

<h2>Stockpile Destruction</h2> <p>Destruction of stockpiles is key to preventing the spread of landmines, and can be a technically complex task. Canada offers support to help countries, in particular States Parties, to meet their obligations to destroy stockpiled mines.</p>	<p>In Albania, Canada sponsored a NATO Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) Trust Fund project, managed by the NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency (NAMSA), to destroy 1.6 million landmines. The destruction was completed in April 2002, without incident, a full two years ahead of the destruction deadline. Canada also engaged the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining to oversee verification and quality assurance measures for this project.</p> <p>In Moldova, Canada is participating in a Netherlands-</p>	<p>sponsored NATO EAPC Trust Fund project to destroy munitions, including landmines and rocket fuel.</p> <p>In Ukraine, Canada is sponsoring a NATO EAPC Trust Fund project to destroy 400,000 PMN landmines. The project was officially opened by the NATO Secretary General in July 2002. Canada is also developing, along with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the European Union, a project to destroy almost 6 million PFM landmines in Ukraine.</p>	<p>Through its involvement with the Reay Group, Canada participated in a Belgian-led stockpile destruction assessment mission to Southeast Europe. This mission identified the assistance requirements, if any, of various countries with the aim of helping them meet their destruction deadlines under the terms of the Ottawa Convention. As a result, Canada and Norway are providing technical equipment to Romania to assist in the destruction of their stockpiles.</p>
<h2>Advocacy and Coordination</h2> <p>As the effort shifts from the achievement of a comprehensive ban on anti-personnel landmines to implementing the Ottawa Convention, maintaining public support remains crucial. Canada supports efforts to universalize the Convention and continues to raise awareness at home and abroad of its important role in the elimination of landmines.</p>	<p>Since the signing of the Ottawa Convention, Canada has supported a variety of sub-regional initiatives promoting its universalization and implementation in Europe and Central Asia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Canada provided support to a NATO EAPC South Eastern Europe Initiative Workshop on Regionally focused Mine Action in Greece, in May 2001. - Canada continues to lend its support to the Reay Group on Mine Action, a forum that promotes a coordinated approach to mine action in the Balkans. The Regional Support Group for Mine Action, functioning under the auspices of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, was renamed in honour of Lieutenant General (Retired) Gordon Reay, who served as Chairman of the Reay Group 	<p>until his death in December 2000. This initiative has been built on existing structures in an effort to avoid duplication, and to assist coordination efforts by identifying and filling gaps in activities taking place at a regional level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Canada, through the UNDP, is providing institutional support to further develop the management and coordination capacity, technical and safety standards, communication infrastructure and upgrade minefield mapping capabilities of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre and Entity Mine Action Centres. - Canada and Hungary co-hosted a seminar on the Destruction of the PFM-1 Mine held in Budapest in February 2001. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General (Retired) Maurice Baril, former Chief of the Defence Staff, led a mission to Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Finland and Poland with the aim of opening a military-to-military dialogue on the issue of banning landmines. - Together with the Government of Armenia and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Canada co-hosted a seminar in Yerevan entitled "Banning Anti-Personnel Landmines: Cooperation and Capacity Building" in October 2002. - Canada co-sponsored with the Government of Poland the "Understanding the Ottawa Convention" conference in Warsaw in June 2001.