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# news release

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## CANADA SIGNS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS AFFECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, and Environment Minister Jean Charest today announced that Canada has signed the first international agreement to prevent and respond to industrial accidents affecting the environment.

The Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents calls on the signing parties to co-operate and consult on accident prevention, preparedness and response, and on planned industrial developments that could affect each other's territory. It also provides for the exchange of information on technology and issues of research and development.

"We welcome this convention because it will improve international co-operation on environmental issues," said Mrs. McDougall.

"This convention strengthens our ability to prevent and respond to major industrial accidents," said Mr. Charest.

The convention was signed by Canada, the United States and most European countries under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

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