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## CANADA ESTABLISHES DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH LITHUANIA, LATVIA AND ESTONIA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, today announced that Canada is establishing diplomatic relations with Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

For 52 years, the Government of Canada has strongly supported these three courageous countries in their struggle to regain their freedom. Canada never recognized their annexation by the Soviet Union.

Canada maintained *de jure* recognition against the day when Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia would be free to reclaim their independence. That day has come.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office  
External Affairs and International Trade Canada  
(613) 995-1874