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## NEWS RELEASE

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### CANADA TO PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN AID TO HAITI

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, and the Minister for External Relations and International Development, the Honourable Monique Landry, announced today that Canada will provide up to \$1.5 million in humanitarian aid to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to assist the people of Haiti. The PAHO is responsible for co-ordinating the activities of Organization of American States (OAS) members in the health sector.

"The Canadian government does not wish to see the poor of Haiti seriously suffer as a result of the overthrow of the legitimate Haitian authorities last fall. This policy is consistent with the OAS initiatives to restore democracy in Haiti," said Mrs. McDougall.

The contribution is being made on the basis of a request by the OAS to the international community for assistance to Haiti. This request is based on a recent OAS humanitarian mission in which Canada participated.

"We are providing this aid in the health sector for Haiti's most vulnerable population groups -- children, pregnant women, the elderly and civilian victims. In this way, Canadians are again showing their solidarity with the people of Haiti," added Mrs. Landry.

The funds are being supplied by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

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