

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable D. C. Jamieson, announced today that on September 20, 1976, a Canadian, Professor Walter S. Tarnopolsky, was elected to the United Nations Human Rights Committee. The Committee, which consists of eighteen experts in the field of human rights, is established under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Canada acceded on May 19, and which came into force on March 23, 1976. The chief purpose of the Committee is to review reports from states party "on the measures they have adopted which give effect to the rights recognized therein and on the progress made in the enjoyment of those rights". Elections to the Committee took place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on September 20 at a meeting of the thirty-seven countries which are now parties to the International Covenant. Professor Tarnopolsky will serve an initial term of four years on the Committee.

A native of Gronlid, Saskatchewan, Professor Tarnopolsky is a graduate of the University of Saskatchewan, Columbia University and the University of London, and has taught law at Saskatchewan, Ottawa, Windsor and the Osgoode Hall Law School. From 1972 to 1975 he was Vice-President (Academic) at York University, Toronto, and for the past year has been Visiting Professor of Law at Laval University. He has now returned to the Osgoode Hall Law School, York University, as Professor of Law. The author of numerous articles on human and civil rights and a widely known book "The Canadian Bill of Rights", Professor Tarnopolsky is a legal scholar of international standing in the human rights field.