

That is a tragedy for them and a challenge to us.

When Canada began our aid programs nearly four decades ago, there was a perceived need for infrastructure. We sent engineers to build dams and railroads. There was a need for agricultural development - so we sent experts in farming. There was a need for education, and we sent teachers.

Those needs continue, but there is clearly now a great new need for expertise in local government. Canada has some of the best-run towns and cities in the world. We have the expertise that other countries need so desperately. The International Office of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities is helping Canadian municipalities put your experience to work in Third World cities.

One method is the twinning of cities, which provides an excellent umbrella for joint activities. For example, Chinese modernization efforts are concentrated in coastal cities and open areas. Your Federation, with the help of the Canada-China Trade Council, is implementing an innovative CIDA project aimed at improving municipal management and attracting foreign investment.

Another program is the Municipal Professional Exchange Project, for which my colleague Monique Landry announced a grant to your Annual Meeting last year in Ottawa-Carleton.

Today, on her behalf, I am happy to announce approval of a new program of linkages between Canadian and African municipalities, to be administered by your Federation.

No part of the world is more seriously afflicted by poverty and environmental degradation than Africa. CIDA has established a special \$150 million Africa 2000 program, of which \$10 million has been reserved for municipal cooperation.

This one-year program, for which CIDA will provide \$1.8 million, is open to all Canadian municipalities, big and small. It seeks to encourage cooperation in training officials, in making environmental assessments, in small capital expenditures to improve municipal administration, and in community-based aid projects. It is the sort of one-on-one cooperation that helps people help themselves. If this initial program proves successful, an additional \$8.2 million could be granted for further programs.

Another venture is, in fact, one of the oldest- municipal trade and investment missions. These have been happening for three decades, and they are a two-way street. Trade is as important to development as aid. But other countries cannot develop and prosper, and they certainly cannot buy Canadian goods, unless they sell their own goods abroad. Our municipalities are now helping show them how to export.