

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER



I am pleased to present to Parliament the 2006-2007 Annual Report on Canada's participation in the Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction.

The Global Partnership was launched at the G8 Summit in Kananaskis, Alberta, in 2002. It addresses one of the most serious threats we face today, that of weapons of mass destruction and their acquisition by terrorist groups or states of proliferation concern.

We are all only too well aware that these threats pose constant challenges to our security. Of particular concern is the continuing threat posed by non-state actors, such as terrorist groups, intent on destruction and possibly employing weapons of mass destruction. It is our duty to prevent them from doing so, to protect our own populations and the international community as a whole. In doing this, we are making a tangible contribution to disarmament and non-proliferation.

To date, much has been accomplished in this unique collective endeavour. Concrete results are visible. Canada is cooperating closely with its partners, including the United States, towards this crucial undertaking. However, more remains to be done. This is why Canada will continue its efforts and encourage Global Partnership countries to do more.

In this report, you will read about Canada's work on the destruction of chemical weapons, the dismantlement of nuclear submarines, nuclear and radiological security, the redirection of former weapons scientists, and biological non-proliferation.

I am convinced that, like me, you will have pride in Canada's accomplishments. This is an excellent example of a foreign policy that delivers concrete and tangible results for Canadians: a safer and better world.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maxime Bernier".

Maxime Bernier,
Minister of Foreign Affairs