

During a recent trade mission to Mexico, the Canadian Minister of Natural Resources announced that a climate-change trade office would soon be added to the Canadian embassy in Mexico City. The office is an indication of the increasingly strong ties between Canada and Mexico and their common interest in this area. The office will promote leading-edge Canadian technologies that could help Mexico address its energy needs and climate-change issues.

### **Development Assistance**

Canada's development co-operation program with Mexico supports a wide range of partnerships between Canadian and Mexican organizations and businesses. Canada has provided \$108.5 million to Mexico since 1961, averaging \$7 million a year over the past three years. Projects have focused on enhancing civil society and on grassroots programs in indigenous communities, for example, a tortilla factory in Chiapas. The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has been the primary funding channel, complemented by the International Development Research Centre.

In January 1998, Canada and Mexico signed a general co-operation agreement for development assistance activities in third countries. Canada and Mexico are collaborating on a project to support victims of landmines in Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador. CIDA's contribution is \$3.5 million.