

News Release

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OUELLET ANNOUNCES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PACKAGE FOR RUSSIA

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced a \$6.9-million package of Canadian technical assistance initiatives designed to support economic reform in Russia. The Minister made the announcement in Moscow at the end of his two-day working visit.

The projects target two priority sectors: support for private sector development through agricultural privatization, land reform and patent protection; and environmental protection in the oil and gas field.

"Canada remains strongly committed to supporting economic reform in Russia. These initiatives will build on our ongoing efforts to support private sector development in Russia, including the creation of a business environment attractive to private investment, by providing advice and training in areas vital to the reform effort," said Mr. Ouellet.

The package includes a \$2.7-million project to assist in the privatization of state and collective farms, a \$2.9-million initiative to support the process of land reform, and a \$900 000 project to modernize Russia's patent protection office. Also included is a \$350 000 project to assist in minimizing the environmental impact of oil and gas exploration and production in Russia, one of the country's most pressing northern environmental concerns.

Funding for these initiatives was provided for in the February 1994 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

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The attached background document describes the projects.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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