

CIDA

The Canadian Awards for International Development

June 8, 1994

Companies from Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia, as well as a major chartered bank, shared awards for excellence and innovation in international development at a ceremony in Ottawa on June 8. The Canadian awards for International Development were presented during consultations hosted by the Canadian Exporters Association and the Canadian International Development Agency. Roche International of Ste-Foy, Quebec, Scotiabank of Toronto, N.D. Lea International Limited, based in Vancouver and Toronto, and Agrodev Canada Inc., of Ottawa, are this year's award winners. The awards honour Canadian companies that make an important contribution to sustainable socio-economic development in low-income countries.

11th Annual CIDA-CEA Consultations

June 3, 1994

The Honourable Mitchell Sharp and the honourable Gerald A. Regan, Chair of the Canadian Exporters Association (CEA), launched the 11th Annual CIDA-CEA Consultations on June 7. Organized by the CEA and CIDA, the consultations are a series of workshops and exhibits on opportunities for Canadian businesses to participate in Canada's development assistance program. The consultations run from June 7-9 and bring together over 600 private and public sector representatives.

EMPLOYMENT AND IMMIGRATION:

Minister Announces Review of Business Immigration Program

June 2, 1994

Citizenship and Immigration Minister Sergio Marchi released a report on the Business Immigration Program, commissioned earlier this year as part of a wide-ranging review of the immigration program. A practitioner's perspective on the Program, the report presents a number of recommendations for program improvement. "Over the next two months, we will obtain advice for the redesign of the Business Program from our partners," said Mr. Marchi. "These include the provinces, business immigration practitioners and other federal departments and agencies."

Minister Confirms Commitment to Building Government-Community Partnerships

June 1, 1994

The Honourable Sergio Marchi, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, confirmed his commitment to building new government-community partnerships to deal more effectively with refugee issues at the annual meeting of the Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR). To fulfill the Government's commitments in this area, Mr. Marchi has announced several new initiatives. "I'm very happy to invite Canadian non-governmental organizations, for the first time, to nominate a member to this year's official Canadian delegation to the October meeting of the Executive Committee of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. This representative from the voluntary sector will bring an important additional dimension to the formulation of Canadian policy at the Committee." The Minister also outlined changes to increase the effectiveness of the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program, and announced that he has accepted a proposal from the CCR to form a Joint Committee, comprised of representatives of his department and non-governmental organizations which have signed private sponsorship agreements.

Declaration on Refugee Protection for Women

June 1, 1994

The Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, Sergio Marchi, released a comprehensive Declaration on Refugee Protection for Women. "...Citizenship and Immigration Canada is committed to an interpretation of the Convention refugee definition which includes protection from sexual violence and violations of human rights based on gender. We recognize that women may be persecuted on similar grounds as are men, but that the forms of persecution may be different; moreover, we recognize that women may be subject to persecution simply because they are women..." Said the Minister: "My department will adopt the Declaration in its daily dealings with refugee women to ensure that victims of sexual violence and gender-based violations of human rights receive Canada's protection."

FINANCE:

Minister of Finance Disappointed with Moody's downgrade

June 2, 1994 No. 94-052

Finance minister Paul Martin expressed disappointment with Moody's decision to downgrade Canada's foreign currency debt rating to AA1. The Moody's rating affects only that two per cent of the federal debt which is payable in foreign currencies. The remaining 98 percent of the debt is payable in Canadian dollars and maintains its AAA rating.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- July 5-13, 1994: Jeux de la francophonie (Paris, France)
- July 8-10, 1994: G-7 Economic Summit (Naples, Italy)
- July 11, 1994: World Population Day
- August 18-28, 1994: Commonwealth Games (Victoria, British Columbia)
- September 5-13, 1994: UN International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, Egypt)

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