

# News Release

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## CANADA TO SUPPORT ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT TRAINING PROJECT IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Ralph Goodale today announced, on behalf of Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet, that Canada will assist, through a Regina-based firm, in the development of an environmental risk assessment program in the Czech Republic.

As part of Canada's technical assistance program for the Czech Republic, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade will provide up to \$302 000 over two years to fund the creation of risk assessment guidelines and training programs for Czech regulatory agencies and for the private sector. The guidelines will help to identify and develop priorities for sites considered to be environmental hazards, and to allocate funds accordingly.

The Czech Ministry of the Environment selected AGRA Earth and Environment Ltd., of Regina, Saskatchewan, and its partner in Prague, UNIGEO a.s., to set up and manage the program. AGRA Earth and Environment Ltd. was chosen because of its previous work experience in the Republic.

Canada's technical assistance program for the former Czechoslovakia was established in 1990. With the dissolution of Czechoslovakia, a separate program for the Czech Republic was established in January 1993. Managed by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the program has three primary objectives: to support the transition to a market-based economy; to promote democratic development; and to increase Canadian trade and investment links with the Czech Republic.

Funding for this program was provided for in the February 1994 federal budget and therefore is built into the existing fiscal framework.

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