

Along with other countries and international agencies, Canada responded rapidly to the earthquake disaster in September 1985. The Canadian Government initially committed \$1 million for emergency assistance and \$250,000 to a fund administered by the Embassy and numerous private individuals, commercial enterprises and NGO's offered a range of help. In December, 1985, the Minister of External Relations announced a commitment of a further \$3.75 million to assist with reconstruction of a technical school, housing and community services in Mexico City and supporting a UNICEF public health and potable water project in the State of Guerrero.

Over the past year, President Salinas has implemented numerous policies aimed at modernising Mexico and bringing the economy into a more competitive position. Numerous parastatal organizations have been privatized, (including a major airline), foreign investment barriers have been removed, flight capital has been enticed back into Mexico, a new accommodation has been reached with the International Financial Institutions which are Mexico's major creditors, and political reforms have been instituted. The future remains very challenging, but promising.