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CANADA AND POLAND SIGN MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE TREATY

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced that Canada and Poland have signed a Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters. The Treaty was signed by Mr. Ouellet and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland, Andrzej Olechowski, at a ceremony this morning on Parliament Hill.

"The signing of this Treaty is important for both Canada and Poland as it seeks to ensure that evidence gathered in either country is in a form that will be admissible in the courts of both countries," said Mr. Ouellet.

The agreement provides for co-operation between police and prosecutors in Canada and Poland in the areas of crime prevention, investigation and prosecution. More specifically, it includes sharing information, gathering and delivering evidence, obtaining statements, locating persons and objects, carrying out search and seizure, and making available detained persons to give evidence or to assist with investigations.

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