

# News Release

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## OUELLET ANNOUNCES DELEGATION TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced that Secretary of State (Status of Women and Multiculturalism) Sheila Finestone will lead Canada's official delegation to the United Nations' Fourth World Conference on Women.

Representatives from over 180 countries will gather in Beijing, September 4 to 15, to discuss strategies for promoting equality for women worldwide. A parallel forum of non-governmental representatives will be held August 30 to September 8.

"Since the last UN Conference on Women a decade ago, the world community has made significant advances in recognizing and, in many cases, overcoming obstacles to women's equality. But global progress has been uneven. A key goal of the Conference is to bring together the agreements from previous summits and conferences into a concrete agenda for women's equality within the United Nations," said Mr. Ouellet.

"In preparing for the World Conference on Women, the Canadian government has received input and support from hundreds of interested groups and individuals who are actively promoting women's equality in Canada and around the world," Mrs. Finestone said. "Because of the unprecedented interest in the Conference, the names of many worthy candidates were put forward. Mr. Ouellet and I are confident that the non-governmental representatives on the delegation reflect the diversity of women in Canada and have the expertise required to ensure that the broad range of issues at the Conference are addressed."

Members of the Canadian delegation to the World Conference on Women include Secretary of State (Training and Youth) Ethel Blondin-Andrew and Parliamentarians from all five federal political parties: Senators Landon Pearson and Erminie Cohen, and MPs Jean Augustine, Marlene Catterall, Mary Clancy, Hedy Fry,



Christiane Gagnon, Sharon Hayes, Audrey McLaughlin and Paddy Torsney. The delegation includes Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women from Manitoba and Quebec, Status of Women officials from the Northwest Territories, as well as representatives of women's organizations, labour, business, youth, church, human rights and development non-governmental groups and universities.

In preparing for the World Conference over the past two-and-a-half years, the Canadian government consulted extensively with a wide range of Canadians including the non-governmental Canadian Beijing Facilitating Committee, individual Canadians, other interested groups, the provinces and territories, United Nations agencies and other countries.

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For further information or a complete delegation list, media representatives may contact:

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