

Partnership, all of which have made significant financial commitments. The Partnership now counts 23 members, and aside from close collaboration with Russia, Canada has worked on several projects with the U.S., the U.K., the E.U., Japan and Norway. Canada has demonstrated the seriousness of its non-proliferation commitments among its G8 partners and other countries that are members of the Global Partnership.

The Global Partnership has become a true multinational effort at all levels. Many projects depend on contributions from several countries for their success. In several instances, Canada has

contributed to projects that would have not been completed without its participation. Canada will continue to be a strong champion for this type of cooperation.

Canada is well engaged and is delivering concrete results. Achievements during the last financial year and their impact on reducing the availability of weapons of mass destruction and opportunities for terrorists or states of proliferation concern to acquire them are outlined in the following sections.

Together, we are really reducing the threat of weapons of mass destruction.

## DESTRUCTION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS

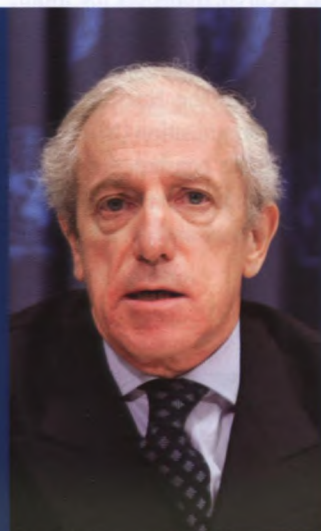


Photo Credit: UN

In acknowledging Canada's long-standing and resolute commitment to the CWC and its implementing agency the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Director-General Rogelio Pflirter expressed "his appreciation for the invaluable contributions Canada has made in a number of areas, ranging from providing training to OPCW personnel, to the government's leadership role in establishing the Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Material of Mass Destruction, launched at the 2002 G-8 Summit at Kananaskis, Alberta and subsequent \$200 million contribution to Russia's Chemical Weapons Destruction Program." He further welcomed Canada's New Government's commitment to strengthening OPCW-Partnership links.

— OPCW news release, March 15, 2007.

### Background

The collapse of the Soviet Union left Russia with the world's largest stockpile of chemical weapons (at approximately 40,000 tonnes), which were located at seven storage facilities in Russia. The deadly nerve agents—Sarin, Soman and VX (also known as organophosphorous agents)—are stored at Shchuch'ye, Kizner, Maradykovsky, Pochev and Leonidovka. These stockpiles represent approximately 80 percent or 32,500 tonnes of Russia's chemical weapons stockpile. The blister agents—mustard, lewisite or mustard-lewisite mixture (also known as vesicants)—are stored in bulk containers at Gorny and Kambarka and represent 20 percent or 5,500 tonnes of chemical weapons. The stockpile at Gorny was destroyed in December 2005 and the chemical weapons destruction facility (CWDF) at Kambarka began operations in March 2006.

With the exception of some initial nerve agent destruction, which began in September 2006 at Maradykovsky, the lethal nerve agents remain in their aging weapons casings, including artillery shells, rocket and missile warheads, aerial bombs and spray tanks. Of particular concern to Canada are the nearly four million nerve

agent-filled artillery shells stored at Shchuch'ye (Kurgan Oblast) and Kizner (Udmurt Republic). The small-calibre shells located at these two sites are considered a significant threat because they are rugged and easily transportable (they can fit into a standard briefcase). A single shell has the potential to cause significant casualties, along with economical and political impacts.



Canadian monitoring visit - Winter 2007, Shchuch'ye, Western Siberia, Russia.