

# News Release

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## **Patricia Erb, Life-Long Activist for Women's and Children's Rights Recipient of CCIC's Karen Takacs Award for Women's Leadership in International Development**

Patricia Erb, President and CEO of Save the Children, is this year's recipient of the Karen Takacs Award for Women's Leadership in International Development. The award is given annually to a woman who identifies as a feminist, is peer-nominated and is making a meaningful contribution to global cooperation.

Erb received the honour at [CCIC's Global Impact Soirée](#). The event, held as part of Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations, highlighted the contribution Canada has made to international development and humanitarian assistance.

"It's fitting that we've honoured Patricia Erb at this special event," said Julia Sanchez, President-CEO of the Canadian Council for International Co-operation (CCIC). "Erb is an unwavering advocate and champion for the rights and health of children and women."

At the age of 14, while travelling in Bolivia, Erb witnessed overwhelming poverty – children and families struggling simply to survive. It inspired her life's work to help break the cycle of poverty and social injustice.

Erb attended university in Buenos Aires during the time of the military junta. In 1976, when Erb was a student leader and social activist, the military junta broke into her parent's home and kidnapped her. She was held and tortured for four weeks. Thanks to the activism of the Mennonite community of North America who called for her release, Patricia survived when more than 30,000 didn't.

Expelled to her country of birth, the United States, Erb worked with other activists to successfully campaign to end US military funding for Argentina. She rushed to finish the education that the Junta tried to deny her and returned to Latin America in the 1980s.

Over the years, Erb has used her voice to champion the rights of women and girls, working children and the rights of Indigenous children. It is perhaps her work with Indigenous peoples that has taught her the most.

Currently, Erb is the President and CEO of Save the Children where she is passionate about improving children's lives, protecting their rights and creating opportunities for change.

This award was created in 2016 in memory of Karen Takacs. It honours her contribution to social and economic justice. By creating this award, CCIC celebrates the leadership Takacs demonstrated throughout her career and during her time as Chair of the Board of CCIC.

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