



No. 22

January 28, 1993

APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CENTRE

External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall today announced the appointment of Jocelyne Côté-O'Hara and the reappointment of Jean-Guy Paquet to the Board of Governors of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), for a four-year mandate. Dr. Paquet has been on the Board since 1988.

Mrs. Jocelyne Côté-O'Hara is currently President and Chief Executive Officer, Stentor Telecom Policy Inc., the policy advisory arm for Canada's major telephone companies. Since 1985, she has also been Vice-President, Government Relations, with B.C. Tel. She has served as special advisor to the Chairman of Petro-Canada International Assistance Corporation and has held senior positions with various federal and provincial government departments.

Dr. Jean-Guy Paquet has been President of Laurentian Life Inc. since 1987. He has a Ph.D. in electrical engineering from Laval University, where he taught from 1963 to 1977 and then served as Rector until 1987. Dr. Paquet has served on many scientific and academic boards, such as the Council of Commonwealth Universities and the Association canadienne-française pour l'avancement des sciences. He has received many distinctions, including honorary degrees from McGill and York universities and the Technical University of Nova Scotia. He was named a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, made an Officer of the Ordre national du Québec and awarded the medal of the Ordre de la Pléiade.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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Backgrounder

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CENTRE

- The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) was created by the Parliament of Canada in 1970.
- IDRC's objective is to stimulate and support scientific and technical research undertaken by developing countries for their own benefit.
- 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.
- Since its creation, IDRC has financed more than 4,500 projects in 100 developing countries.
- Forty-five Canadian academic institutions and 58 other Canadian organizations (associations, non-government organizations and private sector companies) have collaborated on IDRC-funded research projects.
- At last year's Earth Summit, IDRC's mandate was broadened to include sustainable development issues. IDRC's international network and expertise will be used to help the world move quickly on the implementation of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development's Agenda 21 program of action.