



# communiqué

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## DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHED WITH REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

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The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mark MacGuigan, announced today that Canada has established diplomatic relations with the Republic of Maldives. Mr. Robert W. Clark, currently Canada's High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, will be accredited as Ambassador to the Republic of Maldives, with residence in Colombo. The establishment of formal diplomatic relations with the Maldives, an Indian Ocean state, reflects the importance Canada attaches to this region and the growing role of the Maldives as a center attracting Canadian tourists.

Mr. Clark (B.Ed, B.A., M.A., University of Saskatchewan) originally from Yorkton, Saskatchewan, joined the Department of External Affairs in 1956. He has served abroad in Havana, San José and Geneva. He has been High Commissioner in Sri Lanka since December 1979.