



*Sister Cecilia, from the Good Shepherd Welfare Home, receiving the Canada Fund contribution from High Commissioner Lambert*

## Canada Funds Women's Projects in Malaysia

Since 1987, the Canada Fund has been in partnership with the Malaysian-based National Council of Women's Organization (NCWO) to identify and implement projects which benefit women. The NCWO is an umbrella advisory organization with 47 affiliates from across Malaysia and a combined membership of over 500,000 women. The Canada Fund-NCWO Women in Development initiative is a component of the Canadian International Development Agency's policy to ensure the integration of women into Canada's development assistance efforts.

"Of the 27 projects so far suggested to us by the NCWO, we have funded 21, and total disbursements to date have exceeded \$175,000. Moreover, in each of the last three years, the number of projects approved has increased," noted High Commissioner Garrett Lambert during a cheque presentation ceremony at the NCWO offices.

Also present was the Deputy Minister of Transport, Datin Paduka Zaleha Ismail, who is President of the NCWO. In her speech, she mentioned that the contributions from the Government of Canada had enabled women's or-

ganizations in Malaysia to assist more effectively at the grassroots level. The funding has helped to bring about change, and has raised the awareness of specific problems affecting the lives of women and their families and communities.

Representatives from seven organizations were on hand at the ceremony to receive cheques totalling \$53,956 for their respective projects. These ranged from health projects to child and literacy classes in squatter areas.

## Canada Supports Women's Issues in the Philippines

Two months before the Philippines celebrated International Month for Women in March, the Canadian Government, through the Women in Development (WID) Program of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), sponsored a visit of a two-member WID Planning Mission. It was led by Louise Bergeron de Villiers, the Deputy Coordinator of Status of Women Canada.

Over a 15-day period, the team met with both governmental and non-governmental organizations involved in WID issues. These included the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW) and WID NGOs to exchange experiences and to explore options to assist CIDA in planning a proposed \$5 million Women in Development Program. Meetings with selected senior officials in the Philippine Government were also held to discuss priority issues in the Philippine Development Plan for Women.

As a result of the mission, two activities were identified for likely CIDA funding: the assistance to NCRFW to develop training programs throughout the government of the Philippines on how to integrate gender issues in planning and policy development; and supporting a consortium of women's organizations in a range of projects to address gender inequality.