

Canada is committed to helping China develop policies and institutions that recognize the relationship between economic growth, social development and environmental protection. CIDA's development assistance program with China is placing greater emphasis on environmental sustainability. As a first step, last July in Beijing, Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet and China's Minister for Foreign Trade and Economic Co-operation, Madame Wu Yi, signed a letter of intent regarding the development of three environmental co-operation projects. Each project represents an area of Canadian strength.

The projects will help China to implement its Agenda 21 Action Plan, as agreed at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro. They range from an ecological study of China's Tarim Basin, an area with enormous oil and gas reserves, to a project which will involve the transfer of Canadian energy-efficient building standards. At the same time, CIDA is continuing its support for the China Council of International Co-operation on Environment and Development which provides high-level policy advice to the Chinese government on the relationship between economic development and environmental concerns.

### **Human Rights, Good Governance and the Rule of Law**

Respect for human rights and the rule of law in China is an essential Canadian objective. Canada has developed a pragmatic human rights strategy that uses every bilateral and multilateral opportunity to remind Chinese authorities of Canadian concerns.

On the bilateral front, Canada has been active in developing a constructive dialogue with China on human rights issues. Over this past year of frequent high-level contact, Canada has raised its concerns about human rights to Chinese leaders at every available opportunity. Canadian officials will continue to hold frank and open talks with Chinese authorities on human rights violations.

A number of projects are currently being developed by Canada to further engage the Chinese in the area of reform of legal and judicial structures. The Canadian Bar Association and the All China Lawyers Federation are co-operating on a project that will introduce Chinese lawyers to the Canadian legal system. A Chinese committee drafting a new criminal procedure has studied the Canadian criminal procedure. The University of Ottawa, through its Human Rights Research and Education Centre, will be working with the University of Beijing International Law Institute on a CIDA-funded program through which they will share workshops, exchange educational materials and conduct research on different aspects of human rights. CIDA will soon be funding other initiatives in the area of legal reform and rights issues. As well, a high-level Chinese delegation has been invited to Canada to discuss specific issues including reform, the rule of law and democratic participation.