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MR. CLARK SALUTES INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

On the occasion of International Women's Day -- March 8, 1989 -- the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, made the following comments:

"It gives me great pleasure to pay tribute today to women around the world on the occasion of International Women's Day. Women make up half of the world's population -- yet in most parts of the world put in two-thirds of its work hours, receive just ten percent of its income, and own less than one percent of its property. Much work remains to be done to improve the status of women around the world. Canada remains unequivocally committed to the advancement of women, and will continue to play a determined role in international fora in the search for women's equality wherever and whenever the opportunity arises."

Canada pursues many international activities in order to raise the profile of women's issues on the world stage. We played a leading role in the adoption, by consensus, of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women in 1985, which are designed to guide the international community in its effort to achieve full equality for women by the year 2000.

Canada is also an active participant in the Commission for the Status of Women, which plays the central role in overseeing status of women issues in the United Nations. Canada was recently re-elected to its third consecutive term on the Commission, and will continue to make a constructive and dynamic contribution to the work of that body. Canada will seek to focus increased international attention on three areas of urgent priority in the promotion of international women's equality: namely, education, environment and population issues.

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Secretary of State
for
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État
aux
Affaires extérieures

Canada