



# cariboo college

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## NEWS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 2, 1985

### CANADIANS LAUNCH FORUM AFRICA

OTTAWA - The Honourable Monique Vézina, Minister of External Relations, and David MacDonald, Canadian Emergency Coordinator for the African Famine, along with Ottawa mayor Marion Dewar and Hull mayor Michel L'Égère, are pleased to announce the launching of Forum Africa.

Forum Africa is a unique process of public meetings for Canadians, designed and organized by Canadians. These meetings -- to take place between October and January -- will focus on the role Canada and Canadians can continue to play in supporting the recovery from famine in Africa. Already, core groups representing labour, business, religious and voluntary organizations and other sectors are beginning to work together in different regions.

The first regional forum will be held in British Columbia and the Yukon, October 18 and 19, 1985. For two days, communities across these regions will be linked through teleconferencing and cable television systems. This "electronic town hall" style of meeting will allow individuals in these communities to exchange ideas and information, and discuss current projects and new initiatives. Cariboo College in Kamloops is serving as one of the locales in British Columbia.

Four other regional community link-ups are planned in Quebec, the Atlantic provinces, Ontario, the Prairies and the North West Territories, culminating in a national forum to be held in Ottawa in mid-January.

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The Forums will enable Canadians to articulate and channel their concerns to appropriate levels of government, and in particular to Members of Parliament, the Parliamentary Committees on External Affairs and National Defence, the Minister of Finance, the Minister of External Relations and the Canadian International Development Agency.

"Canadians have been quick and generous in their response to the crisis in Africa", Mr. MacDonald said. "That response is very much an individual, community-based effort, one which now must be solidified and strengthened through direct and continuing links with Africans. Forum Africa will give Canadians an opportunity to evaluate their role and develop longer-term plans to meet the continuing needs of Africans in drought-affected countries".

If you are interested in participating in this forum, either in your own group/community or at Cariboo College, please contact Laara Atley at 374-0123, Local 2205 OR 800-482-0148 (toll free).

For more information contact:

Laara Atley, Program Coordinator

Cariboo College

374-0123, Local 2205 OR 800-482-0148 (toll free)



## FORUM AFRICA October 18 & 19

### What is Forum Africa?

Forum Africa is a series of public meetings combined with television broadcasts to air and share the views, ideas, and hopes of ordinary Canadians to do with the drought and famine stricken countries of Africa.

Forum Africa will be held in a series of regional events across Canada, beginning with British Columbia and the Yukon and Northwest Territories on October 18 and 19, 1985.

### Why Forum Africa?

In the past year Canadians have responded with unprecedented generosity to appeals for financial assistance for famine relief.

The federal government has reacted to this financial outpouring by Canadians from all walks of life by asking for ideas on how the money should be spent. What role should Canada play in assisting African countries move from famine relief to recovery and economic development? What roles can ordinary Canadians play on an on-going basis? How do we do the greatest good?

Canada's Famine Relief Co-ordinator, the Honourable David MacDonald, decided that the promptest, most effective way to consult with ordinary Canadians was to organize, in each region of the country, a series of meetings in venues close to all the people and to combine these meetings with television broadcasts to bring to the meetings current information on the African situation and to pull together the ideas and conclusions reached by Canadians in their discussion groups and meetings.

The regional events will be followed, probably in January 1986, by a national forum to bring together the responses of all the regions into a national consensus or, at least, a common well of ideas and directions for government, voluntary organizations and individuals.

### What is Happening in British Columbia, Yukon & Northwest Territories?

#### October 18

In British Columbia and the North, Forum Africa will begin with a television broadcast from 8 to 9 p.m.

This broadcast will provide up-to-the-minute information on the situation in Africa, a report on what Canada has done to date, what effect our aid has had and some initial thoughts of Canadians from various walks of life.



October 19

\*Discussion groups will be held in communities all over the province and the territories. At this time community colleges are contacting church groups, city councils, social organizations, service clubs and so on. Meetings will be arranged to be held on college campuses, Legion Halls, recreation centres or wherever may be most appropriate to community circumstances.

Resource materials are being prepared, discussion leaders sought out and information distributed to local media outlets by the community college in each region.

Reports from each meeting will be called into the Knowledge Network and a teleconference will be held to pull together ideas and reactions.

Call a College for Information and Meeting Details

Regardless of whether there is a community college campus in your community call the nearest college for information about how to get involved and where to attend. Meetings will not necessarily be held on college campuses - they may be organized by another concerned organization and held at a location convenient to you.

Regardless of where the meetings are being held, the community college for your region will know the locations and times of meetings in your area.

\*8-9 p.m. Television broadcast. The Saturday evening telecast will pull together views from around the province along with reactions and comment from persons such as the Honourable David MacDonald. It is anticipated that part of the programming will include 'open line' opportunities for individuals to call in and offer their thoughts while the program is in progress.

Forum Africa Follow-Up

While the federal government has some tentative plans for a national forum to take place in January 1986 details are sketchy. However, meeting organizers in British Columbia and the North are being asked to ensure that written summaries of proceedings, conclusions, resolutions etc be forwarded to a central collection point in British Columbia.

The B.C. organization will then ensure that these, along with copies of the television broadcasts, are forwarded to Ottawa.

Forum Africa Contacts

Local: The nearest community college / CARIBOO COLLEGE  
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