

PRESS RELEASE



COMMUNIQUE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1962.

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The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Howard Green, announced today the nomination of Miss Margaret Aitken of Toronto as Canada's representative to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. Canada was elected to the twenty-one member commission for the first time last Spring. The term of office runs for three years, beginning on January 1, 1963.

The Human Rights Commission, which was formed in 1946, has embarked on a broad programme designed for the advancement of human rights on a universal basis. The Commission drafted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the General Assembly in 1948. It has become the framework for most of the Commission's subsequent work.

Miss Aitken was born at Newcastle, N.B. on July 3, 1908. She was educated at Branksome Hall and the University of Toronto and is well known as a journalist and author.

She was elected to the House of Commons in 1953 and re-elected in 1957 and 1958. She was the first woman to be elected Chairman of a Committee of the House of Commons. She served as Parliamentary Observer in 1956 to the General Assembly of the United Nations.