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# news release

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## CANADA ANNOUNCES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS FOR POLAND

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced two new Canadian technical assistance projects to support political and economic reform in Poland. The first project will help to modernize the Polish dairy industry, while the second will introduce a new Canadian volunteer youth service.

"These new initiatives build on Canada's well-established program of technical assistance to Poland and underline our commitment to support Poland during this period of transition. They will draw upon Canada's world-class agricultural expertise and the energy of our youth to work as partners with Poland in furthering political and economic reform," said Mr. Ouellet.

The agricultural project is a four-year, \$2.3-million initiative to improve the efficiency of the Polish dairy industry in the district of Siedlce, 80 kilometres east of Warsaw. The second new initiative is a pilot, youth service project to support young Canadian volunteers' participation in the process of reform in Central and Eastern Europe.

Mr. Ouellet made the announcement in Warsaw following meetings with President Lech Walesa, Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak, Marshal (Speaker) of the Sejm Jozef Oleksy and Foreign Minister Andrzej Olechowski.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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## Backgrounder

### **NEW CANADIAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS FOR POLAND**

The projects announced today are part of Canada's ongoing technical assistance program for Poland managed by the Bureau of Assistance for Central and Eastern Europe, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. The program is designed to support the transition to a market-based economy, to promote democratic development and to increase Canadian trade and investment links with Poland. Approximately \$24.8 million has been committed to date in support of 88 projects in the priority sectors of education, agriculture, private-sector development and democratic development.

The new projects are:

#### **Siedlce Dairy Enhancement Project**

Agriculture Canada will manage a four-year, \$2.3-million project to improve the efficiency of the dairy industry in the district of Siedlce, 80 kilometres east of Warsaw. Building on the success of a Canadian-established model dairy farm, the project will provide training in dairy management, herd health, farm economics and financial planning to local producers and extension workers. Other training programs for veterinarians and dairy farmers, which will be supported by the transfer of Canadian agricultural technology, will help upgrade milk quality.

The project will also work with a local dairy processing plant to introduce modern milk collection, processing and marketing systems. The Canadian dairy industry will participate in the project by providing teachers and training opportunities for Polish participants at their Canadian facilities.

#### **World Youth Solidarity**

Canada World Youth will develop a pilot, youth service project to support young Canadian volunteers' participation in the process of reform in Central and Eastern Europe. Under the program, young Canadians will volunteer their services to work with their counterparts on a series of custom-designed projects, identified and developed in consultation with participating host countries. Focusing on democratic development and public-sector institutions and programs, possible areas of concentration include environment, agriculture, municipal government, health, and initiatives targeting minorities and the disadvantaged. Poland has been offered the opportunity to be the first country to participate in the pilot project for the new youth service program.