



CANADIAN COMMISSION FOR UNESCO
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**MICHÈLE S. JEAN NAMED PRESIDENT
OF THE CANADIAN COMMISSION FOR UNESCO**

Ottawa, March 23, 2006 Michèle S. Jean, Visiting Scholar at the Public Law Research Centre, Faculty of Law, Université de Montréal, has been named President of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization).

Ms. Jean has been Vice-President of the Canadian Commission since 2002. She is well known throughout Canada and internationally for her work as President of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC) from 2002 to 2005. The IBC is a body of 36 independent experts appointed by the Director-General of UNESCO to follow progress in the life sciences and their applications in order to ensure respect for human dignity and freedom. The IBC's work led to the adoption in 2005, at the 33rd UNESCO General Conference, of the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights.

From 2000 – 2005, Ms. Jean held the position of Advisor, Program Development, Faculty of Higher Education, at the Université de Montréal. From 1998 to 2000, she was Special Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs (Health and Social Affairs) assigned to the Permanent Mission of Canada to the European Union in Brussels. In the years 1993 to 1998, Ms. Jean was Deputy Minister, Health Canada.

From 1980 to 1982, Ms. Jean chaired the Quebec Commission of Inquiry on Vocational and Socio-Cultural Training for Adults (CITA). She then served as a consultant for the International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP) in Paris. In 1984, she was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister and Director-General of the Professional Training Division in the Quebec Department of Manpower and Income Security. In 1988, she became Executive Director of Employment Services in the Federal Department of Employment and Immigration and was named Associate Deputy Minister of that department in 1990. In 1992, she was appointed Under Secretary of State. One of Québec's ten "Women of the Year" in 1979, she was named "Career Woman of the Year"

by Montréal's O'Sullivan College in 1981. She is the author of several books and publications.

Ms. Jean has participated in several international meetings and working groups on labour market training, adult education, health and aging in Argentina, France, China, Europe and Canada. In 1995, she was awarded an Honorary LL.D. from Concordia University.

Ms. Jean's appointment to the position of President was made by the Executive Committee of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO in collaboration with the Canada Council for the Arts, of which the Commission is a division. The Executive Committee also appointed Martha B. Stone, Ottawa, an information and communication sciences specialist and Senior Partner in Moenston Associates, to the position of Vice-President of the Commission.

In addition, the Commission elected Marie Battiste, Saskatoon, and Paul Black, Halifax, to its Executive Committee during its annual meeting on March 16-18, 2006, in Montreal. Dr. Battiste is a Mi'kmaq educator, a professor in the College of Education, and Coordinator of the Indian and Northern Education Program within the Department of Educational Foundations at the University of Saskatchewan. Mr. Black is the Manager of Research for the Leader of the Opposition and the Nova Scotia New Democratic Party Caucus.

The Canadian Commission for UNESCO operates as a forum for governments and civil society and to catalyze the participation of Canadian organizations and individuals in UNESCO's mandated areas: education, natural and social sciences, culture and communication and information. The Commission, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, has almost 400 institutional and individual members across Canada.

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Source: Katherine Berg
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