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## CANADIAN DECLARATION UNDER ARTICLE 41 OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Flora MacDonald, announced today that Canada has submitted a Declaration to the United Nations under Article 41 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which reads as follows:

"The Government of Canada declares, under Article 41 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, that it recognizes the competence of the Human Rights Committee referred to in Article 28 of the said Covenant to receive and consider communications submitted by another State Party, provided that such State Party has, not less than twelve months prior to the submission by it of a communication relating to Canada, made a declaration under Article 41 recognizing the competence of the Committee to receive and consider communications relating to itself."

By doing so, Canada has recognized the competence of the United Nations Human Rights Committee to consider communications about the extent to which the provisions of the Covenant are respected in Canada from governments of other countries that have submitted similar Declarations (Federal Republic of Germany, Austria, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Norway, New Zealand, The Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Sweden). Canada also acquires the right to submit communications about these countries. The Declaration was submitted with the agreement of the provincial governments.

It is not anticipated that this procedure will be used extensively since few countries have submitted Declarations. However, the submission of the Declaration symbolizes the commitment shared by the federal and provincial governments to strive to promote respect for human rights. It is particularly significant because it represents a willingness to open to international scrutiny Canada's performance in fulfilling its obligations under the Covenant.

The Declaration was submitted by the Canadian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador William H. Barton.