

"I would like to highlight the very close and effective working relationship that [the United Kingdom has] with Canada, and the great value that we attach to it. This partnership enables our two countries to provide assistance in a way which provides best value both for our taxpayers and for the Russian Federation."

—Adam Ingram, U.K. Minister of State for the Armed Forces, Edinburgh, April 12, 2005.

Project: Green Cross Public Outreach Office at Izhevsk

Green Cross International provides a valuable complementary service to Russia's CW destruction program by operating a network of public outreach and information offices (POIO) in Russia. These offices help enhance understanding at the local level about the importance and realities of chemical weapons destruction and address public concerns about related health, environmental, economic and social issues. POIOs are established to serve populations living near Russia's CW storage and destruction facilities.

In November 2004, through the Global Partnership Program's Special Projects Fund, Canada committed up to US\$100,000 annually to Green Cross for four years to establish and operate a POIO in Izhevsk. This facility is located near two CW stockpile sites—Kambarka and Kizner. The Izhevsk POIO opened in early April 2005 and joins an existing network of 10 Green Cross offices.

Canada believes the Kizner site, with its arsenal of 5,680 tonnes of nerve agents, to be the second most important CW facility after Shchuch'ye, and is considering contributing to the destruction of the Kizner stockpile once the Shchuch'ye CWDF is completed. The opening of the POIO office in Izhevsk will help raise public awareness about CW and facilitate future work in that region.



Sign on the exterior of the Green Cross Public Outreach and Information Office in Izhevsk, capital of the Udmurt Republic. The sign reads: "Russian Green Cross Information-Analytical Center, Izhevsk"

Green Cross International

Founded in 1994 by former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and other senior officials from Japan, the Netherlands, Russia and Switzerland, Green Cross International aims to foster a new sense of global interdependence and shared responsibility in humanity's relationship with nature. Green Cross International, which is headquartered in Geneva, has over two dozen national affiliates worldwide and manages several international environmental programs.