

Joint Healthcare System Research Seminar

“The Black Hole of Social Equity”

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Commissioner*

*Commission on Social Determinants of Health, World Health Organization
and
Professor Emeritus
University of Ottawa*

Date: Monday, December 8, 2008
Time: 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Location: University of Ottawa
Desmarais Building - Room DMS7170
55 Laurier Ave. East, Ottawa ON
(campus map: <http://www.uottawa.ca/map/>)

Abstract

Social justice is a matter of life and death. The toxic combination of poor social policies, unfair economic arrangements and bad politics is, in large extent, responsible for the fact that a majority of people in the world do not enjoy the quality of health that is biologically possible – social injustice is killing people on a grand scale. Such situation prompted the Commission's call to close the health gap in a generation, both at home and abroad.



About the Speaker

Monique Bégin is a sociologist by training and a national expert on health systems in general, and on the Canadian one in particular. She was the first woman from Québec elected to the House of Commons. Re-elected three times, she was twice appointed Minister of National Health and Welfare. She remains best known for the Canada Health Act. She left politics in 1984.

Since then Monique Bégin was the first holder of the Joint Chair in Women's Studies at Ottawa and Carleton Universities, she was Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences at University of Ottawa, she co-chaired the Royal Commission on Learning of Ontario and served on the International Independent Commission on Population and Quality of Life. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and has received 15 honorary doctorates. In 1998, she was invested as Officer of the Order of Canada.