

# News Release

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## GOVERNMENT INTRODUCES CHEMICAL WEAPONS LEGISLATION

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced that legislation to implement Canada's obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention has been introduced into Parliament.

"Canada was proud to play a leading role in the negotiation of the Convention", said Mr. Ouellet. "We now need to proceed with the implementing legislation so that Canada can be among the initial 65 ratifiers necessary to bring the Convention into effect."

The Chemical Weapons Convention was signed by Canada and over 130 other states in Paris in January 1993. It is the first multilaterally negotiated treaty to abolish an entire category of what are called "weapons of mass destruction." Under the Convention, not only will all chemical weapons (CW) and their production facilities be destroyed under international supervision, but all government and industry activities relevant to the Convention's objectives will be liable to international monitoring and, possibly, inspection.

The proposed legislation puts the Convention's obligations into effect in Canada. It bans, among other things, the development, possession, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons. The legislation also sets out procedures for facilitating the international inspections and contains provisions addressing other Convention obligations, such as export and import controls, penalties, and protecting confidential information.

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