

## ***Introduction***

*This pamphlet is designed to increase awareness about the danger posed by the proliferation of chemical weapons and the possible diversion of chemicals used as precursors in their manufacture.*

Canada is concerned that goods and technology from Canadian industry could be diverted to produce chemical weapons. In 1984, the Secretary-General of the United Nations confirmed that chemical weapons had been used in the Gulf War. While the evidence of chemical weapons proliferation was coming to light, efforts were under way at negotiations in Geneva to conclude the International Convention on Chemical Weapons with the objective of achieving a ban on the manufacture, stockpiling and use of such weapons. This Convention would be complementary to the 1925 Geneva Protocol, which already prohibits the use of chemical weapons, and would introduce an intrusive verification system and consultation/response procedure.

To date, the outlook on successful conclusion of negotiations is good. However, it will be some time before a convention can be concluded and implemented, and in the meantime, proliferation is a very real concern. *Vigilance is required on the part of government and industry.*