

Humphrey of McGill University was awarded a UN human rights prize in recognition of his early pioneering contributions to international human rights law and practice.

Human rights also continued to be an important theme in Canada's bilateral relations with other states. Human rights issues were taken up during the course of ministerial visits, and Canadian missions abroad were instructed to report more intensively on human rights matters. In 1988 External Affairs and CIDA began to implement the provisions of the new aid strategy, *Sharing our Future*, especially those portions of the document dealing with the linkage between human rights and aid policy. They continued co-operation during 1988 on a number of human rights training programs for their professional personnel, in a program developed by the Canadian Human Rights Foundation. Making use of contacts built up over the years by many Canadian non-governmental organizations, as well as by External Affairs and CIDA, a program was undertaken in 1988 to expand the human rights materials provided to missions and to enhance the linkages between human rights groups in Canada and abroad.

Legislation was adopted in September to create the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development, which is expected to become a pivotal organization in financing, organizing and delivering international human rights programs and activities. The Centre is expected to begin its activities in Montreal in 1989, after a president and a board of trustees is selected.

#### **Status of women and global equality issues**

Canada continued to build on the increasing awareness and progress made in status of women issues at the international level, particularly regarding global equality and women in development. The Department participates extensively in a number of international activities designed to raise the profile of women's issues on the world stage, as mandated by the government. As a manifestation of the government's commitment to the global advancement of women, the International Women's Equality Division was established within the Department in July 1988 to serve as the Department's focal point for the development, formulation and co-ordination of Canadian policy on international women's issues. It manages, directs and co-ordinates the expression of these policies in UN forums and other relevant international bodies, as well as in bilateral relations with other states.

With an effective international framework for addressing women's issues now in place, Canada's international initiatives during the year focused more on addressing priority issues related to the advancement of women. The Department sought in particular to focus increased international attention on the promotion of international women's equality in three areas: education, environment and population issues. Canada also remained vigilant in the continuing multilateral effort to improve the status of women in the UN Secretariat. In addition, the Department contributed significantly to the government's report on the implementation of the work plan for women, entitled *Dimensions of Equality: An Update of the Federal Government Work Plan for Women*. The Department also carried out a series of activities to commemorate International Women's Day on March 8, 1989, including an exhibit of departmental and other activities for the advancement of women, the screening of films, in-house seminars and workshops, media events, and

the distribution and circulation of a number of publications in and out of the Department.

#### **Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women (FLS)**

Canada played a leading role in the adoption by consensus of the FLS in 1985. The Strategies are designed to guide the international community in its effort to achieve full equality for women by the year 2000. The Department gave substantial support for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the FLS at the international level. It assisted in the preparation of two documents related to the implementation of the FLS: *Fact Sheets: Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women (Issues and the Canadian Situation)*, and *National Report for the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies: Canada*.

The Department participated in UN and other expert group meetings on issues related to the FLS and the advancement of women, such as the meeting on "Women and the Economic Crisis" in October 1988 and the meeting to "review the final draft of the First Regular Update of the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development" in February 1989. During the year the Department also stepped up efforts to achieve full integration of the FLS into the planning, programming and budgeting systems of the UN and its specialized agencies and regional commissions.

Canadian delegations to UN bodies have facilitated a more effective integration of women in UN economic and development programs by proposing a series of wide-ranging resolutions. The priority Canada accords to the integration of women in the development process — one of the central tenets of the FLS — is reflected in its official development assistance (ODA) policies and programs, with CIDA taking the lead. This goal is pursued both bilaterally, by ensuring, for example, that all Canadian ODA takes into account the necessity of integrating women in development, and multilaterally, through participation in key development agencies and through financial support for organizations such as the UNDP, UNICEF, the UN Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), and the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). In 1988/89, Canada contributed \$1.25 million to UNIFEM's core budget and additional amounts for specific projects. A Canadian was appointed UNIFEM's director.

The Department also sought to ensure that issues of concern to women are addressed in other international forums, including the Commonwealth, the OECD and its Development Assistance Committee. The Department has also been involved in preparations for the next meeting of Commonwealth ministers responsible for women's issues, which will be held in Ottawa in October 1990.

#### **Commission on the Status of Women**

The Commission on the Status of Women, established in 1946, plays the central role in overseeing status of women issues in the UN, particularly the implementation of the FLS at the national, regional and international levels. During the past year, Canada was re-elected to its third consecutive term on the Commission, which will be its sixth term since first becoming a member in 1958. During the year the Department sought to ensure that the important work of the 32nd session of the Commission, held in March 1988, was followed up both in the context of the spring and summer sessions of ECOSOC and the Third (social affairs)