the G20 agenda (June 21-22)

Media coverage

- Media briefing on the G8/G20 civil society platform – spokesperson (January 26)
- Embassy magazine opinion editorial (February 3)
- Embassy magazine (April 28)
- Interview with CKCU on the G8 and G20 (April 30)
- Interview with Radio Canada International on the FTT (May 24)
- Embassy magazine opinion editorial (June 9)
- Interview on CTV “Squeezeplay” on the G8 and G20 (June 25)
- Live interview on CTV “Power Play” on Bill C-300 (October 27)
- Embassy magazine (November 3)
- The Ecologist (November 11)

Other

- MDG podcast http://halifaxinitiative.org/content/DNTG8