

The Nuclear, Non-proliferation and Disarmament Implementation Agency (also known as IDN) was created in September 1996 to prepare Canada and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade better to meet the challenges and opportunities of advances in arms control and disarmament implementation. The Agency's name reflects its broad mission:

“ to enhance security and well-being by promoting the peaceful and safe use of chemical and nuclear technologies, and to ensure compliance with international commitments ”.

The Agency manages issues of great importance to Canadians, dealing as it does with their security, and must act with the utmost transparency. To this end, an Agency Web site has been developed. I hope this report, too, will contribute to greater public awareness of Canada's contributions to the peaceful uses of chemical and nuclear technologies, and to preventing the proliferation of chemical and nuclear weapons.

Canada chose not to develop nuclear weapons at the end of World War II, although it had the technical capability to do so. Since the mid-1960s, Canada has worked hard to ensure that its international nuclear co-operation is devoted entirely to peaceful non-explosive end uses. Canada's nuclear expertise is used solely for peaceful purposes (e.g., electricity production, medical diagnosis and therapy, public health, agricultural and environmental applications) and verifying compliance with international disarmament commitments. Similarly, Canada does not possess chemical weapons but has developed world-recognized expertise in chemical weapons detection and protection. It is the Agency's role to make good use of Canada's expertise in promoting the peaceful and safe use of chemical and nuclear technologies. This report shows how the Agency has responded to this role in the short period since its establishment.

This is the Agency's first report. We regret any errors, inaccuracies or omissions, all of which, of course, are unintended. I welcome your comments or suggestions, which can be sent to me at the following address:

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