



news release

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APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CENTRE

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced the appointment of Herb Breau, Jacques Gérin, Donna Soble Kaufman and Dr. Olav Slaymaker to the Board of Governors of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) along with the reappointment of Dr. Albert J. Butros, a Board member since 1986. Board members serve a four-year term.

Mr. Breau was a Member of Parliament from 1968 to 1984, representing the former New Brunswick riding of Gloucester, now known as Acadie-Bathurst. Mr. Gérin, an engineer, is currently President of Hatch & Associés Inc., a consulting firm providing environmental technology and engineering services to industry and governments. Ms. Soble Kaufman is a lawyer with the firm Stikeman, Elliott in Montreal. Dr. Slaymaker is currently Associate Vice-President, Research (Humanities, Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Initiatives) and Professor, Department of Geography, at the University of British Columbia. Dr. Butros was, until recently, the Jordanian Ambassador to the United Kingdom; he has since returned to academic life.

The IDRC is a Crown corporation created by the Parliament of Canada in 1970. It assists developing countries to find their own solutions to development problems through research. The IDRC gives support directly to Third World institutions whose research focuses primarily on meeting the basic needs of people in overcoming the problems of poverty. At the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, the IDRC's mandate was broadened to emphasize sustainable development issues. The IDRC's international network and expertise is used to help the world move on the implementation of the Summit's Agenda 21 program of action.

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Backgrounder

Herb Breau served as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Industry and Commerce, Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, and Secretary of State for External Affairs. From 1981-84, he was a member of the Trilateral Commission. He was Chair of the Parliamentary Working Groups on North-South Relations and on Fiscal Federalism in Canada.

Jacques Gérin has national and international experience in economic development, management of natural resources and the environment. He has held a number of senior-level public service positions: Associate Deputy Minister, Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (1985-89); Assistant Deputy Minister (1977-82), then Deputy Minister (1982-85) of Environment Canada. He was Secretary to the Cabinet Committee on Priorities and Planning, Privy Council Office (1975-77) and was Vice President of the Canadian International Development Agency from 1971-75.

Donna Soble Kaufman was a consultant on the Commission of Inquiry on Equality in Employment (the Abella Commission). She also worked as a journalist and broadcaster with CBC Radio in Montreal and CHCH-TV in Hamilton. She currently serves on a number of boards including: TransAlta Corporation; CRB (Charles R. Bronfman) Foundation; Sir Mortimer B. Davis-Jewish General Hospital Foundation; and the Advisory Committee on Finances and Resources, Medical Research Council of Canada. She has also been on the boards of Selkirk Communications Limited and Southam Inc.

Dr. Olav Slaymaker was, in 1990, Chair of the Sustainable Development Initiative Committee which conceptualized the new Sustainable Development Research Institute at the University of British Columbia (UBC). He has held a number of positions at UBC since 1968 and has been a Visiting Professor at the Universities of: Canterbury (New Zealand), Southern Illinois (United States) and Oslo (Norway). Dr. Slaymaker holds a Ph.D. in Geomorphology from Cambridge University.

Dr. Albert Butros has been Professor of English literature at the University of Jordan, and served as Special Advisor to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan. He was one of the architects of the Royal Scientific Society of Jordan (Jordan's Academy of Sciences), which he headed from 1976 to 1984.

The International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

Since its creation, the IDRC has financed more than 5352 projects in 100 developing countries. Forty-five Canadian academic institutions and more than 60 other Canadian organizations (associations, non-government organizations and private sector companies) have collaborated on IDRC-funded research projects.

Project proposals are approved by the IDRC according to: the basis of development needs, research capacity, scientific rigour, potential to use research results, the priorities of the government in the country where the recipient is located, applicability beyond the country in which the project is carried out, use of local resources, development of human resources, and impact on the beneficiary.