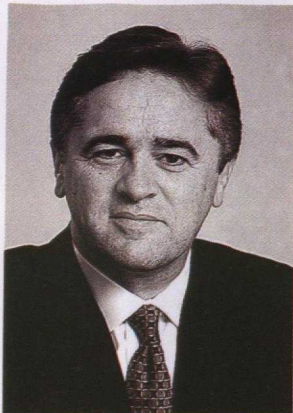


Canadian Forces personnel were actively involved in humanitarian mine clearance operations well before the Ottawa Convention was signed. In Kuwait, Somalia, Rwanda, Cambodia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo, members of the Canadian Forces have cleared mines, taught local people how to conduct safe demining operations and set up mine awareness programs, which are especially important for the protection of children. Canadian Forces experts have also provided advice to countless military personnel in all parts of the world on ways of destroying their stocks of mines.

The Canadian Landmine Fund has made it possible to move beyond statements of good intention and to take concrete action toward the eradication of anti-personnel mines. I am very proud of the significant contribution made by the men and women of the Canadian Forces and the Department of National Defence.

Art Eggleton

Minister of National Defence



As Minister of Industry, I am pleased our department is helping support the Government of Canada's important contribution to address the challenge of eliminating landmines and providing assistance to landmine victims.

Through Technology Partnerships Canada, Industry Canada is working with the private sector and the Canadian Centre for Mine Action Technologies to develop and commercialize technologies and equipment that will allow people to return safely to abandoned farm fields and villages in war-torn areas around the world.

An example of this commitment can be seen in Industry Canada's investment, through the Canadian Landmine Fund, with PRO MAC Manufacturing of Duncan, British Columbia. This investment will lead to the commercialization of the Brusher/Deminer Machine, which is designed to clear foliage so demining operations can proceed. This technology will reduce the risk to demining personnel and help accelerate the elimination of landmines.

Industry Canada's activity in support of combatting landmines clearly shows how innovation can help improve the worldwide quality of life. It also underscores the important role that the Government of Canada plays in ensuring that innovative products become a reality.

This is one of the ways that Industry Canada is helping make a difference – not only for Canadians, but also for people around the world.

Brian Tobin

Minister of Industry