



news release

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CANADA APPOINTS REPRESENTATIVE TO ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES' INTER-AMERICAN CHILDREN'S INSTITUTE

External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall and Minister of Health and Welfare Benoit Bouchard today announced the appointment of Canada's first representative to the Directing Council of the Inter-American Children's Institute (IACI). The position will be an ongoing responsibility of the Director General of the Children's Bureau of Health and Welfare Canada, a post currently held by Brian Ward.

"This appointment demonstrates Canada's commitment to be a full and active partner in inter-American activities," said Mrs. McDougall. "Through its participation in this Organization of American States' [OAS] agency, Canada will build on its leading international role in promoting the well-being of children and their families."

Mr. Bouchard said: "Canada has always attached priority to the rights and welfare of children, both at home and abroad. We look forward to sharing our experiences and initiatives with our counterparts throughout the Americas and are convinced that we can make an important contribution to the IACI in this regard."

The IACI is a specialized agency of the OAS, responsible for promoting awareness of the problems of childhood, adolescence, maternity, the family and the community in the Americas. It does this by fostering inter-American co-operation on training, research, public information and technical assistance.