News Release

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EARTHQUAKE IN ARMENIA: UPDATE ON CANADIAN EFFORTS

One week after the earthquake in Armenia, needs for relief are changing. Goods such as clothing and food are no longer required and needs for medical supplies are being met.

The Canadian government has allocated the bulk of its announced contribution, now totalling \$5,550,000 to the Canadian Red Cross, which is in a position to respond effectively and immediately to new priorities as they arise.

The Canadian government invites individuals and organizations alike to follow its example in assuring that their contributions are put to effective use by making cash donations to the local Red Cross.

Canada's efforts to ship urgent relief supplies continue. Air Canada has generously co-operated in gathering and storing these goods at Mirabel for onward shipment. To date, three Department of National Defence aircraft have carried medical and relief supplies destined to Armenia. A fourth flight is scheduled to leave this evening and a further flight will depart Sunday. As well, the Canadian Red Cross has chartered a flight due to leave Toronto next Monday. Other aircraft are being chartered as required.

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Secretary of State for External Affairs Secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures