

Technical Co-operation Fund Boosts Canadian Consultants in the Caribbean

A new fund launched by the Canadian government and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) will give Canadian consultants an excellent mechanism for participating in the early stages of CDB-financed projects.

The US\$2.6-million Canadian Technical Co-operation Fund will support short-term consultancy missions and advisory services related to:

- identifying, preparing, implementing and evaluating CDB-financed projects;
- economic and sector work required by the CDB;
- technical assistance to the CDB to enable it to address its mandate more effectively; and
- staff training at the CDB.

Priority activities

The CDB will be responsible for identifying, evaluating and approving activities undertaken with Fund resources. Priority will be given to activities in the following broad areas:

- poverty reduction, including social and gender equity and the meeting of basic human needs;
- human resource development;
- economic growth and development, including economic competitiveness issues, access to the Free Trade Area of the Americas and the North American Free Trade Agreement, micro- and small enterprise development, and other areas where the CDB believes it has a competitive advantage; and
- environmental protection.

Who's eligible?

The Fund will be administered by the CDB, and procurement will be limited to Canadian firms defined as Canadian citizens or landed immigrants resident in Canada and to Canadian firms, corporate bodies and non-governmental organizations whose principal place of business is located in Canada. Up to 25 per cent of

funding for a specific project may be used to finance consultants from the CDB's borrowing member countries to work in conjunction with Canadian consultants. Such local linkages will likely be a consideration in the evaluation of specific proposals.

CDB's usual procurement procedures with respect to use of funds will apply: Canadian firms will be required to register with the CDB in order to be eligible for contracts administered under the Fund.

The maximum amount per assignment is US\$100,000, although there is a provision for exceeding this amount if circumstances warrant. Eligible expenses are limited to fees, travel and subsistence. Goods and equipment related to an assignment may also be eligible under exceptional circumstances. The Fund is expected to be fully utilized by March 31, 2001.

For further information...

Interested firms can obtain registration forms from the Director, Projects Department, Caribbean Development Bank, P.O. Box 408, Wildey, St. Michael, Barbados, Tel.: (246) 431-1600, Fax: (246) 426-7269, e-mail: webstep@caribank.org

Pipeline and project information on all CDB-financed projects can be obtained from the Special Advisor to the Canadian Director of the Caribbean Development Bank, Trade Department, Canadian High Commission, P.O. Box 404, Bridgetown, Barbados, Tel.: (246) 429-3550, Fax: (246) 437-8474, e-mail: charlotte.hutson@bdgtn01x400.gc.ca



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