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GOVERNMENT OF CANADA ANNOUNCES CONTRIBUTION TO EAST/WEST ENTERPRISE EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced a contribution to support York University's East/West Enterprise Exchange Program as part of the Government's continuing efforts to support economic reform in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. The technical assistance project will provide management and business development training to business representatives from the region.

"The private sector will act as the engine for economic growth in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. This program provides critical business management training to support the region's emerging private sector, and to promote enhanced Canadian trade and investment links with the region," said Mr. Ouellet.

Over the course of the three-year project, to which the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade will contribute \$2.7 million, 120 business delegates annually will complete a seven-week training program in Canada. The program will consist of business management training at York University's Faculty of Administrative Studies, working internships with Canadian corporate sponsors, and the preparation of business plans or joint-venture proposals in co-operation with corporate sponsors. Trainees will be drawn from Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Uzbekistan, Poland, Hungary, Romania, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and the Baltic States. Canadian project partners include the Government of Canada, the Province of Ontario, York University and various corporate sponsors.

The project is part of Canada's ongoing technical assistance program for Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union managed by the Bureau of Assistance for Central and Eastern Europe of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. The program is designed to support the transition to a market-based economy, promote democratic development and increase Canadian trade and investment links with the region. More than \$25 million has been committed to date in support of some 40

regional projects in the priority sectors of private-sector development, democratization and good governance, health and agriculture.

- 30 -

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