

MARILYN COLLETTE, M.S.W.

For eighteen years Marilyn Collette lived and worked outside of Canada as an international development specialist. In 2008, she began working as a consultant or as a volunteer with social enterprises and non-governmental organizations to build capacity for social good. In this regard, she served as Vice-Chair of International Bridges to Justice; as a Member of Mercy Ships International Board and as Chair/Director of Mercy Ships Canada. More recently she has been a board member of HealthBridge and is currently a volunteer with the Rockcliffe Park Foundation.

Prior to her retirement Marilyn was International Director for the National Judicial Institute in Ottawa, under the aegis of the Supreme Court of Canada. In that capacity, she directed the international cooperation group's diverse portfolio of projects in judicial systems reform, such as with the Supreme Courts of China Philippines.

From Manila, she served as Senior Governance Specialist at the Asian Development Bank (2000-2004). In that capacity, she was Chair of the Bank's Governance Network also managed governance projects in China, Mongolia, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan.

During her 16 years with the Canadian International Development Agency, CIDA, she managed projects in the Caribbean, China, the Philippines and other Asian countries. Her diplomatic career with the Department of Foreign Affairs included twice being posted to the Canadian Embassy in Beijing.

Marilyn has actively engaged as a volunteer fundraiser in social responsibility projects. She strongly believes in the power of individuals linking with private and government agencies as the means for funding community resources. Marilyn has raised significant funds internationally for the construction of two women's health centers – in Xinjiang and Manila. By working with social visionaries and applying to government agencies, private companies, embassies and philanthropists she succeeded in obtaining grants for Mercy Ships hospital beds, SPECT, (a hospital sterilization foundation) and for "Saving Mothers" to provide 30,000 birth kits for pregnant women in Tanzania. More recently, as Chair of the Centennial Garden Revitalization Committee, she has led a fundraising effort to restore the historic garden.

Marilyn earned her Bachelor's Degree from Dalhousie University and a Master's degree in Social Work (MSW), in Social Policy and Administration from Carleton's School of Social Work and the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs.

She is married to Robert Collette, has two grown children and is grandmother to two grand-boys.