The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade is one of five federal departments that have pledged to support the Forum; today Mr. Ouellet presented a grant of \$125 000 to its President, Mr. Michel Bédard. Funding for this initiative was provided for in the February 1994 federal budget, and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (613) 995-1874