



news release

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SIGNATURE OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH RUSSIA

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced the signing in Russia of a Memorandum of Understanding on the Russia-Canada Collaborative Federalism Project. This is a major project under the Canadian assistance program to Russia.

The Russia-Canada Collaborative Federalism Project is designed to share Canadian knowledge and experience in managing the relationships between central and regional governments. The project underscores Canada's commitment to support constitutional and political reform in Russia. It will involve senior Russian and Canadian officials and private sector representatives and will consist of workshops, round tables, needs-specific training and exchanges. Topics to be addressed include management of northern resources, intergovernmental fiscal relations, northern development, and shared responsibility in environmental matters.

The \$3-million project will be managed by the Alberta Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs Department. It will involve most Canadian provinces and territories. The project is part of the \$150-million, five-year Canadian assistance program to Russia. Funding for this initiative was provided for in the February 1994 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
(613) 995-1874