



A Global Ban on Landmines

The Ottawa Convention and Public Participation



The Canadian Landmine Fund, a \$100 million initiative announced by Prime Minister Chrétien in December, 1997, is being used to remove mines, assist victims, develop technology and help countries comply with the treaty.

The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention* was signed by 122 countries in Ottawa on December 3 and 4, 1997.

People all over the world witnessed the historic signing of a legally binding treaty that puts in place new international norms against anti-personnel (AP) mines. They also learned that Canada had created a five-year, \$100 million fund, to support the full implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

To date, 131 signatory states have committed themselves to:

- banning the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines;
- providing data on their AP mine stockpiles and National Mine Action Programs;
- destroying existing stockpiles within four years of the Convention coming into force;
- clearing minefields within 10 years; and
- co-operating with a compliance regime.

Since then, the Convention has become known as the Ottawa Convention. Ottawa has now entered the international community's vocabulary and joined the list of Canada's best-known cities. It was a mix of traditional state diplomacy, NGO public advocacy and individual commitment that played a vital role in the success of the first part of the process toward creating a mine-free world. On September 21, 1998, to maintain that commitment, Minister Axworthy launched the Mine Action Outreach Program, in co-operation with Mines Action Canada and the Red Cross. Mines Action Canada will receive \$300 000 to help sustain its activities in the campaign to ban anti-personnel mines. As part of the Outreach Program, six Youth

Mine Action Ambassadors have been appointed to work with local mine action groups to

alert educators and activists across Canada to the challenges of global mine action. Youth Ambassadors are young, recent university graduates with a background in community education and an up-to-date knowledge of landmine issues. They are ready to visit schools, community groups and universities to help link people to national and international landmine-ban movements.

For more information about how you can get involved, or to contact a Youth Ambassador in your area, call the Mine Action Team at: (613) 944-1643.

To obtain our CD-ROM "Ban Landmines! The Ottawa Process and the International Movement to Ban Landmines" and other information materials, call 1-800-267-8376 (toll free) or (613) 944-4000.

Visit our Web site at: www.mines.gc.ca

* Officially known as the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction.

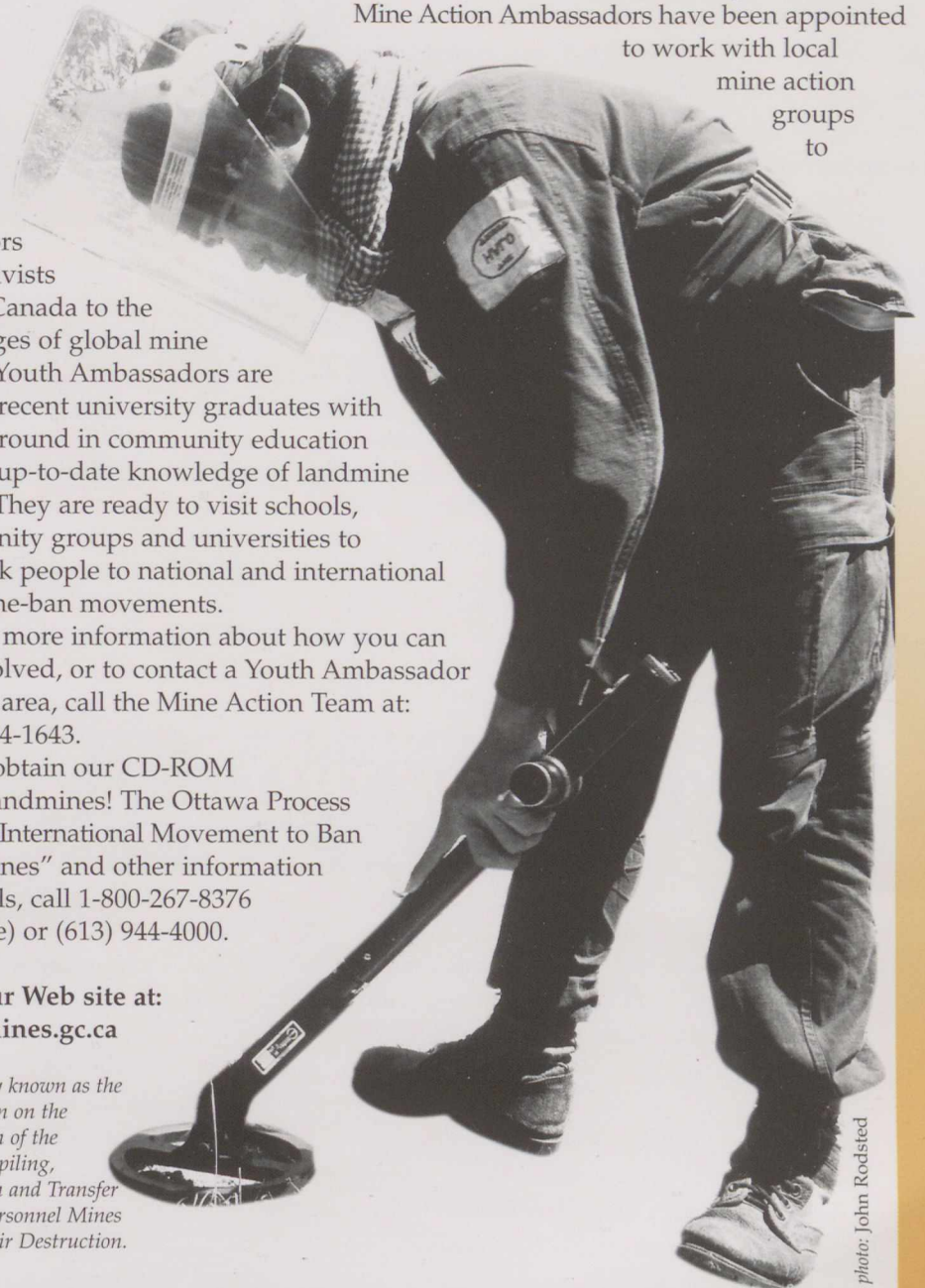


photo: John Rodsted

The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention will become binding in international law on March 1, 1999, now that the 40th state has deposited its instrument of ratification with the UN Secretary-General.