

**The Karen Takacs Award for Women's Leadership in International Development:
CCIC launches an award to celebrate the life and memory of an inspiring leader**

Ottawa, March 10, 2016. In the context of its first ever Women Leaders' Forum, CCIC honoured Karen Takacs's memory and leadership in the sector by launching the *Karen Takacs Award for Women's Leadership in International Development*. The Award was received on her behalf by Karen's spouse Pam Jolliffe, in the presence of several members of Karen's family as well as dozens of friends and colleagues from the international development sector.

After Karen's passing in 2015, the CCIC Board and staff were compelled to honour her invaluable contribution to the fight for social and economic justice, in particular for women's and girl's rights, and her commitment to working cooperatively within the sector. By creating this award, CCIC wanted to celebrate the leadership she demonstrated throughout her career, and more specifically during her time as Chair of the Board of CCIC.

"Karen steered CCIC with courage and vision when the organization navigated a challenging re-organization process in 2010-2011" said Gillian Barth, President-CEO of CARE and current Chair of the CCIC Board. "She planted the seeds for what CCIC has become today – a leaner yet very effective and impactful member-based organization" she added.

Throughout her life, Karen was admired for her ability to bring people together around a common cause. In a tribute that was paid to her while she was still alive, renowned author Lawrence Hill, whom Karen had enlisted as a spokesperson for Crossroads International, wrote the following: "I shall not embarrass you by citing an endless litany of your qualities, but will instead focus on one: That you have mastered the art of motivating the people who gather around you".

The award was launched at the *Women Making Change Soiree* co-hosted by CCIC and the Museum of Nature, and which included remarks from The Honourable Patricia Hajdu, Minister of Status of Women, and Ms. Karina Gould, MP for Burlington and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Development.

Future recipients of the award will include Canadian women leaders in the field of international development who have demonstrated a commitment to working cooperatively, leading with courage, inspiring others and promoting women's equality.

"Karen was model for so many of us in the sector" said Julia Sanchez, President-CEO of CCIC. "She embodied the values that she worked for, and she firmly believed that we are at our best and strongest when we work together. We miss her deeply and rejoice in this opportunity to pay tribute to her inspiring example", she concluded.

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