

News Release

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FIRST DIRECTORS APPOINTED TO BOARD OF INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, announced today the first persons appointed to the Board of Directors of the recently-formed International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development. Among those named by the Government are the Chairman of the Board, Dr. Gisèle Côté-Harper, Quebec; Mr. Marcel Massé, Ottawa; Mr. Del Anaquod, Regina; Dr. Irving Breecher, Montreal; Mr. David Daubney, Ottawa; Ms. Julie Davis, Toronto; Mr. Ron Ghitter, Calgary; Ms. Kay Nandlall, Fredericton; and Dr. Norma Walmsley, Wakefield.

They will join the Honourable Edward Broadbent, whose appointment as President of the Centre was announced previously. "This distinguished group of parliamentarians, academics and active citizens are all recognized as advocates of fundamental rights and freedoms. I am confident they can lead the Centre towards strengthening those values where they are the most fragile", Mr. Clark said.

The mandate of the Centre, established by an Act of Parliament on September 30, 1988, is to help advance human rights and freedoms throughout the world by promoting democratic institutions and processes. Independent of the government, the Centre will provide persons and organizations in other countries with training, counsel and research services to promote the observance of human rights and the full participation of all citizens in the democratic process.

Supervising the Centre's activities will be a Board of Directors totalling thirteen persons. Ten are appointed by the Government of Canada. The remaining three are appointed by the Board itself and must be nationals of developing countries.

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The Centre is located in Montreal. Although it will receive initial government funding of \$15 million over the next five years, the Centre is authorized to seek out other public and private funding to expand its activities. Said Mr. Clark, "Canada is well known for its unswerving commitment to developing nations. Rights and freedoms are equally as important as economic progress. This centre is a unique channel through which all Canadians can direct our resources and, indeed, our ideals towards a freer, more prosperous world."

For further information, media representatives should contact:

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

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

1. Professor Gisèle Côté-Harper, Québec, Chairperson of the Board.

Professor of Law (Laval); member of Board of several organizations and institutions and of delegations concerned with international law and human rights; past member of UN Committee on Human Rights; one of two Special Rapporteurs tasked with making recommendations on mandate and organization of Centre.

2. Mr. Marcel Massé, Ottawa, Director.

Mr. Masse has extensive experience in dealing with UN and other multilateral agencies, specifically in areas of development.

3. Mr. Del C. Anaquod, Regina, Director.

Associate Professor and past President of Saskatchewan Indian Federated College (Regina); active in socially oriented native associations; international development experience relating to indigenous peoples; attended National Defence College.

4. Dr. Irving Breecher, Montreal, Director.

Emeritus Professor of Economics, McGill University; well known in the field of economic development cooperation; involved in the promotion of an increased international role for Canada in democratic and human rights institution building; published very extensively on these and related subjects; eight years as Director of McGill Centre for Developing Area Studies.

5. Ms Kay Nandlall, Fredericton, Director.

New Brunswick representative on National Action Committee on the Status of Women; grew up in Guyana; active in human rights, rights of visible minorities and of women, welfare of immigrants; community involvement; also worked with CUSO as local volunteer.

6. Dr. Norma Walmsley, Wakefield, Director.

Founder of MATCH International (Women in Development); active for many years in International Development and Human Rights-related NGOs; Doctor of Laws (honoris causa) from Carleton and Brandon Universities.

7. Ms. Julie Davis, Toronto, Director.

Secretary Treasurer, Ontario Federation of Labour. Ms Davis is responsible for Women's Issues, Political Education, Human Rights and Education. In 1988 she received a YWCA Woman of Distinction and Labour award.

8. Mr. David Daubney, Ottawa, Director.

Mr. Daubney has been active in the Canadian Cancer Society, and has been a member of the Assessment Review Court of Ontario. He was elected to the House of Commons in 1984. During his time in the House of Commons he served on the following committees: Justice and Solicitor General, Constitution 1987, Human Rights, National Defence, External Affairs, Multiculturalism, Finance and Communications.

9. Mr. Ron Ghitter, Q.C., Calgary, Director.

Mr. Ghitter, a former member of the Alberta Legislature, has been active in the Human Rights field throughout his career.

In the 1980's he was appointed Chairman of the Premier's Committee on Racial Tolerance, and has served the community continuously. His most recent contribution was as Chairman of the Olympic Arts Festival.