

# News Release

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## OUELLET CONGRATULATES PEOPLE OF HAITI

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today congratulated the people of Haiti on the outcome of their legislative election held June 25. The election was the first test of the democratic process in Haiti since President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was returned to power in October 1994.

"The election was an important first step for all Haitians on the road to further political, social and economic development, and is an encouraging sign that democracy has taken root and will flourish in Haiti," said Mr. Ouellet.

The Minister added that Canada will work closely with the Haitian government and the Organization of American States (OAS) to ensure that organizational problems that occurred in some parts of the country are addressed and corrected before Haitians return to the polls in December to elect a new president.

Canada contributed \$2 million in support for the electoral process. The fund was used primarily to purchase ballot boxes and other supplies and for voter education programs administered by the Canadian Embassy in Port-au-Prince. In addition, Canadian electoral observer groups participated in the OAS and United Nations electoral mission. Canada currently has 700 military personnel and Royal Canadian Mounted Police officers in Haiti as part of a UN mission.

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