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CANADA PARTICIPATES IN CSCE MISSIONS TO MOLDOVA AND ESTONIA

External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall today announced that Canada has agreed to lead a mission to the Republic of Moldova to seek a political settlement of the conflict in the Trans-Dniestr region. Ambassador Timothy Williams will arrive in Chisinau, Moldova, on April 24, to head the mission established by the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE).

Mr. Williams, Ambassador in Residence at the University of Ottawa, will lead a team of eight people from various CSCE countries, including another Canadian, Mervyn Meadows.

The initial six-month mandate of the CSCE mission is to facilitate a lasting and comprehensive political settlement in Moldova, which, in the past year, has experienced armed clashes between forces from the Republic of Moldova, forces of the self-proclaimed Trans-Dniestr Moldovan Republic and Russian soldiers stationed in the region. Last June, more than 1,000 people were killed and more than 100,000 people were displaced in the fighting.

Mrs. McDougall also announced that a Canadian has joined the recently established CSCE mission to Estonia. Its six-month mandate is to promote stability, dialogue and understanding between Estonian- and Russian-speaking communities in the country. Keith Swinton, from Canada's embassy in Stockholm Sweden, will work out of the CSCE Kohtla-Järve office in northeast Estonia.

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