

Minister of National Defence

It is with great pride and pleasure that I sign the fourth annual report of the Canadian Landmines Fund. The Canadian Centre for Mine Action Technologies is an important part of the Government of Canada's ongoing contribution to eliminating landmines worldwide.



Over the last half decade, the Centre has provided high-quality technical support to the demining community, including developers of humanitarian demining technologies in Canada and around the world. It has completed a number of highly successful and innovative projects over this period, including a mechanical mine clearing device now in service with the

Thailand Mine Action Centre; an explosive mine neutralizer that is widely used by the demining community; humanitarian demining protective clothing; and a mechanical surrogate mine being used by Canada's international demining test and evaluation partners.

The Centre has also been very active in the area of victim assistance. The Niagara Foot, for example, a low-cost, high-performance, prosthetic foot designed to overcome the shortcomings

of current commercial products, is being tested in Thailand and shows great promise. A second trial is scheduled to take place in Vietnam in the near future.

As a founding member of the International Test and Evaluation Program, the Centre has been very active in developing universally accepted standards for the testing and evaluation of demining equipment before deployment in the field. A report showing the results of the technical evaluation of 29 commercial off-the-shelf metal detectors is now available on-line.

Canadians everywhere should be proud of the significant contribution made by the men and women of the Canadian Forces and the Department of National Defence to the global humanitarian landmine initiative. Demonstrating great dedication in a noble cause, they are making a difference in the lives of people around the world on a daily basis.

JOHN MCCALLUM Minister of National Defence

Minister for International Cooperation

Earlier this year, I travelled to Afghanistan, where I saw first-hand the devastation caused by anti-personnel landmines and their continuing impact on the recovery and development of that country. At the same time, I was witness to a remarkable mine action program implemented by Afghan organizations with the support of Canada and other donors.



The emergence of programs such as this—intensely practical, well run, and led by nationals—reminds us that all societies, even those devastated by conflict, have the capacity for creativity and initiative so necessary for sustainable development.

Looking back over the nearly five years of programming supported through the Canadian Landmine Fund, I see many examples of how Canada's support has helped build the capacity of organizations in mine-affected countries to plan programs, remove mines, assist those injured by landmine explosions, and raise awareness of mine risks. Canada

has led in delivering comprehensive landmine impact surveys that are helping national authorities plan and implement mine action programs in some of the most severely affected countries. We are providing support to build the capacity of many of these organizations and help them take charge of mine action programming. Our programs for victims of landmine accidents support their rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

Through these and many other initiatives, Canada is making a difference. I am proud of the contribution our country is making through the programs we support, the efforts of Canadian organizations, and the commitment of many talented Canadians—all working to help alleviate the impact of these terrible weapons on the lives of individuals and on communities.

SUSAN WHELAN Minister for International Cooperation