Mine Ban Initiatives Fund

The Mine Ban Initiatives Fund was created in June of this year to help promote early ratification and universalization of the Ottawa Convention, and to alleviate the humanitarian crisis caused by anti-personnel mines.

With $1.6 million allocated for the 1998-99 fiscal year, the fund is administered by the Mine Action Team at the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) in close consultation with our government and non-governmental partners.

The purpose of this fund is to support initiatives whose aim is to mobilize political will and ensure technical capacities to promote the timely ratification, universalization and effective implementation of the AP Mine Ban Convention. Projects in more than 20 countries have received funding to date.

Initiatives currently being funded include projects in Yemen and Chad. In Yemen, we are providing protective demining gear to the national demining centre. In Chad, equipment is being supplied to assist in conducting a level one survey (mapping the general location of minefields). The Mine Ban Initiatives Fund also promotes landmine awareness: the first Ukrainian publication dedicated to this issue was financed by the fund.

The fund has also sponsored a series of regional conferences and seminars – in Moscow, Amman, Bangkok, and Mexico – to build mine action momentum and encourage universalization and ratification. Eleven new countries have signed the Ottawa Convention since December 1997 and 52 countries have ratified. Many of the ratifications and new signatures were facilitated as a result of the awareness and political will generated by these regional conferences.

For additional information on the Mine Ban Initiative Fund, contact the DFAIT Mine Action Team. •

What can I do to help?

Government and NGO representatives working on the landmines issue hear one question from Canadians more often than any other – What can I do to help? Mines Action Canada (MAC) and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) think they have an answer. Working together, MAC and DFAIT have established a fund to accept donations from Canadians who want to support Canadian Mine Action programs. Announced by Minister Axworthy on September 21, the Canadian Landmine Action Fund is jointly managed by MAC and DFAIT. Donations directly support the delivery of Canadian Mine Action programs in the field such as mine clearance and mine victim assistance. All donations are tax deductible.

What Can You Do to Help?

Give generously to the Canadian Landmine Action Fund. Please send to:

The Canadian Landmine Action Fund
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Cashiers Office
125 Sussex Dr. Ottawa, ON. K1A 0G2

I'd like to donate $ _____

Method of payment (please check one)

☐ Cheque *(made out to Canadian Landmine Action Fund and enclosed)*

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Card# ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ Expiry date ☐☐ ☐☐

Cardholder name: _____

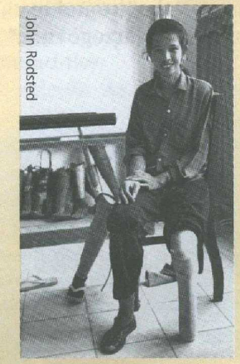
Signature: _____

If you require an official receipt for Canadian Income Tax purposes, please provide the following information:

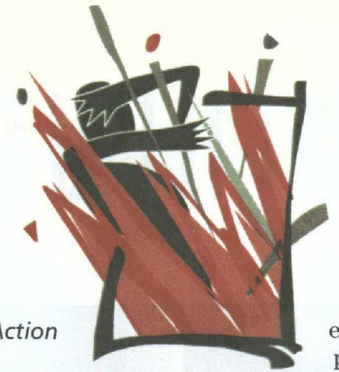
Full name: _____

Address _____

_____ Postal Code _____


John Rodsted

MAC Update



ACTION MINES CANADA

Mary Foster of Mines Action Canada (MAC) reports activity on both new and established projects.

In all of its work, MAC is striving to bring the focus of mine action back to the needs and priorities of the people suffering the effects of mines.

Landmine Monitor

In preparation for the March 1, 1999 Entry into Force of the Ottawa Convention, MAC has taken on the task of developing and housing what might be the world's first centralized database to track government compliance with a treaty. The International Committee to Ban Landmines' (ICBL's) Landmine Monitor will provide us with the tool we need to put people power behind the treaty.

Outreach and Advocacy

MAC is continuing its outreach and advocacy with the help of Youth Mine Action Ambassador Sophie Sauvé, now working out of the MAC office. We are developing new resources, including a floor game. We are also participating in the organization of Ottawa's third annual Africa Refugee Day, June 20, 1999. Our aim with this event is to educate people about the impact of mines on refugees and to mobilize support for the campaign among Ottawa communities who have themselves been affected by mines.

Looking for Appropriate Technologies

Our Landmine Detection and Removal Technology Research Competition (www.unac.ncrb.org/landmines/competition), open to Canadian university and college students, is being used to solicit fresh ideas and to educate this community about the problem and the kind of technology required to solve it.

We have begun a similar outreach to companies interested in accessing the Canadian Landmine Fund. MAC is sending a clear message to industry and government that we believe that the ultimate stakeholders in the fund are the mine-affected communities. This means that money should be disbursed according to the needs and priorities of mine-affected people, that none of this money should go to the development of alternatives to landmines, or to companies which contribute to the proliferation of landmines.

Celebrating the People's Treaty

Right now, we are gearing up for a flurry of activities to mark the first anniversary of the signing of the People's Treaty against landmines, including the Canadian launch of Cambodian anti-mine advocate and landmine survivor Song Kosal's "Kids against War and Landmines" campaign. •

Cambodian landmine survivor Song Kosal, spokesperson for the "Kids Against War and Landmines" campaign.

DFAIT/ MAECI