



# communiqué

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## AGREEMENT FOR EARTH STATION IN SWAZILAND

Mr. Hal Herbert, M.P. for Vaudreuil, said today that the Honourable Ed Lumley, Minister of Trade, during his official visit to Swaziland, has announced that a financial agreement has been entered into with the Government of Swaziland which will lead to the supply of an Earth B Satellite Station in Swaziland. The equipment will be supplied by Spar Aerospace of Ste Anne de Bellevue, Quebec.

The Minister also confirmed to the Swaziland authorities Canadian Government support for this project through the provision of specialized training under the CIDA Technical Co-operation Programme.

The contract will ensure more than 100 person-years of employment in Canada in a priority high technology sector.

Mr. Lumley, the first Canadian Minister to visit the Kingdom since its independence in 1968, said that this project is crucial to Swaziland, which is dependent on a nearby South African satellite station for its access to the international telecommunications network. Because of this, Swaziland loses approximately 90 per cent of the foreign exchange earnings from these calls.

Mr. Lumley added that, in the context of the North-South dialogue, an important element of the Canadian proposal is the transfer of technology effected by this contract. Swaziland citizens will be able to operate the satellite station independently after training provided with the assistance of the Canadian International Development Agency.

The training, for which CIDA is providing \$800,000, will take place over a five-year period in Swaziland and in Canada.

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