

attracted a record-breaking 140 Canadian mining equipment and services companies.

Several other official visits have taken place in the last year or so, signalling the importance of Canada-Chile relations. In March 1995, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Ralph Goodale led a business delegation of 30 companies and associations to Chile. In April 1995, Secretary of State (Science, Research and Development) Dr. Jon Gerrard led an environmental mission of 43 companies to Chile.

Substantial Canadian investments in Chile have placed a priority on developing bilateral instruments to protect more effectively these investments in the medium to long term. Currently, investment in Chile is eligible for foreign investment insurance from the Export Development Corporation (EDC). The EDC has financing lines of credit with both the Banco Sud Americano and Banco O'Higgins, as well as with the Compañía de Telefonos de Chile (CTC). The EDC's programs are open to both the private and public sectors. Reaching a Double Taxation Agreement with Chile has also been an important objective for Canada. Accession of Chile to the NAFTA would make a Foreign Investment Protection Agreement with Chile unnecessary. The NAFTA addresses foreign investment under Chapter 11.

The Canadian International Development Agency's (CIDA) Industrial Co-operation Program (INC) is currently the most active CIDA mechanism in Chile. CIDA Inc has identified Chile as a priority market in Latin America and focusses its support on technology transfer and joint ventures. Projects range from highly technical engineering and geological services through demonstration projects, such as those in hydroponics and forest firefighting, to niche technology development, such as automated construction and financial software. By 1994-1995 there were 43 projects with a total value of \$1.9 million.

Several new agreements and memorandums of understanding (MOUs) between Canada and Chile were signed during the Prime Minister's visit in January. These agreements included the establishment of a Canada-Chile Permanent Binational Commission on political, economic and commercial relations. The Business Council on National Issues signed a strategic alliance with the Confederacion de la Produccion y del Comercio to foster direct business-to-business linkages within the context of the NAFTA. New environment, telecommunications, transportation and parks MOUs were also signed.

A number of co-operative agreements are already in place. The Canadian Manufacturers Association and SOFOFA (the Chilean equivalent) have established a formal relationship exchanging high-level missions to Chile in September 1992 and to Canada in June 1993. CANMET of Energy, Mines and Resources Canada and CIMM