

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Anti-personnel landmines have a horrific impact, usually on innocent civilians. Canada's commitment to addressing this threat takes many forms: mine clearance, assisting landmine survivors, promoting mine risk education and destroying stockpiled landmines.



In all of these areas, our efforts are making a difference. Through the support provided by the Canadian Landmine Fund, we have made significant strides in improving the lives of people threatened by landmines in every region of the world.

The key to making a lasting difference in eradicating the misery caused by anti-personnel mines is in the international treaty banning their use, production, stockpiling and transfer: the Ottawa Convention. The most rapidly ratified disarmament treaty in history, the Convention is a testament to the fact that together we are able to address this major humanitarian challenge.

I am very proud of the global leadership that Canada is providing to support the full implementation of the Ottawa Convention. Our efforts are encouraged by the growing global support for the ban on landmines. The majority of states have

now accepted the obligations of the Ottawa Convention, including most mine-affected countries. Canada continues to encourage all states to ratify or accede to the Convention, and remains fully committed to working in close partnership with civil society to advance our joint aims.

The progress we have made to date in fulfilling the promise of the ban on anti-personnel mines lays the groundwork for solving the landmine problem. With more than 34 million stockpiled landmines destroyed, tens of millions of square metres of mined land cleared and returned to productive use, and increasing rehabilitation programs for landmine survivors, we are on the right track. Our efforts, and those of our partners, are having a measurable impact on people's lives. Looking ahead, Canada will continue to build upon our commitment to make the Ottawa Convention work, for the benefit of mine-affected communities and landmine survivors around the world.

BILL GRAHAM Minister of Foreign Affairs

Minister of Industry

Earlier this year, I launched Canada's Innovation Strategy. Innovation is about tapping into Canadian experience and expertise to develop new products, new processes, and new ways of doing things.



But it is much more than that. Innovation is about improving quality of life. With landmines a daily threat to thousands of civilians in war-ravaged countries, it is critical that we find new and better ways to detect and remove mines, restore land areas to productive use, and rehabilitate persons injured by mines.

Industry Canada is proud that the investments we are making into the research and development of new technologies are helping improve demining efforts. This year, I announced a Technology Partnerships Canada investment in General Dynamics Canada Ltd., which will undertake research in data fusion technology in order to enhance the probability of landmine target detection, and reduce false alarms. Technology

Partnerships Canada has also invested in the innovative work of ProMac Manufacturing Ltd. to develop a machine that will remove foliage as well as destroy antipersonnel landmines. These types of technologies are not only innovative and beneficial to Canada, but hold the potential to improve human security and safety the world over.

Innovation is about looking into the future. Canadian technologies will help to provide a better and safer future not only for Canada, but for many of the world's communities.

ALLAN ROCK Minister of Industry