

Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and Canada

Basic Facts

- Verifiable arms control and disarmament agreements contribute to Canadian and global security.
- The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) is unique in that it is the first multilateral agreement that bans an entire category of weapons and that also provides extensive, detailed verification measures to support that ban.
- Canada was an active participant during the 10 years of CWC negotiations in Geneva. It signed the Convention on January 13, 1993 and was the 39th country to ratify the Convention on September 26, 1995.
- The Convention entered into force on April 29, 1997.

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Canada and the CWC

- Canada does not possess chemical weapons.
- Canada is a world leader in chemical weapons defensive measures.
- Canada has a Single Small Scale Facility (SSSF) which carries out research on protective measures, an activity permitted by the CWC.
- Canada's principal CWC obligations centre on national and transnational monitoring of the chemicals affected by the Convention.
- These monitoring activities involve twice yearly Declarations to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW); the administration of export and import controls; and the advance notification of transfers of Schedule 1 Chemicals to other States Parties.
- Under Article X, Canada is required to assist any State Party facing threat or attack involving chemical weapons. Canada has contributed to the Convention's Voluntary Fund and will consider future requests for assistance.
- The Canadian National Authority was created to liaise with the OPCW, other States Parties and to be the focal point for Canada's domestic implementation.



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