

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.

The International Development Research Centre was created by the Parliament of Canada in 1970 to stimulate and support scientific and technical research by developing countries for their own benefit. Support is given directly to Third World institutions whose research focuses primarily on meeting the basic needs of the population in overcoming the problems of poverty.

Since its creation, the IDRC has financed more than 4 500 projects in 100 developing countries; 45 Canadian academic institutions and 58 other Canadian organizations (associations, non-government organizations and private-sector companies) have collaborated on IDRC-financed research projects.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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

or:

Public Information
International Development Research Centre
(613) 236-6163