



news release

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QUELLET ANNOUNCES ASSISTANCE PACKAGE FOR POLAND

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced a series of new Canadian technical assistance initiatives totalling \$3.85 million designed to support political and economic reform in Poland. The projects focus on entrepreneurial training, support for enhanced inter-country agricultural trade and a volunteer youth service program.

"These new initiatives provide practical, immediate assistance in areas of primary importance to Poland and underline Canada's commitment to support Poland during this period of democratic and economic transformation. Drawing upon the historic ties between our countries, the projects will establish direct, one-to-one links between Canadian and Polish individuals and organizations."

One project will provide entrepreneurial and small business start-up training to close to 1500 Polish entrepreneurs to support the growth of private enterprise at the grass-roots level in Poland. The second project will work to upgrade dairy and related agricultural industries in both Poland and Ukraine and to encourage agricultural trade between the two countries. The third initiative will introduce an international youth service program to engage young volunteers from Poland, Hungary and Canada in community development projects.

The projects are part of Canada's ongoing technical assistance program with Poland managed by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. More than \$26.7 million has been committed to date in support of some 95 projects.

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

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