



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

communiqué

No: 74
No.:

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DIFFUSION: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
RELEASE: AUGUST 31, 1978

CANADIAN APPOINTED TO OECD POSITION

The Department of External Affairs announced today that Jim MacNeill of Ottawa has been appointed Director of the Environment Directorate of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris, France. The directorate is responsible for the OECD's work in environment, urban affairs and toxic chemicals. It works with the Environment Committee of the OECD, made up of representatives of the ministries and departments of environment of the 24 member countries.

Mr. MacNeill is the former Secretary of the Ministry of State for Urban Affairs in Ottawa and Commissioner General of Habitat, the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held in Vancouver in 1976.

Prior to joining the Ministry of State for Urban Affairs in 1971, Mr. MacNeill had a long association with environmental policy. He was Director-General of Inter-governmental Affairs for the Department of the Environment and responsible for the Department of the Environment's preparations for the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm. He served as a close advisor to Maurice Strong, Secretary General of the Stockholm Conference, and as a special advisor on environment in the Privy Council Office. He is the author of "Environmental Management", a study that has been used widely as a text in universities.

Prior to joining the Federal Government in 1965, Mr. MacNeill was the Vice-Chairman and Executive Director of the Saskatchewan Water Resources Commission in Regina. He was born in Sturgis, Saskatchewan.

Mr. MacNeill will take up his new duties on September 4.