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U.N. CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Flora MacDonald, and David MacDonald, Minister responsible for Status of Women, announce that Canada supported a Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women which was adopted December 18 by the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

One of the highlights of this year's General Assembly, the text of the Convention is the culmination of several years of efforts, collaboration and negotiation on the part of delegates of countries representing diverse cultures and civilizations. The Convention is a landmark on the road to equality of rights and responsibilities for women and men. It outlines for governments objectives to be pursued in the political, social, economic and cultural fields to ensure the full development and advancement of women.

At the United Nations, Canada played a full role in bringing about this Convention and actively participated in special working groups and committees for that purpose. The Government of Canada has already indicated its commitment to the basic aims of the Convention, and considers it an instrument which could be of great interest to Canadian women. Much of the subject matter covered by the Convention falls within provincial jurisdiction. Consequently, the Government intends to initiate a process of consultation with the provinces to examine the possibilities of Canada becoming a party to the Convention.