

HON. MARILOU MCPHEDRAN, C.M., B.A., LL.B., LL.M., LL.D.  
SENATOR FOR MANITOBA



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SÉNATRICE DU MANITOBA

15 April, 2021

Twelve Plus Group of the IPU

Re: Application for Canada's nomination for Member – IPU Bureau of the IPU Committee on Sustainable Development (2-year term)

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

I am honoured to stand as the Canadian nominee to the Bureau of the IPU Committee on Sustainable Development. Throughout my career as both legislator and academic, I have centered on issues of rights and development, and I look forward to collaborating with IPU colleagues in this area. As a Senator, I have focused my advocacy and legislative priorities on the intersectional analysis of structural power relationships and the qualitative aspects of equality, discrimination and justice; these are fundamental issues wherein imbalances can inhibit progress toward equitable, sustainable outcomes. As an academic, I specialized in international human rights and the Agenda for Sustainable Development was a core component in my teaching.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), targets, and indicators, will not achieve its intended outcome of a healthy people, a healthy economy, and a healthy planet, without effective parliamentary leadership and governance. As parliamentarians, our legislative, oversight and budget responsibilities give us a key voice and role in reducing social and economic inequalities, improving health outcomes and taking action to save our planet and move toward greater environmental, economic, and social prosperity for all. I am eager to support IPU leadership in mobilizing parliaments around the global development agenda, which is becoming increasingly urgent as the climate clock ticks relentlessly toward 2030.

Among the qualifications that I would bring to the committee include:

- Experience with the IPU, based on membership as a parliamentarian in the IPU since 2017, serving on the IPU executive of the Canadian group (2017-2019) and participating as a delegate to IPU meetings at the UN on four occasions and numerous online meetings
- Experience with the UN, based on serving as an Analyst for UNDP– Geneva (including some responsibility for liaison with IPU headquarters), and as an accredited member of Canadian delegations to UN high level meetings in New York on the environment as well as more than 20 years as an academic teaching and researching on UN treaties and high level declarations, as well as facilitating student and civil society engagement in UN sessions in New York as delegates and observers
- Training in the UN system as a Rapporteur
- Analyst responsibilities during the developmental stage of the SDGs in 2012 (UNDP - Geneva)
- Peer-reviewed authorship and course syllabi on the 2030 agenda and the SDGs and their predecessor Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
- Proven teaching methodology for monitoring and reporting on the SDGs through key indicators
- Consistent advocacy as a civil society leader in the developmental stage of the SDGs, and more broadly in International Human Rights & Peacebuilding
- Current Senate of Canada Standing Committee assignments: National Security and Defence; Rules, Procedures and the Rights of Parliament

Respectfully submitted for your consideration,

## BIO SKETCH

### SENATOR MARILOU McPHERAN

Human rights and peacebuilding are at the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals. In my work as a human rights lawyer and Canadian parliamentarian, I analyse and plan action horizontally – not in silos - because peace, human security, rights and sustainable development are inextricably linked.

Trained in the UN system as a rapporteur, my publications include: the *First Impact Study to assess the UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women* in ten countries (1998-2000); “R2P Missing Women - Canada’s Responsibility to Perceive” with J. Bond and L. Sherret, paper presented to the conference on Fragile, Dangerous and Failed States, (2005); “International Women’s Rights and Evidence Based Advocacy” chapter 6, in *Feminism, Law, Inclusion: Theories Of Intersectionality* (2005); “No peace without justice” *McGill International Review*, (2005); “An Afghan Doctor’s Prescription for Peace” in *Canadian Medical Association Journal* (2005); “Using International Human Rights Instruments for Health and Equality” in *Organize! – a handbook for effective women’s health advocacy*, Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (2006); Supreme Court Law Review, *A Truer Story: Constitutional Trialogue* (2007); *Women’s Constitutional Activism in South Africa and Canada* in *International Review of Constitutionalism* (2009); Michigan State Law Review, *Complements of CEDAW - U.S. foreign policy coherence on women’s human rights and human security* (2014); “Triologue for Lived Rights: Canadian Women’s Constitutional Activism – Then and Now” in *Canada’s Constitutional Democracy: The 150th Anniversary Celebration* (2017); “Why Was Canada Not in the Room for the Nuclear Ban Treaty?” in *Nuclear Non-Proliferation in International Law - Volume IV: Human Perspectives on the Development and Use of Nuclear Energy* (2019).

My professional experience prior to the Senate was local, provincial, national and international, in a wide range of governmental and non-governmental venues. Named to the Order of Canada in 1985 in recognition of co-leadership in the successful campaign for stronger gender equality protections in the Canadian constitution, I was a lawyer and educator for 40 years prior to appointment to the Senate in 2016. As chief executive officer of a federal university-based centre of excellence I directed a cyber research network on environmental justice, women’s health and rights, geared to the Millennium Development Goals, predecessors to the current Sustainable Development Goals. While at York University (Toronto, Canada), I founded the International Women’s Rights Project in 1998, moved it to the University of Victoria (British Columbia, Canada) Centre for Global Studies in 2003, and at the University of Winnipeg (Manitoba, Canada) I founded the Institute for International Women’s Rights at Global College in 2009. I held the Ariel F. Sallows Chair in Human Rights at the University of Saskatchewan College of Law, was appointed Chief Commissioner of the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission in 2007, and was Principal (dean) of The University of Winnipeg Global College in Manitoba from 2008 to 2012, then served as the Human Rights Fellow in the UNFPA Geneva Liaison Office and taught in the Peace and Security Program as a Visiting Professor at the UN-mandated University for Peace in Costa Rica in 2013, returning to the University of Winnipeg as a tenured full Professor until being appointed to the Senate.

Recognition includes: the Atlantic Human Rights Centre *Award for Excellence in Human Rights* (2019); *Dianne Martin Medal for Social Justice through Law*, Osgoode Hall Law School, York University (2016); *Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal* (2012), *Canadian Who’s Who* (1991-2021).