



## Women, Media and the New Global Order

On September 27, 2003, MATCH held its Annual General Meeting in Ottawa. The plenary speeches were on the theme of "Women, Media and the New Global Order". Presentations were given by two Board members, **Judith Wedderburn**, Founding Member of Women's Media Watch in Jamaica, and **Urvashi Butalia**, co-founder of Kali for Women, India's first and only feminist publishing house.

"There's less diversity of voices being heard in the media," said Judith Wedderburn. "More convergence of print, radio and television worldwide is part of the reason, and along with it media are being bought up by big corporations, concentrating control of media in the hands of a powerful few."

In Jamaica, 85 percent of the media are now owned by North American media. "This has political and social implications," said Ms. Wedderburn. "There's less informed debate in the media now."

Women's Media Watch, a MATCH partner, monitors Jamaican media and advertisers. It strives for gender balance in the media, more favourable representation of women in media, the entertainment and advertising industries and elimination of gender-based violence.

"Violence in the media has become the norm. It is in the murder plots of the shows on television – supposedly aiming to make them more appealing. Violence against women is trivialized in cartoons, videos and video games," said Ms. Wedderburn.

To oppose this norm, Women's Media Watch continues its lobbying and educational programming. The Broadcasting Commission of Jamaica has also developed a code for children's programming to limit violence, said Ms. Wedderburn.

"MATCH, other organizations and alternative media such as InterPress are countering the dominating agenda and we need to continue our support for them," concluded Ms. Wedderburn.

Urvashi Butalia agreed with Ms. Wedderburn, concurring that throughout the developing world, media are owned by large corporations.

"The media view the world as a market and the people they reach as consumers," said Ms. Butalia. In India, there has been exponential growth in the number of people reached by radio (80 percent) and by

television (60 percent).

"The media reach out to the middle class – 200 million in India alone – appealing to them to buy goods," said Ms. Butalia. "This affects the content of programs. We now see only rich, beautiful, city people on television. This creates desires and ignores the reality of the rest of the population - the rural poor struggling to eke out an existence. It is a gross injustice. While it is good to see more women represented in the media, we shouldn't be upholding only the rich and beautiful."

Both speakers said this agenda of turning people reached by the media into consumers comes from big business and governments - the movers behind globalization and the unfair trade practices that are affecting women and children so negatively.

"Through the policies of the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and World Trade Organization, we have seen developing country

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**In Memoriam – Salma Sobhan**

It was with profound sadness and regret that the Board and staff of MATCH International Centre learned of the sudden death of Salma Sobhan on December 29, 2003. Ms. Sobhan had just completed her term as Asia region representative to the MATCH Board of Directors in September 2003.

Ms. Sobhan dedicated herself to the struggle for human and women's rights worldwide and at home in Bangladesh. She wrote and lectured widely, particularly on the legal and human rights of women, and inspired many generations as a public lecturer and professor of law. She founded and supported many human rights organizations at home and abroad, making an invaluable contribution to the struggle for the promotion of human rights in Bangladesh and worldwide. Ms.

Sobhan was the founder and executive director of the human rights organization Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), and also helped to establish the Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) and the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC).

Ms. Sobhan held a law degree from Gorton College, Cambridge, UK, and received her bar-at-law degree from Lincoln's Inn in 1959. She taught law for almost two decades at the Dhaka University Law School before working for the Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs. She was an editor for the Supreme Court Law Reports and held several positions in various organizations. In 2001, the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights in New York honored Ms. Sobhan for her contribution to protecting human rights. In 2003, she was appointed to the Board of the UN Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD).

Ms. Sobhan liked to swim and loved sightseeing. She was a proficient Scrabble player, and enjoyed playing the sitar in her spare time. She left behind her husband, renowned economist Prof. Rehman Sobhan, and two sons, Babar and Zafar.

She was a very resourceful Board member whose clarity of thought and wit were immensely appreciated in her governance role in the organization. We remember her for her support and friendship, and remain grateful for her involvement with MATCH.

The following is a letter from Norma E. Walmsley that pays tribute to Ms. Sobhan:

*We all mourn the sudden and shocking loss of our good friend and colleague, Salma Sobhan. It has no doubt been with great sacrifice to herself and her family that Salma has served on our Board, travelling from Bangladesh and working on our behalf these many years.*

*Salma was informed, concerned and generous with her talents on behalf of women around the world. Her contributions to the work of MATCH will be sadly missed, as will her warm friendship to all those who were privileged to know her. Speaking personally, my association with Salma always deepened my understanding of the things that mattered most to her, and it is an association that I will always cherish.*

*Once again, so shortly after the sudden death of Rosemary Brown, we at MATCH mourn deeply the loss of a "family" member, and feel challenged to honour the memories of both these outstanding women as we strive to carry on the ideals which they exemplified.*

Norma E. Walmsley, O.C.  
Founder, MATCH International Centre



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MATCH News is published three times a year by MATCH International Centre. MATCH is a non-profit, non-governmental development agency that concentrates its support on women through overseas project funding and education in Canada.

The aim of this publication is to engender thought and discussion about various development issues. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of MATCH as an organization and are those of the author(s) alone.

MATCH is committed, with our Southern sisters, to a feminist vision of development. Such a vision requires the eradication of all forms of injustice, particularly the exploitation and marginalization of women.

The newsletter is sent free of charge to MATCH donors. Subscriptions are available as follows:

Institutions	\$25
Groups	\$25
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If you do not wish your name to be exchanged, please advise us of your decision.

Contributions to MATCH News of articles, notices, resource information and graphics are encouraged. We reserve the right to edit submissions.

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economies restructured, often into one-product export economies,” said Ms. Wedderburn. “This has led to increased unemployment and cuts to social services including health and education. Women, who support the cash economy, for example by trading fruit and vegetables for cash, have been negatively affected.”

With media concentrated in the hands of rich and powerful businesses, primarily in industrialized countries, there is a more distant relationship between media consumers and producers, said Ms. Butalia. Nevertheless, she argued for continued pressure by organizations such as her publishing house, Kali for Women, Zubaan, MATCH and others to hold media owners accountable.

“It is not an impossible battle,” said Ms. Butalia. “At some level, you make a difference. You make yourself heard. We are the conscience of big conglomerates. We can’t give up or they will run unchecked.”

The speakers’ messages were enthusiastically received by the audience, including a young woman born in Rwanda who told the gathering that this was her first MATCH meeting and she had her eyes opened by the words of Ms. Wedderburn and Ms. Butalia and was so glad she came.

MATCH is grateful to Judith Wedderburn and Urvashi Butalia for their presentations and to everyone who participated in the meeting.

### **MATCH has moved**

We appreciate hearing from you at our new address (please note the change of e-mail and Web site, as well):

MATCH International Centre  
15 Grenfell Crescent, Suite 201  
Ottawa, Ontario K2G 0G3  
Tel: (the same) (613) 238-1312  
Fax: (the same) (613) 238-6867  
E-mail: [info@matchinternational.org](mailto:info@matchinternational.org)  
Web: [www.matchinternational.org](http://www.matchinternational.org)

MATCH invites comments from readers on the newsletter. We welcome your ideas on content for future issues and your feedback in general. Please contact us at the coordinates listed above.

### **Some news from our partners**

#### **The Jamaican Women’s Political Caucus (JWPC)**

The JWPC has been working with the Caribbean Policy Development Centre and the organization Friedrich Ebert Stiftung to mobilize prospective female politicians for training sessions on “engendering political decision making”. The JWPC also contributes to research and policy development of the government’s Bureau of Women’s Affairs.

#### **S-Corner Clinic and Community Development Organization (Jamaica)**

S-Corner Clinic has been promoting healthy eating to seniors, many of whom have diabetes. It has also provided nutritional support and food packages to women and their families. S-Corner held a three-day workshop on domestic violence and its impact on self-esteem. Participants were sent home with suggested activities to improve their lives. Staff also benefited from attending an HIV/AIDS symposium and then sharing the information they received with community members at presentations at S-Corner.

#### **Women’s Media Watch (Jamaica)**

The organization held workshops for youth, many of whom were teen mothers, to provide information on sexuality, self-esteem and gender-based violence. The sessions were also attended by guidance counselors and police who are working with, or encountering, youth. The Police Community Relations office also invited WMW to provide training on gender violence to youth leaders. This training is being offered to inner-city groups.

#### **Mamatoto (Trinidad and Tobago)**

Mamatoto launched its birthing and resource centre on January 31, 2004. The Minister of Social Development, Christine Kangaloo, presided at the ceremony along with a representative of the Minister of Health, the Chief Nursing Officer Erica Phillips. The organization has also been holding workshops on teenagers and sexuality, teenage parenting and “mothering the mother” – being supportive of mothers.

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**L'Association recherche-action femme et développement (ARAFD) and L'Association des enseignants et femmes enseignantes de Koulikoro (ASFENK) (Mali)**

These two associations work together on projects to help migrant domestic workers from villages near Koulikoro City in Mali. The concern is that many of these migrants are young women who come to the city in search of work and lacking support systems. Many are denied their human rights, subjected to mistreatment, sexual harassment and exploitation. To protect these young women, the associations are offering a training program for domestic workers, mentoring peer educators from among the domestic workers. They are also reaching out to employers, their families and the public at large to raise awareness of the situation of domestic workers.

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**“For Jackson” video premieres in Ottawa**

“You are part of a continuum of service,” said the late Rosemary Brown in a documentary for her seven-year-old grandson made in 2003. She and Jackson’s other grandmother, Ruth Horricks-Sujir, shared the wisdom and stories of their remarkable lives in the 50-minute video, which was shown in Ottawa on February 16, 2004.

Ms. Horricks-Sujir described what it was like growing up as a minister’s daughter and learning about community and “our responsibility for each other”. The video also shows Ms. Brown revisiting her childhood home in Jamaica and recounting the strong leadership of her grandmother and other women. It recaptures key moments in Ms. Brown’s life as a politician, including her election to the B.C. parliament in 1972, making her the first Black woman to be elected to public office in Canada.

The video was directed and co-produced by Leila Sujir, (Jackson’s aunt), and the National Film Board of Canada (NFB). Copies may be ordered by calling the NFB at 1-800-267-7710 and referring to order number C9103 059.

**Women’s rights activist elected to CEDAW-related committee**

In 2003, **Dorcas Coker-Appiah** became a member of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. The committee was established under the terms of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 1979. The committee’s 23 members are elected by state parties to the Convention. The committee monitors the progress by state parties in implementing Convention articles.

Ms. Coker-Appiah is a lawyer and women’s rights activist. She is a co-founder and the Executive Director of the Gender Studies and Human Rights Documentation Centre (Gender Centre) in Accra, Ghana – a MATCH partner. She is also a founding member of Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF), a network of organizations and individuals with members in 26 African countries, and a former partner of MATCH.

The following is an excerpt of an article by Ms. Coker-Appiah describing her work on the committee. The full article may be obtained by contacting the MATCH office in Ottawa.

*“I believe the Convention is one of the best things that happened to women world-wide. It is an instrument that we can use to claim our rightful place in all our countries and, in this regard, I believe civil society organizations, especially women’s human rights organizations like MATCH, have a key role to play in ensuring that what our governments have agreed to in the Convention is implemented.*

*“I believe that I, together with my other colleagues on the Committee, have been placed in a unique position to help bring about change in the lives of women throughout the world. The commitment of the Committee members over the years is indisputable and as the newest member, I feel great encouragement and also face a challenge, which I certainly hope to fulfil.*

*“I was also quite impressed about the efficiency and professionalism of the Secretariat staff and I think that the high output of the Committee, to a large extent, depends on the support that the Secretariat provides.*

*“My nomination to the Committee is an honour that I am not taking lightly.”*

MATCH International Centre congratulates Ms. Appiah-Coker on her election to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and thanks her for her article.



## In Brief

### Citizens Bank of Canada donates to MATCH

MATCH International Centre gratefully acknowledges a one-time grant of \$25,727 from the Citizens Bank of Canada in support of MATCH's work to improve the lives of women around the world. Ms. Gene Errington, former Board Member of MATCH, received the grant on behalf of MATCH at a ceremony held in Vancouver on March 4, 2004. She gave brief remarks on MATCH to those present, including Citizens Bank Board Members, VanCity officials, members of the Shared Interest Committee, and representatives of other recipient organizations. MATCH was one of eight recipients of a grant from the Citizens Bank's Shared Interest program for 2003. This program involves making donations to charitable organizations. The money comes from 4% of the Bank's pre-tax profits and profits from its Shared Interest VISA card.

### Fundraising dinner in remembrance of the late MATCH President



Bob Rae, P.C., O.C., a former premier of Ontario, and Madonna Larbi, Executive Director of MATCH.

On September 2, 2003, the Royal Bank of Canada and the High Commission for the Republic of South Africa held a fundraising dinner in remembrance of the late MATCH President Rosemary Brown, P.C., O.C., O.B.C., C.D. The event was hosted by Charlie Coffey, Executive Vice-President, Government and Community Affairs of the Royal Bank of Canada Financial Group, and André Jaquet, then South African High Commissioner to Canada and his wife Linda Jaquet. Bob Rae, P.C., O.C., a former premier of Ontario, was the guest speaker. Also present was the former Minister for International Co-operation, the Hon. Ms. Susan Whelan. About 60 MATCH supporters attended, raising close to \$5,000.



André Jacquet, Linda Jaquet, Susan Whelan and Charlie Coffey

### Greetings from South Africa

André Jacquet, the former South African High Commissioner to Canada, and his wife Linda recently returned to their country and sent a warm letter with greetings: "Our close ties with MATCH throughout our four years in Canada certainly made our work so much more meaningful. It opened our eyes to just how much can be achieved in countries like South Africa with few resources and very little fuss by an organization that is focussed, efficient and transparent and is run by women who believe in what they're doing, who are determined, knowledgeable and hugely dedicated."

The Jacquets hosted several fundraising activities for MATCH and continue to follow MATCH's activities. They are greatly missed in Canada, and their ongoing support and friendship is appreciated.

### Our active Board members and MATCH supporters ...

MATCH board member **Stella LeJohn** has been appointed as a Global People-to-People Ambassador by the UN to promote mutual understanding and peace to groups in conflict.

Ms. LeJohn and **Babs Friesen**, a driving force behind MATCH-Winnipeg, were among the women honoured at a reception hosted by the Canadian Committee for UNIFEM Winnipeg Chapter on March 10. The reception was a tribute to all Manitoba recipients of the Governor General's Persons Case Award. These awards were established in 1979 on the 50th anniversary of the decree that women were persons.



**Yes! I Support Women's Efforts**

To end violence, poverty, inequality, and injustice globally!

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\_\_\_\_\_

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**My donation is enclosed...**

- \$ 25    \$ 35    \$ 50
- \$ 75    \$100    \$200
- Other        \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Bill my:    
 

Account # \_\_\_\_\_

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**Become a Sustaining Donor!**

MATCH can count on my ongoing support. I authorize MATCH to draw the following amount from the specified chequing account on the first day of each month. If you prefer your monthly donation be processed on your credit card, please check off the amount and fill in your card information above:

- \$ 10    \$ 15    \$ 25
- \$ 50    \$ 75    \$200
- Other        \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

(Please enclose an unsigned cheque marked VOID)

**GUARANTEE:** You may change or cancel your participation in the Sustaining Donor Plan at any time by notifying MATCH International Centre.

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201 - 15 Grenfell Crescent  
Ottawa ON  
Canada K2G 0G3

**Friends of Dr. Carol Kirby raise \$607 for MATCH**

Dr. Carol Kirby is an accomplished educator – “Newfoundland’s gift to the women and girls of Ottawa”, says her friend Nancy Douglas. Ms. Douglas says the September 26, 2003 celebration and fundraiser was a way of thanking Dr. Kirby for sharing her strength, intelligence, good humour and vision with her students, friends and colleagues.

“Carol leads women and girls to believe in themselves,” says Ms. Douglas. “This is the essence of MATCH International Centre’s mission, which is why we have chosen a donation to MATCH as a way we can all show Carol we learned from her.”

Carol Kirby came to Ottawa in the 1960s, and began work as a teacher for the Ottawa Board of Education. She was among the first women promoted to principal in the Ottawa public school system. Throughout her career, she provided innovative programs and support for women and children living in poverty. She also held senior positions in the Federation of Women Teachers of Ontario. When Dr. Kirby retired from the Ottawa Board of Education, she became the headmistress at a school in Mombasa, Kenya. On her return, she was appointed headmistress of the Elmwood School, a girls-only school in Ottawa.

MATCH thanks Ms. Douglas and all the participants in the fundraising celebration for their generosity. We especially thank Dr. Kirby for her devotion to MATCH and to helping girls and women improve their lives. We congratulate her on her accomplishments, including having such a fine group of people celebrate her in this extraordinary way!

**MATCH welcomes three new Board members**

**Urvashi Butalia** is a writer and publisher who co-founded India’s first and only publishing house, Kali for Women. Ms. Butalia is active in the women’s movement, and has worked with an organization called *Samta* (Equity), which succeeded in influencing India’s Law Commission to change laws on violence against women, rape and dowry. Ms. Butalia holds master’s degrees in literature and South Asian studies. She is a member of the editorial board of two journals, *Gender and History* and *Development and Change*.

**Nkiru Nzegwu, Ph.D.** is a philosopher, writer, public speaker, poet, and artist. She joined MATCH’s Board of Directors in September 2003 as the USA representative. Dr. Nzegwu is an Associate Professor in the Department of African Studies and the Graduate Program of Philosophy, Interpretation and Culture at Binghamton University in New York State. She lectures internationally on issues of race, gender, African identity, art, and philosophy.

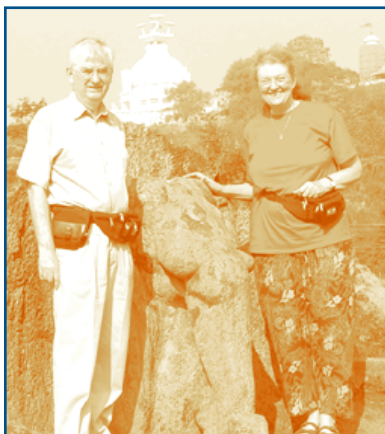
**Lene Madsen** is a lawyer with Epstein Cole, LLP, a Toronto-based law firm. Ms. Madsen was MATCH’s Program Officer for Asia and the Caribbean from 1994-1996, and in September 2003 returned to MATCH as the Board’s Ontario representative. Ms. Madsen holds bachelor’s degrees in political science and law, and a master’s degree in environmental studies. She also completed a graduate diploma in migration and refugee studies. Ms. Madsen has been active on refugee and human rights issues, having worked for international organizations, including the UNHCR, in several countries.



## Getting to Know Our Donors

### Hilda Taylor

By Manuela Popovici



Supporting MATCH has been a family affair since the Taylors of Halifax, Nova Scotia first heard about the organization on CBC Radio more than 15 years ago.

Hilda Taylor, a retired biologist, says MATCH's mission is in keeping with her own views on working towards equality for women and men. She first immersed herself in

these issues by joining the Status of Women Committee as a biology student at Acadia University in the 1970s.

Later, her involvement extended to provincial and national university committees. On campus, she advocated for women from all groups within the university community. Dr. Taylor was concerned, for example, with issues related to equal work for equal pay and availability of day care. She also became very interested in issues related to women and science.

"I dislike inequality," she says, "and especially the barriers that women face in the fields of science. When I was a graduate student in the Biology Department at the University of Waterloo in the 1970s, there was great resistance to accepting women in certain departments such as physics. There were, and still are, barriers for women as they go through the ranks."

This is a topic that Dr. Taylor and her daughter have often discussed: "My daughter taught at an all-women's university before returning to school to study medicine. We had many interesting discussions about classroom gender issues."

Dr. Taylor, lives with her husband Mark in Halifax, Nova Scotia. They have two children. In addition to their daughter, they have a son, who along with his wife, is teaching English in China.

In her free time, Dr. Taylor grows bonsais and alpine trees, an activity she finds very tranquil and relaxing. "I am a semi-fanatical gardener," she says. "My husband and I also like to travel, and we've just returned from our fourth trip to India." During this seven-week trip, the

couple attended the wedding of a friend's son.

The Taylors have supported MATCH over the years because, as Dr. Taylor says, "MATCH is working for a good cause. The projects it funds to help women and children are so valuable and successful. We like the matching of funds, and we like the people working there."

MATCH Executive Director Madonna Larbi thanks Hilda and Mark Taylor for their support – financial and moral – and wishes them well: "It is also heartwarming to hear how the Taylors' strong views on equality and gender issues are upheld by their children, who have become educators and are influencing those around them."

### Walter and Barbara McLean

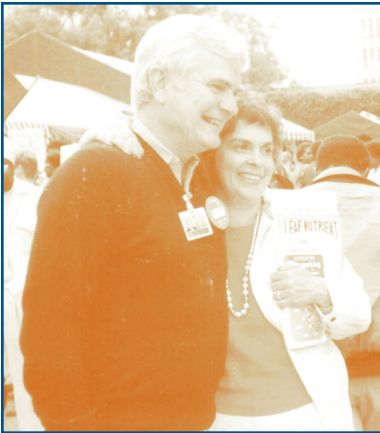
By Jennifer Goldstone

The Hon. Walter McLean says that in his early days of activism, he realized that women's contribution to society was immense and that the most strategic way to help countries overcome poverty was to address women's needs.

"In so doing, one is helping children and entire families," he says. Walter McLean, a Presbyterian minister, co-founder of the development organization CUSO and a former Member of Parliament (Waterloo, Ontario), points to his wife's work in Nigeria as an example. Barbara McLean taught at a government-run secondary school for girls in Eastern Nigeria for five years in the 1960s.

"Without education, women have less of an opportunity to provide for their families," says Walter McLean. The McLeans say they have supported MATCH from its inception because of its ability to help women get out of situations of poverty and violence and improve the well-being of their families.

"MATCH continues to be a beacon of hope for women's groups in developing countries, around which they can mobilize support from people in Canada and elsewhere," says Barbara McLean. She recalls enthusiastically the achievements of the three UN conferences on women (1975, 1985 and 1995), in particular the successful lobbying of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) at the Nairobi and Beijing conferences which she attended.



“It was rewarding to be part of that,” says Barbara McLean, but adds that the Government of Canada and many other governments are not following through with commitments made at those conferences. The McLeans say they would especially like to see more policies and laws protecting women’s rights as

human rights; in other words, they would like to see commitments made at the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna in 1993 come to fruition.

Walter McLean became fully versed in such issues early in his political career. Shortly after being elected to Parliament in 1979, he was named Opposition Spokesperson on the Status of Women. He later became the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women (1984-86). Other appointments included Secretary of State of Canada and Minister of State for Immigration, and a host of special representative roles where Walter McLean was able to bring his passion for social justice and women’s rights to the table. He was involved in the changing of laws to support equal pay for work of equal value and changes to the Indian Act to reflect the rights of status Indian women married to non-Aboriginal men in Canada.

Barbara McLean says what is needed now to further support women’s rights is a new coalition of people from across the political spectrum. Walter McLean says that MATCH, with its strong record of partnership with women’s organizations in other countries, is well placed to help mobilize such a coalition. He suggests that much could be learned from the disarmament movement of the 1980s. As a Progressive Conservative MP at that time, Walter McLean says he often found himself voting against his own party, since what was at stake during those Cold War years was the destruction of human life, as the superpowers (US and former Soviet Union) escalated their arms buildup.

“There was room for dissent then,” says Walter McLean. “Now what we see from government is single-handed withdrawal of support for NGOs. Women’s organizations are especially hurt since they are the

least funded and the most fragile. We need a movement of men who understand and promote the priority of addressing women’s and children’s needs. They need to work alongside women in a groundswell of support for standing up for women’s rights.”

Since leaving Parliament in 1993, the McLeans have been very active in their church, work, diplomatic and volunteer activities and family life. They and their four sons, daughters-in-law and six grandchildren all live in the Toronto-Waterloo area. Walter McLean is a principal in the Osborne Group and serves as the Honourary Consul in Canada of the Republic of Namibia, a position he has held since the country gained its independence in the early 1990s. Barbara McLean just retired from 11 years as the Deputy Clerk of the General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church.

The McLeans are also involved in the E.H. Johnson Memorial Trust of The Presbyterian Church, which every year recognizes someone in another country for their efforts to spread the word of God. The honouree is invited to Canada to address the National Assembly of The Presbyterian Church, to speak at public education events and to meet with Church and government representatives. Last year, the Trust recognized the first ordained Anglican woman

**“MATCH continues to be a beacon of hope for women's groups in developing countries, around which they can mobilize support from people in Canada and elsewhere,” says Barbara McLean.**

priest in Namibia, the Venerable Nangula Kathindi, Secretary General of Namibian Council of Churches. The Rev. Kathindi has advocated to protect women and children affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The McLeans say they admire the work of this great woman in the face of challenges on so many fronts, including being one of the very few women priests in her Church. They also point to other strong women activists and salute their “courage, determination and faith.”

“The McLeans are exceptional citizens of the world with a deep understanding of development issues particularly regarding the challenges women face,” says MATCH Executive Director Madonna Larbi. “In addition, they are acutely aware of the difficulties NGOs have and continue to face. We appreciate their unstinting belief in the work of MATCH and its partners over these 28 years and are proud to count them as supporters of this organization.”