

MAUREEN KEMPSTON DARKES
GM Group Vice President ,
President, GM Latin America, Africa and Middle East

Maureen Kempston Darkes was appointed GM group vice president and president, GM Latin America, Africa and Middle East (LAAM) and a member of the General Motors Automotive Strategy Board, effective January 1, 2002. Prior to this appointment, she was president and general manager of General Motors of Canada Limited (GMCL) and vice president of General Motors Corporation, from 1994 to 2001.

After joining the General Motors of Canada Limited Legal Staff in 1975, she became assistant counsel in 1979. She served on the General Motors Corporation Legal Staff in Detroit in 1979-1980 and headed the GM of Canada Tax Staff from 1980 to 1984. From 1985 to 1987, she worked in the GM Treasurer's Office in New York and subsequently held the position of acting treasurer for GM of Canada until her appointment as general director, public affairs, for GMCL in April 1987. She was appointed GMCL vice president of corporate affairs in 1991 and elected to the GMCL Board of Directors. In addition to her corporate affairs responsibilities, she was appointed general counsel and secretary of GMCL in July 1992.

Kempston Darkes serves on the boards of CN Rail and Brookfield Asset Management. During her tenure as president of GM of Canada, she was a board member of the Vehicle Manufacturers' Association; the Ontario Government Education, Quality and Accountability Board; and the Ontario Minister of Health's Women's Health Council. She was appointed by the federal government to the Free Trade Agreement Automotive Select Panel in 1989 and, in 1994, to the Transportation Equipment Sectoral Advisory Group on International Trade. She also serves on the University of Toronto President's International Alumni Council. She has served as the former chair for major gifts for Women's College Hospital Fund Raising Campaigns; co-chaired the BC Cancer Foundation's Millennium Campaign, focused on genome science and research into finding cures for and treatment of cancer; and served on the board of Falconbridge Inc.

Kempston Darkes was born and raised in the Toronto area. She holds a bachelor of arts degree in history and political science from Victoria College, University of Toronto. She also holds a bachelor of laws degree from the University of Toronto Law School and was called to the Bar of Ontario. She has received honorary doctor of law degrees from the University of Toronto, University of Victoria, McMaster University, Dalhousie University, Wilfrid Laurier University, and the Law Society of Upper Canada; an honorary doctorate of business administration from Laurentian University; and an honorary doctor of commerce degree from Saint Mary's University. In 1997, she received The Order of Ontario and was appointed as an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2000. The American Bar Association in 1998 recognized her with the Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award. In 1999, she received the Distinguished Service Citation from the Automotive Hall of Fame.