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CANADA TO GIVE \$2 MILLION IN HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BALTIC STATES

External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall today announced a Canadian contribution of \$2 million for humanitarian assistance in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. The contribution, to the Solidarity Assistance operation of the Canadian Red Cross Society and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, will be used for medical supplies and support, especially for children.

"This donation underlines Canada's support for the people of the Baltic States. By targeting our aid to medical supplies and medical training, Canada is bringing relief now, as well as hope for the future," said Mrs. McDougall.

The funds will be used to provide basic medicines and medical supply kits for children's hospitals and children's hospital wards in the Baltic States. Specially needed medicines, identified by a Red Cross assessment team, will also be provided in bulk to other hospitals. In addition, a team of Canadian doctors from McMaster University will be sent to the Latvian Medical Academy to assist in medical training.

Hospitals in the Baltic States are almost completely dependent on humanitarian assistance for basic medical functions. It is estimated that the Canadian donation will supply 17,000 hospital beds in the region for a full year. Last year, the Canadian Solidarity Assistance program provided medical supplies to 10,400 hospital beds in the three Baltic countries.

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