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## CANADA CONTRIBUTES \$1.5 MILLION FOR RED CROSS RELIEF IN ARMENIA, GEORGIA AND AZERBAIJAN

External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall announced today that Canada is providing \$1.5 million in humanitarian assistance to Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan. The funds will be channelled to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) through the Canadian Red Cross.

"I remain deeply concerned about the people of these three countries who are suffering terribly from the continuing violence," said Mrs. McDougall. "The ICRC is already in the region, with an established distribution system to ensure that relief reaches those people who need it most."

The funds, to be divided evenly among the three countries, will be used to support ICRC humanitarian relief activities, including:

- medical supplies for the war-wounded;
- family food parcels, clothing and shelter materials to displaced people and vulnerable groups;
- tracing services for people separated by the fighting; and
- visits to people detained or captured in connection with the conflicts to ensure that they are treated humanely and in accordance with the provisions of international humanitarian law.

Canadians wanting to support Red Cross relief efforts in Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan may make a cash donation at any branch office of the Canadian Red Cross.

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