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MINISTER McDOUGALL ANNOUNCES OPENING OF TALLINN OFFICE, \$1 MILLION IN HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BALTIC STATES

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, today announced the official opening of the Office of the Canadian Embassy in Tallinn, Estonia. The Minister also announced \$1 million in humanitarian assistance to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

"Canada's renewed partnership with the Baltic states is flourishing and I hope soon to announce the opening of Embassy offices in Riga and Vilnius as well," said Mrs. McDougall. "The new offices will play a very important role in our expanding relations with these three countries."

The Minister noted that Canada's Embassy in Stockholm is accredited to Latvia and Lithuania and the Embassy in Helsinki to Estonia. Embassy officials will provide trade and investment promotion assistance as well as visa and consular services through the new offices.

The \$1 million in humanitarian assistance will be channelled through the Canadian Red Cross for delivery of medical supplies and other assistance to Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia this winter.

The Canadian Red Cross welcomes cash donations from Canadians to this program at any of its branch offices.

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