

- Canada is also working with China's State Environmental Protection Agency in a number of areas, including water pollution, water basin management, hazardous and solid waste management, the analysis of toxic pollutants, ozone depletion and the application of the Montreal Protocol.

## **Human Rights, Good Governance and the Rule of Law**

- Canada works with the Chinese government and through international institutions to ensure that China respects its obligations under the UN Universal Declaration on Human Rights. In 1997, Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister announced a package of human rights initiatives between Canada and China. This followed Canada's decision not to co-sponsor a UN draft resolution on human rights in China because of a breakdown in support of the European Union consensus and in light of Chinese agreement to strengthen dialogue and co-operation with Canada.
- As a result, Canada and China have established a joint committee on human rights to address such issues as political and civil rights, religious freedoms, economic, social and cultural rights, and women's and children's rights. The first two meetings of the joint committee took place in 1997. A third round of talks was held in Vancouver in early November 1998.
- As part of the package announced in 1997, Canada is helping review China's criminal procedure law, including evidence law, an adversarial trial system and a legal aid system; and is helping implement China's obligations under UN conventions.
- Frequent high-level contact with Chinese leaders over the past year has enabled Canada to address its concerns. These contacts provide an opportunity to share views on a number of issues at the forefront of Chinese reform. These include structural problems in government institutions and the role of government in China. Canada is committed to frank discussions with Chinese authorities on human rights issues.
- Development assistance is an important way of advancing human rights, democracy and good governance. Many projects are under way to encourage China to reform legal and judicial structures, by increasing the transparency of legal processes, and to adapt these structures to the new needs arising from economic reform. Specific projects include support for research on human rights, technical assistance on revising criminal law to better protect the rights of the accused, implementation of laws protecting women's rights, criminal law reform, the training of judges and a program to support governance and civil society.