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## NEWS RELEASE

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### CANADA CONTRIBUTES \$30 MILLION IN FOOD AID TO SOUTHERN AFRICA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall and the Minister for External Relations and International Development, the Honourable Monique Landry, announced today that Canada will contribute \$30 million in food aid to assist the drought-stricken nations of Southern Africa.

In a statement today to the House of Commons on her recent trip to South Africa, Mrs. McDougall noted that the drought is exacting a heavy toll throughout the region, especially on vulnerable groups. "The sheer magnitude of the drought is very distressing, but I was encouraged by the spirit of co-operation developing among Southern African countries to address this common disaster," stated Mrs. McDougall.

The Canadian contribution follows the recent report by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Program (WFP), which assessed the emergency needs of the 11 nations that are most seriously affected. Funding from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) will be used to buy Canadian foodstuffs to ship to the region.

"Canada is deeply concerned about the situation. This is the worst drought in decades, and we are working closely with other donors to prevent widespread famine. Our High Commission in Harare is monitoring the situation very closely and is reporting to us on a regular basis," said Mrs. Landry.

In line with its regional long-term strategy in Southern Africa, CIDA is working with its non-governmental organizations and multilateral partners to ensure that the most severely affected populations are reached. It is also co-ordinating its efforts with the governments of the affected countries and with the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC), a regional grouping of governments.

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