

Support for the Convention has continued to grow and, as of December 31, 2000, 109 states had formally accepted its terms through ratification or accession.

Canada's commitment

Canada takes its Convention obligations seriously. Just a month before 122 states gathered in Ottawa to sign the Convention in December 1997, Canada completed the destruction of its stockpile of anti-personnel mines. Canada became the first country to ratify the Convention and has passed legislation making it a criminal offence for any Canadian to produce, use, transfer, or possess anti-personnel mines.

Canada provided financial support for the goals of the Ottawa Convention in December 1997 when Prime Minister Jean Chrétien announced the establishment of the five-year, \$100 million Canadian Landmine Fund to continue work on universalizing the ban and achieving its objectives. This fund is governed by an innovative collaboration among four government departments: the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Industry Canada (IC) and the Department of National Defence (DND).

To coordinate this effort, and to signal the priority it places on these efforts, Canada appointed a special ambassador

States that agree to be bound by the Convention commit themselves to:

- immediately end the use, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines;
- destroy existing stockpiles of AP mines within four years;
- clear mined land within 10 years;
- provide assistance for the care and rehabilitation of mine victims; and
- cooperate to ensure full compliance with the Convention.



DFAIT

to serve as Canada's international focal point on all matters pertaining to the implementation of the Convention. In 1999, Daniel Livermore was named Ambassador for Mine Action, replacing Jill Sinclair who first served in the position. In addition, Canada established a special unit in DFAIT dedicated to the landmines issue and the implementation of the Convention.

Among the departments, DFAIT takes the lead on initiatives involving Convention universalization, small-scale mine action initiatives designed to build and reinforce support for the Convention, international coordination and policy leadership, monitoring compliance with the Convention and outreach to Canadians on the landmines issue. DFAIT also works with DND in a program designed to assist other states in destroying their stockpiles of anti-personnel mines.

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien addresses the 1997 Ottawa Convention signing conference.



Mary O'Neill

Canada's Ambassador for Mine Action Daniel Livermore