

News Release

Secretary of
State for
External Affairs



Communiqué

Secrétaire d'État
aux Affaires
extérieures

No. 94

April 17, 1991

APPOINTMENT OF NEW IDRC PRESIDENT: KEITH A. BEZANSON

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today announced the appointment of Keith A. Bezanson as President of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). He will succeed Ivan L. Head who has completed his term after having served as President for 13 years. Mr. Bezanson, who is concluding a tour of duty as Administrative Manager with the Inter-American Development Bank, will take up his new duties shortly.

The International Development Research Centre was created by an Act of Parliament in 1970. Its objective is to initiate, encourage, support and conduct research into the problems of the developing world as well as research into the application and adaptation of scientific and technical knowledge to the economic and social advancement of the developing world.

The Centre reflects Canada's interest in co-operating with developing regions in programs particularly attuned to their most pressing needs. In accordance with the IDRC Act, the members of the Board of Governors are drawn from 10 foreign countries in addition to Canada. The President is appointed on the recommendation of the Board.

Canada

Affaires extérieures et
Commerce extérieur Canada
External Affairs and
International Trade Canada

In communicating the Board's recommendation to the Government, Dr. Janet M. Wardlaw, the Chairman, noted that the Board was particularly impressed by Mr. Bezanson's extensive international development experience. The Board's Search Committee appreciated his knowledge of the IDRC's activities over the years and his genuine enthusiasm for the IDRC program.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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

or

Karen Spierkel
IDRC Public Affairs Office
(613) 598-0563

KEITH A. BEZANSON

Keith A. Bezanson was born in Kingston, Ontario, in 1941. He is a graduate of Carleton University, Ottawa, and of Stanford University, California, and has dedicated his career to international development with NGOs and within the federal public service.

Mr. Bezanson joined the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) in 1973. During his first years with the Agency, he worked in and later directed the East Africa Program. In 1978, he was appointed Director General responsible for all aspects of Canadian membership in multilateral development banks. From 1981 to 1985, he was Vice-President, Americas Branch.

In 1985, Mr. Bezanson was appointed Canadian Ambassador to Peru and Bolivia. Since 1988, he has been on a tour of duty with the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington as Administrative Manager responsible for the Bank's human and physical resources.

In the earlier part of his career, in the mid-1960s, Mr. Bezanson was a Canadian University Services Overseas (CUSO) volunteer in Nigeria, where he served as a secondary-school teacher and later worked on special assignment with the Ministry of Education. From 1970 to 1973, he directed a research project on school leavers in Ghana. In the period between his two African assignments, Mr. Bezanson attended the International Development Education Centre at Stanford University. His PhD thesis was on cognitive learning in Ghanaian schools.