

opportunities for those who cannot return home or settle permanently in their countries of asylum. Since the end of World War II, Canada has been instrumental in providing resettlement opportunities for more than 650,000 refugees and displaced persons from around the world. Protection for genuine refugees is reinforced in Canadian legislation through the inland determination system.

In November 1992, in response to an urgent appeal made by the UNHCR for protection of detainees in the former Yugoslavia, the Minister of Employment and Immigration, the Honourable Bernard Valcourt, announced that Canada would accept a number of civilians who had been detained in war-zone detention centres. Some 520 people have now arrived in Canada as a result of these provisions.

Canada has actively supported the UNHCR in its relief efforts for refugees from Somalia as well. As a result of the Somali crisis, approximately one million refugees are in neighbouring countries, mainly Kenya, Djibouti, Yemen and Ethiopia. So far, Canada has provided almost \$19 million in emergency aid to support international relief organizations in these countries, including the UNHCR, which are trying to meet the people's basic needs for food, shelter and medical attention. Canada has furthermore provided refuge to over 15,000 Somali refugees over the past few years and is working with the UNHCR to identify "women at risk" and persons with disabilities.

Canada's role in international efforts on behalf of refugees was recognized in 1986, when the UNHCR awarded the Nansen Medal to the people of Canada in recognition of outstanding contributions in providing protection and assistance to refugees. For example, during the Indochinese refugee movement in the late 1970s and early 1980s, Canada pioneered the concept of partnership between government and non-governmental organizations in the resettlement of refugees.

The UNHCR receives funding from member states through voluntary contributions rather than through annual assessments. In addition to regular funding of the UNHCR, Canada contributes to UNHCR special appeals. In 1992, with contributions totalling \$50 million, Canada ranked eighth among approximately 22 principal donor countries. Overall, in 1992, the UNHCR dispersed \$1.4 billion in attempts to provide relief to the world's refugee population, which is now estimated to number 18.5 million persons.

In supporting the UNHCR, Canada goes a long way toward meeting its objectives of strengthening multilateral co-operation and retaining a strong and active commitment to humanitarian assistance, along with the resolution of refugee problems worldwide.