



**United Nations Association in Canada**  
**Association canadienne pour les Nations Unies**

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**Roméo Dallaire to be 25<sup>th</sup> Recipient of UNA Canada's  
Pearson Peace Medal**

OTTAWA - The United Nations Association in Canada is proud to announce LGen Roméo Dallaire (Ret'd) as the 25<sup>th</sup> laureate of the Pearson Peace Medal. The Medal will be presented by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, Governor General of Canada, in her capacity as Honourary Patron of UNA-Canada at a special ceremony at Rideau Hall on Wednesday, March 9, 2005.

Roméo Dallaire evokes humanity's conscience in the face of the failure of the global community to avert a genocidal disaster in Rwanda ten years ago. His own efforts to overcome his personal devastating sense of guilt has led him to speak and write extensively, bearing witness on behalf of the lost Rwandans – but also on behalf of those in places like Darfur, the Sudan, who are alive today, but may be dead tomorrow if we do not learn from the mistakes of the past. In his letter of nomination Peter George, President of McMaster University noted that Dallaire has “put his own trauma on stage and brought a sharp, unwavering light to the politics and complications, but ultimately the hope, of peacekeeping”.

After some 35 years of exemplary service with the Canadian Armed Forces, including his role in 1993-94 as Commander of the UN Assistance Mission in Rwanda, Roméo Dallaire is now a tireless advocate on issues ranging from peacekeeping, to the trauma faced by our soldiers, to the tragic involvement of children in armed conflict. He is currently a Fellow at the Carr Centre for Human Rights at the Kennedy School of Governance at Harvard University. As a model of international citizenship, his actions evoke the Pearsonian legacy: “There is no Canadian so well deserving of this medal for reminding us all of the risks of closing our eyes to sorrow and inequity among our fellow travellers” said Kate White, Executive Director of UNA-Canada.

UNA-Canada awards the Pearson Peace Medal annually to a Canadian who has personally contributed, through his or her working life and voluntary commitments, to those humanitarian causes to which Lester B. Pearson devoted his distinguished career. The Medal was first awarded in 1979 to Cardinal Paul-Émile Léger. Recent recipients include Stephen Lewis (2003), Alex Morrison (2002), Ursula Franklin (2001) and Flora Macdonald (1999). A jury of eminent Canadians selects the recipient of the Medal.

**Date and Time:           Wednesday, 9 March 2005 at 11:00 a.m.**  
**(journalists, photographers and camera crews**  
**are asked to arrive no later than 10:45 a.m.)**

**Location:                 Rideau Hall, 1 Sussex Drive**  
**(media representatives should enter through the Princess Anne entrance)**

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**For further information, contact:**

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