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## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Board of Directors of the Canadian Foundation for the Americas (FOCAL) is pleased to announce the appointment of Nobina Robinson as Executive Director effective December 10, 1999.

Ms. Robinson brings extensive experience to this position. She spent seven years as a diplomat with the Canadian Foreign Service. At the Canadian Embassy in Havana, Cuba between 1994 and 1997, she was responsible for monitoring the human rights situation and reporting on the emerging economic reform process. Upon her return, she was Coordinator for Canada's relations with the Organization of American States. She both worked on and was a member of the Canadian delegation to the Santiago Summit of the Americas in 1998.

Ms. Robinson has been a valued member of the FOCAL staff since joining in 1998 as Senior Policy Advisor. In July 1999 she was promoted to Deputy Executive Director and Director of Policy and has worked closely with FOCAL staff and Interim Executive Director John Graham in expanding FOCAL's network of experts and policy makers concerned with issues facing the Latin American and Caribbean region.

Ms. Robinson has been the prime mover in developing new partnerships with the International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy, International Institute for Sustainable Development, Florida International University, ESQUEL Group Foundation, and the Chilean NGO *Participa*, amongst others. She has been active in revitalizing FOCAL's relationship with the Inter-American Dialogue, and in developing a Cuba Research Forum with the Ford Foundation and the International Development Research Centre.

In addition to her membership in the Inter-American Dialogue, Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society and the Canadian Institute for International Affairs, Ms. Robinson was elected recently to the Board of Directors of the Canadian Association for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CALACS). She holds degrees from Amherst College, Oxford University and Yale University.

The Board of Directors wished to express its appreciation for the great contribution John W. Graham has made as Interim Executive Director since July. In this capacity he has provided valuable direction and support to FOCAL, building a strong staff and focussing the organization on the key policy challenges of the Americas.

Founded in 1990, the Canadian Foundation for the Americas (FOCAL) is an independent, not-for-profit charitable organization that is guided by a Board of Directors. As a policy centre,

FOCAL fosters informed and timely debate and dialogue on issues of importance to decision-makers and opinion leaders in Canada and throughout the Western Hemisphere. FOCAL's mission is to develop greater understanding of important hemispheric issues relating to inter-American relations, governance and human security, social policies, and economic integration through monitoring and analysis of developments in the Americas.