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CANADA TO HELP RESTORE HEALTH FACILITIES IN BOSNIA-HERCEGOVINA

External Affairs Minister Perrin Beatty today announced a series of Canadian initiatives, totalling almost \$2 million, to help restore medical facilities in the war-torn regions of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"Canada has stressed the importance of delivering medical care directly to the victims of the conflict," said Mr. Beatty. "This assistance will improve the difficult environment in which dedicated medical professionals are performing their duties."

The Minister said the projects are based on recommendations made by a team of experts who returned to Canada last Saturday after a four-day needs assessment trip to the besieged city of Sarajevo. The projects include:

- water purification equipment to improve the availability of clean water and reduce the incidence of water-borne diseases;
- support for the emergency power supply for the two major Sarajevo hospitals;
- equipment and training by Canadian rehabilitation experts for five community health centres;
- medical supplies and medicine, including drugs for treating leukemia, which local health workers have indicated are unavailable; and
- teams of Canadian medical specialists to evaluate the current medical infrastructure and indicate areas requiring timely action by the international community.

The Minister also noted that Canada will continue to work closely with United Nations agencies and Red Cross services, which are co-ordinating humanitarian assistance efforts in the region.

Canada's total contribution in humanitarian assistance for the former Yugoslavia now approaches \$40 million.

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