

## INDUSTRY CANADA

\$865,440

Eighteen percent (\$865,440) of Canada's assessed contribution to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) for fiscal year 2012–2013 is ODA-applicable.<sup>32</sup> This means that it has been budgeted for development-related activities. This amount is disbursed within the development sector to help offset costs for staff, activities and/or programs.

### ORGANIZATION

- ITU membership includes 193 member states as well as some 700 sector members and associates representing a cross-section of the telecommunication and information technology industry, and a multitude of international, regional, scientific and development organizations in the communications field.
- Industry Canada is Canada's official representative in the ITU and coordinates Canadian participation at conferences, meetings and other activities.
- Canada has served as an elected Council member since 1947, the Union's governing body comprised of 48 member states.
- Some 20 Canadian organizations participating as paying sector members, associates or academia include: Ericsson Canada, BlackBerry, Telesat Canada, Bell Canada, Telus Communications, Microsoft Canada, Rogers Communication Partnership, Ebrisk Video, The Institute of Mobile Technologies, etc. (The list of members is available on the ITU website at <http://www.itu.int/en/pages/default.aspx> under "Membership").

### ROLE OF THE ITU

- The mandate of the ITU is to enable the growth and sustained development of telecommunications and information networks, and to facilitate universal access

so that people everywhere can participate in, and benefit from, the emerging information society and global economy. The ability to communicate freely is a prerequisite for a more equitable, prosperous and peaceful world. The ITU assists in mobilizing the technical, financial and human resources needed to make this vision a reality.

- All the elements of ITU's work are centred around the goal of putting every human being within easy and affordable reach of information and communication and to contribute significantly towards economic and social development of all people. This is carried out through the development of standards to create infrastructure to deliver telecommunication services on a worldwide basis. A key activity is the equitable management of the radio frequency spectrum and satellite orbits to help bring wireless services to every corner of the world. It also provides support to countries as they pursue telecommunication development strategies.
- ITU also concentrates on strengthening emergency communications for disaster prevention and mitigation. While both developing and developed countries are equally vulnerable to natural disasters, poorer nations are hardest hit because of their already fragile economies and lack of resources.
- ITU's dual responsibility as a UN specialized agency and an executing agency for implementing projects under the United Nations development system or other funding arrangements consists of the following:
  - assisting countries in the field of information and communication technologies (ICTs), in facilitating the mobilization of technical, human and financial resources needed for their implementation, as well as in promoting access to ICTs;
  - promoting the extension of the benefits of ICTs to all the world's inhabitants;
  - promoting and participating in actions that contribute towards narrowing the digital divide; and

<sup>32</sup> The assistance reported meets the requirements of the *Official Development Assistance Accountability Act* and is consistent with the reporting guidelines for development assistance prepared by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).