

News Release

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CANADA TO HELP ESTONIA CREATE TRANSLATION AND LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT CENTRE

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced that Canada will contribute \$1.07 million toward the creation of a Translation and Legislative Support Centre in the Estonian State Chancellery. The Chancellery provides administrative support for the Estonian Prime Minister and Cabinet, including the introduction, translation and publication of legislation and official information.

"This project will help Estonia develop legislation that is compatible with democratic principles and internationally accepted practices. By drawing on the expertise of Estonian-speaking Canadians, this initiative will make Estonian legislation transparent to the international business community and encourage enhanced foreign trade and investment," said Mr. Ouellet.

Under the two-year project, Canadian legislative experts will provide advice and training in legislative drafting and implementation to Estonian ministries. In addition, the Canadians will help translate domestic and international legislation into English, Estonian and Russian, and provide hands-on training to Estonian government translators and university instructors.

The project will be managed by the Ontario Council of Regents, an agency of the Ministry of Education and Training, in co-operation with the Government of Ontario. The Canadian partners will make significant in-kind contributions to the initiative.

The project is part of Canada's ongoing program of technical assistance to Estonia, which is designed to support Estonia's transition to a market-based economy, increase Canadian trade and investment links with Estonia, and promote democratic development.

Funding for this program was provided for in the February 1994 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

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