

Biological Non-Proliferation Program

Responding to the serious threats posed by biological agents and scientists in the FSU is a key priority for Canada's Global Partnership Program. As only a microscopic quantity of a biological agent can cause serious and widespread problems, and as many underfunded biological facilities are unable to adequately safeguard their deadly collections of pathogens and manufacturing equipment, the proliferation of biological materials that could be used as biological weapons is of growing concern. Of equal concern is the significant insider threat posed by thousands of underpaid scientists who retain access to their institutes' dangerous strain collections.

In accordance with the commitment made by leaders at the Kananaskis Summit in 2002, Canada is pursuing a number of initiatives in Russia and other countries of the FSU to prevent terrorists and states of proliferation concern from acquiring or developing biological weapons. For these objectives, Canada is providing assistance under the Global Partnership Program to countries to help them with the following:

- advancing adherence to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, which implements effective measures to account for and secure biological items (i.e., biosafety);
- implementing effective physical protection measures at facilities that house biological items (i.e., biosecurity);
- effectively addressing illicit trafficking in biological items (e.g., through detection systems, training for Customs and law-enforcement personnel, cooperation in tracking these items);
- improving the use of national export and transshipment controls over items on multilateral export control lists (as well as any other items that may contribute to the development, production or use of BW); and
- taking actions to minimize holdings of dangerous biological pathogens and toxins.

Canada's membership in the Moscow-based ISTC allows it to address a number of critical issues, including the proliferation threat posed by former BW scientists. As of March 31, 2006, Canada had funded 25 biotechnology and life sciences projects through the ISTC aimed at the redirection of former bioweaponers and the employment of scientists working at facilities formerly associated with the Soviet BW program, a commitment worth approximately \$7 million.



Funding is required to upgrade biosafety and biosecurity at several facilities where deadly pathogens are inadequately secured