

DALLAIRE, Catherine



The Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies (MIGS) of Concordia University joins the family of General Roméo Dallaire, its Senior Fellow, in mourning the death on September 20, 2012 of Gen. Dallaire's mother, Catherine Dallaire, at the age of 93. Catherine Veermaessen Dallaire came to Canada in December 1946 as a Dutch war bride, one year after she married Canadian Army Staff-Sergeant Roméo Louis Dallaire. Her Red Cross ship docked at Pier 21 in Halifax, where she introduced six months old Roméo to his native land. In 1967, she began work as a cashier in the Hall Building Cafeteria at Sir George Williams University, which became Concordia University in 1974. Ever sympathetic to students without funds, she sometimes let them through without paying for the food on their trays. "They never took advantage of me," she told her son, the future General Dallaire. Soon Catherine Dallaire improved her position and joined the Concordia University Purchasing Department, where she concentrated on computer purchases for the Faculty of Engineering. She retired from Concordia in 1984. "Catherine Dallaire leaves behind a legacy of compassion and honour that continue to be carried out by her family and by all those who knew her," said Prof. Frank Chalk, the Director of MIGS. "Her spirit lives on in Roméo Dallaire's work with MIGS and his continuing engagement with Concordia University."