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CANADIAN RE-ELECTED TO THE COMMITTEE AGAINST TORTURE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, is pleased to announce today that Dr. Peter Thomas Burns, Professor of Law at the University of British Columbia, has been re-elected for another four-year term to the United Nations Committee Against Torture.

"Torture is clearly repugnant and unacceptable," stated Mrs. McDougall. "Canada strongly supports this UN Committee, and the re-election of Dr. Burns is a testimony to his excellent work."

The Committee Against Torture consists of 10 independent experts serving in their personal capacity and is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the United Nations Convention Against Torture.

The election of Dr. Burns took place at the Third Meeting of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, held in Geneva on November 26, 1991.

The Convention defines torture, requiring that states make it a punishable offence, and provides for states to prosecute or extradite alleged torturers. States parties are required to submit reports to the Committee every four years.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office
External Affairs and International Trade Canada
(613) 995-1874