

TREATY LAW

There are over 3,000 bilateral and multilateral treaties to which Canada is a party. During the last year, Canada has taken over 100 treaty actions involving the signature, ratification, entry into force or amendment of treaties. These can be broken down into 72 bilateral treaties and 29 multilateral. We have also examined approximately 100 non-treaty instruments, such as Memoranda of Understanding. The following paragraphs set out some of the highlights in 1998 and 1999.

1. MULTILATERAL TREATIES

The *Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards* between Canada the Russian Federation and the European Communities, was ratified by Canada on December 17, 1998. It has been applied provisionally as of June 17, 1999 between Canada and the EC, pending its eventual ratification by the Russian Federation. This provisional application will ensure continued access of Canadian furs to the European market.

The *Agreement between Canada and the European Communities Regarding the Application of their Competition Laws* was signed on June 17, 1999 and entered into force on the same date, and will provide considerable cooperation between respective competition authorities of Canada and the EC.

The *Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction* entered into force for Canada on March 1, 1999. *Protocol II on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices* annexed to the *Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons* entered into force for Canada on December 3, 1998. On December 18, 1998, we ratified the *Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty*.

Protocols to the North Atlantic Treaty on the Accession of the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland entered into force for Canada on December 4, 1998.

In the area of criminal law cooperation, Canada signed the *Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court* on December 18, 1998, the *Inter-American Convention Against Corruption* on June 8, 1999, and ratified the *Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions* on June 7, 1999. We ratified the *Convention on Combatting the Bribery of Foreign and Public Officials in International Business Transactions* on December 17, 1998. The latter Convention entered into force for Canada on February 15, 1999.

Treaty actions with respect to seven multilateral environment agreements were taken including ratification of *Amendments to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer*, acceptance of *Amendments to Annex I and Adoption of Annexes VIII and IX to the Basel Convention on Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes*, ratification of the *Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context*, and ratification of the Protocols to the LRTAP *Convention on Heavy Metals and Persistent Organic Pollutants*.

Treaty actions with respect to several multilateral trade agreements were taken,