

Anyone who has ever seen a child who has had a limb blown off by a mine would never doubt how important the Canadian Landmine Fund is. This annual report shows how Canada continues to help the people of mine-affected countries deal with the devastating legacy of landmines. In countries where the problem seemed overwhelming only a few years ago, progress has been made in identifying the scope of the problem, building national capacity to remove mines and helping landmine victims. The results of Canada's efforts are clear: as mines are cleared, families and communities are able to get back to the business of everyday living, which is a vital step toward ensuring safety for all and supporting sustainable development.

In many other countries, however, the effects of landmine use have yet to be over-

come. These countries, which are usually still ridden by conflict, are among the most seriously affected by landmines. As we look ahead to helping these societies rebuild, it is clear that we face difficult challenges that will require our long-term attention. We will follow through on our program of making strategic investments to help build the capacity of these nations to implement educational and mine clearance programs and to provide rehabilitation for victims.

Our mine action program is a direct investment in the future of children, families, and communities — we are helping them rebuild their lives by overcoming the impact of conflict and we are continuing to provide development assistance.

**Maria Minna**  
*Minister for International Cooperation*



Each year, thousands of innocent men, women and children are killed or disfigured by anti-personnel mines. For these people, who have often already suffered through years of war, this means burying one more loved one, a life lived in even greater poverty or living with a crippling injury.

Canada continues to play a leadership role in the global campaign to eradicate landmines. Industry Canada is proud to contribute to this effort. It has partnered with the Department of National Defence to form the Canadian Centre for Mine Action Technologies, which promotes research, development and commercialization of demining and victim assistance technologies.

One example of the kind of technologies being funded by this venture is PRO MAC Manufacturing Ltd.'s Brushcutter/Deminer BDM 48 machine adapted from brush cutters used in the forestry industry. The company received funding from Technology Partnerships Canada, an Industry Canada program, to build this tool designed to remove foliage as well as to destroy anti-personnel mines.

Canada has a global reputation for promoting the ways of peace. All too often, this also means destroying the remnants of war. Industry Canada is proud to have a part to play in this endeavour.

**Brian Tobin**  
*Minister of Industry*

