

Secretary of  
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## **FLORA MACDONALD APPOINTED AS CHAIR OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CENTRE**

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, announced today the appointment of Flora MacDonald as Chair of the Board of Governors of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

The appointment of Miss MacDonald follows an announcement at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, that the IDRC will be further internationalized and its mandate broadened to emphasize sustainable development issues. The Government wishes to use the IDRC's international network and expertise to facilitate a quick start on the implementation of the UN Conference on Environment and Development's Agenda 21 program of action.

Miss MacDonald succeeds Dr. Janet Wardlaw of the University of Guelph, who recently completed her second term as Chair, having served seven years in the position.

Miss MacDonald, born and educated in North Sydney, Nova Scotia, has a distinguished background in politics and international affairs. She was first elected to the House of Commons in 1972 and served for 16 years as Member of Parliament for Kingston and the Islands. During that time, she held three Cabinet positions: Secretary of State for External Affairs, 1979-80; Minister of Employment and Immigration, 1984-86; Minister of Communications, 1986-88.

She has served as director of many international organizations, including the South Africa Education Trust Fund as well as the Refugee Policy Group and the Urban Institute, both based in Washington. She was recently Special Advisor to the President of the Commonwealth of Learning and is currently Chairperson of the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative.