Opening Remarks for the

“NO BOOK” Book Reception


With contributing authors Dorienne Rowan-Campbell and Gloria Scott

Tuesday, April 26, 2005
3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Nayudamma Lounge, 14th floor
250 Albert St., Ottawa

Maureen O’Neil
President, International Development Research Centre

Good afternoon and welcome to the International Development Research Centre. Bonjour à tous, et bienvenue. I am delighted to host this reception to mark the recent publication of the book “Developing Power: How Women Transformed International Development.”

I am even more delighted to welcome Dorienne Rowan-Campbell and Gloria Scott – both as authors who contributed to the book and as women who had a significant role in creating one of the most important social movements of the last century — the global women’s movement.

“Developing Power”, published by the Feminist Press, is part memoir and part history. It is a collection of 27 stories by women who fought to ensure that the unprecedented political and economic changes in the developing world would benefit women as well as men. Women from North and South worked together to change the established order in the United Nations, NGOs, national and local governments, universities, donor agencies, and think-tanks.

L’approche du CRDI témoigne en partie de leur réussite. Le Centre tient compte des sexospécificités dans l’ensemble de ses programmes et initiatives, estimant que le développement durable et équitable passe nécessairement par la participation pleine et entière des femmes et par une représentation égale des hommes et des femmes. Le Centre a lui aussi donné suite aux engagements pris à la quatrième Conférence mondiale des Nations Unies sur les femmes, tenue à Beijing, en Chine, en 1995.
Nous sommes privilégiés d’avoir ces deux femmes avec nous aujourd’hui pour nous faire un peu part de leur expérience du travail patient qui est nécessaire en vue d’opérer un changement social.

Born and educated in Jamaica, Gloria Scott attended the London School of Economics. Returning to Jamaica, she served as assistant under-secretary in the Ministry of Development, the highest post held by a woman. In 1966, she joined the United Nations to head its new social planning unit. (To give you an idea of how far we have come, several people thought her job involved organizing the UN Secretary General’s parties.) In 1977, she joined the World Bank as the first director of its women’s program. For the better part of a decade, she worked to advance understanding of how women affected and were affected by bank-financed projects and policies. Since leaving the bank, Ms Scott has worked for many agencies and organizations as a consultant on women and rural poverty, sustainable development, health, population, and aging.

I have known Dorienne Rowan-Campbell for many years, and we worked closely together during my tenure as Coordinator of Status of Women Canada. Like Ms Scott, Ms Rowan-Campbell was born in Jamaica and attended school in the UK. She then [saw the light] and came to Canada, where she studied at Carleton University. Throughout most of the 1970s, Ms Rowan-Campbell worked with the CBC, where she initiated a unit dedicated to enhancing the portrayal of women in radio and television programming. She moved to London in 1980, where she was the first director of the Women and Development Program of the Commonwealth Secretariat. She then helped start the Gender and Development Centre of the University of West Indies.

Ms Rowan-Campbell now divides her time — not only between Canada and Jamaica but also between professions. One is not surprised to discover that she is a development consultant on gender equity, among other issues. But she is also a farmer, pioneering the growing of organic Jamaica Blue Mountain coffee. You will be able to sample some of her coffee at the reception.

But first, I invite Ms Scott to begin.

AFTER PRESENTATIONS:

Thank you very much, Gloria and Dorienne, for your fascinating accounts. I am sure that people here will wish to ask you questions.

CLOSING REMARKS:

You will all have a chance to chat more with Dorienne and Gloria over coffee and other refreshments next door in the Nayudamma Lounge. I would also like to draw your attention to the fact that it is possible to order copies of their book, “Developing Power”, at the table just outside the lounge. We have a few copies for sale – we had hoped to have more but the shipment was held up in Customs. Perhaps they think it is subversive material!
Thank you, Dorienne and Gloria, for sharing your experiences and wisdom. I know that we all look forward to the day when women achieve full equity in international development. Thanks to your work and that of so many others, we are making progress.