



## CANADIAN ASSISTANCE TO RUSSIA

Canada's program of assistance to Russia consists of technical, nuclear safety and humanitarian assistance. Established in July 1991, the program has three primary objectives: to support the transition to a market-based economy, to promote democratic development, and to increase Canadian trade and investment links with Russia.

To date, the Canadian technical assistance program has committed more than \$75 million to over 200 projects. Of this total, approximately \$43.5 million has been disbursed. The Canadian technical assistance program concentrates its activities in five priority sectors which match Canadian expertise with Russian economic and political reform priorities. The priority sectors are democratic development and good governance, private sector development, energy, northern development and the environment, and agriculture.

In all sectors, the Canadian program emphasizes capacity building through the transfer of knowledge, expertise and technology. Human resource development, institution building and the provision of policy advice are the primary forms of assistance. A strong emphasis is placed on the establishment of direct links between Canadian individuals and organizations and their Russian counterparts to ensure that Canadian assistance has a direct and practical impact at the local level.

A major component of the Canadian assistance program to Russia is the \$30-million Canadian Nuclear Safety Initiative (CNSI), which provides expertise in three priority areas: reactor safety, regulatory assistance and utility management. Two projects totalling over \$13 million are currently under way. Under the first, Canada is working with the Russian Ministry of Atomic Energy to improve the safety of RBMK nuclear reactors in Russia. A second ongoing initiative is helping to upgrade regulatory standards and co-operation.

Since 1992 Canada has contributed a total of \$18 million of humanitarian assistance to Russia. Approximately \$13.5 million has supported the Canadian Red Cross Solidarity Assistance Program providing medicines and medical supplies to Russia's most vulnerable groups: children, the elderly, and pregnant and new mothers. In addition, \$4.5 million has been contributed to UNICEF for the provision of vaccines, essential drugs, and medical equipment and supplies for children.

Following are some major Canadian assistance projects currently under way.

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