



## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, July 3, 2018

### **Canadian Section of ParlAmericas Congratulates winner of the Embassy of Canada in Venezuela Human Rights Award, Francisco Valencia**

#### ***Recognizing the humanitarian efforts of organizations and individuals encourages others to follow in their footsteps – Nault***

(OTTAWA) July 3, 2018 – The winner of the Embassy of Canada in Venezuela Human Rights Award will visit Ottawa from July 3 to 4.

Since 2009, the Embassy of Canada in Venezuela has partnered with the Central University of Venezuela's Center for Peace and Human Rights "Padre Luis María Olayo" to grant an annual award recognizing the international principles on human rights.

The Human Rights Award recognizes outstanding individuals and non-governmental organizations whose work promotes and defends human rights in Venezuela. Each year, the winner of the award travels to Ottawa to share ideas and experiences with local organizations that are focused on similar initiatives.

On 7 March 2018, Francisco Valencia, Director of the Coalition of Health Organizations (CODEVIDA) was named this year's winner. Mr. Valencia has worked tirelessly and diligently to document the shortfall in medical supplies for Venezuelan hospitals during that country's on-going humanitarian emergency.

The [Honourable Bob Nault](#), P.C., M.P., Chair of the Canadian Section of ParlAmericas, congratulates Mr. Valencia on this important distinction. "I am very honoured to welcome Mr. Valencia to Canada in recognition of his humanitarian efforts in Venezuela," stated Nault. "I am sure the insights and information that he brings with him will prove to be invaluable to our own efforts in Venezuela and abroad."

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-30-

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