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McDOUGALL PAYS TRIBUTE TO INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

On the occasion of International Women's Day, March 8, 1992, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, pays tribute to the role and contribution of women worldwide to global development and peace.

"Canada remains unequivocally committed to the advancement of women and will continue to play a leading role in international forums to achieve political, economic and social equality for women," the Minister said.

Mrs. McDougall cited a number of Canadian initiatives over the past year to enhance the global status of women:

- **Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE)**
Canada secured new commitments to women's equality at the Moscow Conference on Human Dimensions (September 1991).
- **Commonwealth**
Commonwealth leaders endorsed a Canadian-initiated Declaration on Women and Structural Adjustment at the Harare Heads of Government Meeting (October 1991). The Declaration is aimed at promoting economic equality for women by ensuring that they do not suffer disproportionately from structural adjustment measures.
- **La Francophonie**
Prime Minister Mulroney announced at the Summit in Chailot (November 1991) that Canada would sponsor the establishment of a network of legal aid centres to meet the needs of women in countries of La Francophonie.

- **Organization of American States (OAS) - Inter-American Commission on Women (CIM)**
Canada ratified three OAS Conventions on the rights of women (October 1991) and supported development of a hemispheric convention on violence against women.
- **United Nations**
Canada sponsored a UN Expert Group Meeting on Violence against Women (November 1991) which made recommendations to the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) aimed at eliminating all forms of violence against women. Canada will work to secure broad support for these measures at the 36th session of the CSW (March 11-20, 1992). Canada is also seeking support to integrate women's interests into the forthcoming UN Conference on Environment and Development.

"Canada is seeking to focus international attention on areas requiring urgent attention including economic equality for women, the promotion of women's rights as human rights, the elimination of violence against women, and the critical role of women in environmental management and sustainable development," the Minister said.

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