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# news release

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Date

For release

June 30, 1989.

No. 160

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## A \$1.5 MILLION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND INFO HOT-LINE FOR CHINESE STUDENTS IN CANADA

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OTTAWA--The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark and External Relations and International Development Minister, the Honourable Monique Landry, today announced a series of measures to assist Chinese students in Canada.

They said that the Federal Government, through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), will make up to \$1.5 million available to launch a national initiative to assist Chinese students in Canada. Up to \$1 million of these funds will be used to establish a National Coordination Office managed by the Canadian Bureau of International Education (CBIE) in partnership with the Chinese Canadian National Council (CCNC). It will provide Chinese students with information, counselling and referral services as well as emergency financial assistance.

"These services will be given in the strictest confidentiality, to ensure the security of the students who need assistance," Joe Clark stressed.

CBIE and CCNC will work together to mobilize resources across Canada, drawing on the support from their respective networks and reaching out to communities, institutions, provincial governments, non-governmental organizations, and business.

Mrs. Landry said that CIDA will provide \$300,000 to an emergency fund to be administered by the National Coordination Office. "I hope Canadians across the country will also respond generously to help Chinese students meet their needs".

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CIDA will allocate \$200,000 for an automatic blanket extension for three months to pay tuition fees and living expenses of CIDA-sponsored Chinese students in Canada whose training was to end during the summer months.

"The Federal Government has acted with leadership and generosity in response to the urgent needs of the Chinese students in Canada," Mr. Clark said.

The Canadian Bureau of International Education is a national organization, whose objectives are to assist foreign students in Canada, provide them with information and give them emergency financial support. It draws on a network of 150 centres in universities and colleges across Canada.

The Chinese Canadian National Council is an association with a network of 27 chapters across Canada. It promotes understanding and cooperation between Chinese Canadians and all other ethnic, cultural and racial groups in Canada.

A toll-free line (1-800-267-1299) has been installed to allow students to get more information, 24 hours a day, as of now.

The Honourable Barbara McDougall, Minister of Employment and Immigration, has already announced a number of immigration measures in response to the precarious situation that has developed for Chinese nationals, especially students, currently in Canada. All removals to China have been indefinitely suspended. Chinese citizens have several options to choose from and the time to consider the option which best meets their circumstances. They can request a one year extension of their visas or they can apply to stay permanently as immigrants or as refugees.

For further information, contact:

Andrée Corriveau  
Press Secretary  
Minister Landry's Office  
Hull (819) 994-6161

Media Relations Office  
External Affairs and  
International Trade Canada  
Ottawa (613) 995-1874