

# News Release

Minister for  
External Relations  
and International  
Development



# Communiqué

Ministre des  
Relations extérieures  
et du développement  
international

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## LANDRY TO REPRESENT CANADA AT NAMIBIA'S INDEPENDENCE

The Minister for External Relations and International Development, the Honourable Monique Landry, announced today that she will lead the Canadian delegation to the celebrations marking Namibia's independence from South Africa on March 21.

The delegation will include Parliamentarians of all three parties -- Walter McLean (PC), Bob Speller (Lib) and Howard McCurdy (NDP) -- as well as the noted jazz pianist Oliver Jones who has been invited to give several solo performances in Windhoek.

"Namibia's long-awaited independence is a major step forward against apartheid and for the effective promotion of human rights and democracy", stated Mrs. Landry. "With the added warmth of Commonwealth ties, Canada will continue to do all it can to assist Namibia in the pursuit of reconciliation and development".

Earlier today, Commonwealth Secretary General Ramphal announced that Namibia will become at independence the Commonwealth's fiftieth member. His statement, which fulfills the invitation extended by Heads of Government last October, was made on the occasion of Commonwealth Day.

In Namibia March 19-21, Mrs. Landry will meet with several of the incoming Namibian Ministers to discuss various aspects of the new bilateral relationship including development assistance. She will also meet visiting dignitaries from Africa and elsewhere.

Canada played a leading role in negotiating and implementing Namibia's independence process, both directly and through the United Nations. During the past year Canada provided over 350 military and police personnel to the UN Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG), over 60 election supervisors and

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