



Appointment of Donald R. Mackay as Executive Director Canadian Foundation for the Americas (FOCAL)

The Board of Directors of the Canadian Foundation of the Americas (FOCAL) is pleased to announce the appointment of Donald R. Mackay as Executive Director of FOCAL from June 15, 2001 to April 15, 2002. Mr. Mackay will assume the position over the next ten months until Nobina Robinson returns from maternity leave in April 2002.

The appointment of Mr. Mackay, a career Foreign Service officer, is made possible by the generous assistance of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. In making the announcement, FOCAL's Board notes that Mr. Mackay was a member of the Canadian NAFTA negotiating team and had served for the last five years as Special Advisor to Cesar Gaviria, Secretary General of the Organization of American States in Washington D.C.. Mr. Mackay directed much of the substantive work of the Free Trade Area of the Americas negotiations, given his role as Deputy Director of the OAS Trade Unit. Mr. Mackay has also had foreign diplomatic postings in Mexico City and Prague with the federal government. Mr. Mackay is a graduate of Queen's University and also attended the Norman Patterson School of International Affairs of Carleton University.

The Board takes this opportunity to congratulate Nobina Robinson, Executive Director for her excellent contributions to Canada's hemispheric agenda. Mrs. Robinson has enhanced FOCAL's partnerships across Canada and throughout the hemisphere, and has deepened FOCAL's work with serious and credible policy analysis. The Board wishes her well during her leave of absence from FOCAL.

FOCAL is an independent, not-for-profit organization that seeks to strengthen Canada's relations with the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. Focusing on policy analysis, FOCAL played an important role in educating the Canadian public about the many issues confronting the Americas, including those that were at the centre of the Quebec City Summit of the Americas

Mr. Mackay can be reached at mackay@focal.ca. Please see www.focal.ca for further information about FOCAL's activities and for copies of our publications.