



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

# communiqué

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## DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENT

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, announces the appointment of the Honourable David MacDonald as Ambassador to Ethiopia.

The Canadian Government is also seeking to expand its relations with the Organization of African Unity and the Economic Commission for Africa and is mandating Mr. MacDonald with enhanced responsibilities towards these two organizations which are based in Addis Ababa.

Mr. Clark said, "Mr. MacDonald's appointment confirms a seriousness and commitment on the part of the government to address the medium and long-term problems plaguing Ethiopia and surrounding countries. For millions of Canadians, the Ethiopian famine became synonymous with a continent-wide crisis in Africa. Part of Mr. MacDonald's responsibilities will be to maintain Canadian public interest in these issues through speaking engagements, the media and by being a point of contact for non-governmental organizations and interested individuals."

Mr. MacDonald, a United Church Minister from Prince Edward Island, has travelled extensively in Africa and worked closely with African statesmen and officials.

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As a member of Parliament, Mr. MacDonald has participated in a number of international conferences and commissions which dealt with the more important issues facing the African continent. In 1968, he became actively involved in the resolution of the Nigerian civil war. From 1974 to 1979, he participated as a Canadian Representative on the Anglo-North American Parliamentary Conference on Africa. In 1982, he co-chaired the Canadian Conference in Solidarity with the Liberations Struggles of the People of Southern Africa. More recently, he served as Canadian Emergency Coordinator/African Famine. In that capacity he led seven missions to more than a dozen drought and famine affected countries. Mr. MacDonald succeeds Mr. M.C. Lemieux.