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## CANADA APPLAUDS GUATEMALA'S RETURN TO DEMOCRACY

External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall today applauded Guatemala's return to democratic government with the choice of the country's new president by its democratically elected Congress on Saturday. President Ramiro de León Carpio was sworn in on Sunday.

"I made it clear, at the Special OAS [Organization of American States] Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Washington last week and yesterday at the OAS General Assembly in Managua, that Canada would accept nothing less than the full restoration of constitutional government in Guatemala," Mrs. McDougall said.

The minister indicated that she was gratified that this happened so quickly, and that international pressure was helpful, as President de León Carpio has indicated. She offered the president Canada's support and wished him every success in his new position.

For the past three years, until his election as president, Ramiro de León Carpio has been Guatemala's Human Rights Ombudsman, a position to which he was appointed by the Congress. His work in support of human rights in Guatemala has won him domestic and international recognition. Canada has provided significant financial support to the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman.

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