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# news release

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## QUELLET ANNOUNCES ASSISTANCE PACKAGE FOR POLAND

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced a series of new Canadian technical assistance initiatives totalling \$3.85 million designed to support political and economic reform in Poland. The projects focus on entrepreneurial training, support for enhanced inter-country agricultural trade and a volunteer youth service program.

"These new initiatives provide practical, immediate assistance in areas of primary importance to Poland and underline Canada's commitment to support Poland during this period of democratic and economic transformation. Drawing upon the historic ties between our countries, the projects will establish direct, one-to-one links between Canadian and Polish individuals and organizations."

One project will provide entrepreneurial and small business start-up training to close to 1500 Polish entrepreneurs to support the growth of private enterprise at the grass-roots level in Poland. The second project will work to upgrade dairy and related agricultural industries in both Poland and Ukraine and to encourage agricultural trade between the two countries. The third initiative will introduce an international youth service program to engage young volunteers from Poland, Hungary and Canada in community development projects.

The projects are part of Canada's ongoing technical assistance program with Poland managed by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. More than \$26.7 million has been committed to date in support of some 95 projects.

Funding for the new projects was provided for in the February 1994 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

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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 with 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 economy, to promote democratic development, and to increase Canadian trade and investment links with Poland. Approximately \$26.7 million has been committed to date in support of 95 projects in the priority sectors of private sector development, agriculture and education.

The new projects include:

#### **Entrepreneurial Training**

Confederation College of Applied Arts and Technology of Thunder Bay, Ontario, will implement a three-year, \$950 000 project to provide small business and entrepreneurial training to Polish entrepreneurs. Working in co-operation with the Polish Centre for Privatization, a government agency whose mandate includes management training, the project will establish self-sustaining training programs for entrepreneurs in eight district labour offices across Poland. By mid-1997 over 1000 unemployed persons will receive training in the start-up and running of a small business, some 360 current business owners will benefit from advanced level enterprise management instruction, and close to 200 Polish labour officers will be trained as business counsellors and trainers. Building on the success of an earlier \$415 000 Canadian initiative, this project will contribute to the continued growth of small business in Poland.

#### **Agricultural Trade**

An innovative \$2.1-million co-operative initiative between Canada, Poland and Ukraine will work to modernize dairy and related agricultural industries and promote inter-country agricultural trade. Under the four-year project, a consortium of Canadian companies will work with private dairy farms and a local dairy processing plant in L'viv Oblast, Ukraine, approximately 40 kilometres from the Polish border, to improve management capabilities and upgrade milk quality to international standards for the export of dairy products to Poland. The consortium will also work with a private feed mill in eastern Poland to improve the quality and diversity of its feed products and nutritional supplements for export to Ukraine. The Canadian private sector consortium is led by Ault International of Etobicoke, Ontario, and includes Semex Canada, Maple Leaf Foods International, Davis & Lawrence and Shur-Gain Division.

### **Youth Service Program**

Canada World Youth will manage a one year, \$800 000 youth exchange program for young people between the ages of 17 and 21 from Poland, Hungary and Canada. Beginning in November 1994, 70 young volunteers will undertake four-month community development projects in Canada to be followed by additional four-month placements in either Poland or Hungary. The community projects will focus on small business, health, environment and agricultural co-operatives. Under the program, Polish participants will be concentrated in the three prairie provinces and the youth from Hungary will work on projects in British Columbia. Together, Canada World Youth, Poland's National Water Foundation, a major non-governmental organization specializing in community development, and the Youth Affairs Council of Hungary will co-ordinate the exchange. The project results from Canada's commitment to develop a pilot youth service initiative made during Mr. Ouellet's visit to Poland in March 1994.