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VÉZINA MEETS WITH INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS EXPERTS

The Honourable Monique Vézina, Minister for External Relations and International Development, is participating in today's opening ceremony of the International Congress on Human Rights and Democracy Education. The Congress is being held in Montreal, March 8 to 11.

Canada's decision to host the International Congress "bears eloquent testimony to Canada's long-standing support for UNESCO's [United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization] human rights education activities. We are pleased to see this Congress taking place; the historic times we are living in call for events such as this," said Mrs. Vézina.

During her speech, Mrs. Vézina announced that, in order to encourage Canadian and international non-government organizations (NGOs) to become more actively involved in the next world conference on human rights, scheduled for Vienna this June, the Canadian International Development Agency will contribute \$200,000 toward a preliminary meeting organized by the University of Ottawa Human Rights Centre and the NGO Internet.

The Montreal Congress is organized jointly by UNESCO and the United Nations Human Rights Centre in Geneva. In accordance with Canada's wishes, the preparations for this international event were co-ordinated by the Canadian Commission for UNESCO.

Attending the Congress are some 90 experts and 200 observers from all over the world.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

Manon Chevalier
Office of the Minister for External Relations
and International Development
(819) 953-3149

or
Media Relations Office
External Affairs and International Trade Canada
(613) 995-1874