

# News Release

Minister for  
External Relations  
and International  
Development



# Communiqué

Ministre des  
Relations extérieures  
et du développement  
international

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## UN OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

The Honourable Monique Landry, Minister for External Relations and International Development, and Minister of State for Indian Affairs and Northern Development, introduced today, on behalf of all member countries of the United Nations, the Commemorative Resolution on the International Year of the World's Indigenous People.

"It is a great honour for Canada to introduce into this General Assembly -- on behalf of the many co-sponsors from all regions of the world -- the Commemorative Resolution for the International Year of the World's Indigenous People," said the Minister. "The International Year provides Canada and all the co-sponsors with an opportunity to participate in efforts to promote the values, history and aspirations of indigenous people and to further improve international co-operation in the field of human rights."

Canada has taken an active role in drafting the Resolution for the International Year and in bringing it forward for the United Nations.

Mary Simon, former President of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, and Ovide Mercredi, National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, also took part in the opening day ceremonies on behalf of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada.

The primary objective of the International Year is to strengthen international co-operation in finding solutions for the problems faced by the world's indigenous communities. The Resolution seeks to encourage various governments to acknowledge the special needs of indigenous people in the formulation of their national policies without setting them apart from the societies within which they live.

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