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# news release

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## **CANADA ADHERES TO THREE HUMAN RIGHTS CONVENTIONS ON WOMEN**

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, and the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, the Honourable Mary Collins, today announced that Canada has adhered to three inter-American conventions on women's rights. The move marks the first anniversary of Canada's membership in the Organization of American States (OAS) Inter-American Commission of Women.

"Canada attaches great importance to these conventions and to the human rights activities of the Inter-American Commission of Women," said Mrs. McDougall. "We are prepared to work hard to bring about full equality for women in this hemisphere."

The three conventions are the Inter-American Convention on the Granting of Civil Rights to Women, the Inter-American Convention on the Granting of Political Rights to Women, and the Convention on the Nationality of Women.

"These OAS conventions represent real progress on women's rights issues. Together with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, they form a sound basis for action," said Mrs. Collins.

Canada has contributed strongly to the Inter-American Commission of Women since becoming a full member in October 1990. Canadian jurist Dr. Rebecca Cook is working with other experts to develop an inter-American convention on violence against women. Canada also provides funding for several of the Commission's projects.