



news release

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CANADA ANNOUNCES ASSISTANCE TO RUSSIAN FEDERAL MIGRATION SERVICE

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet and Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Sergio Marchi today announced a \$1.3 million contribution for a technical assistance project to help the Russian Federal Migration Service (FMS). The project, to be administered by Citizenship and Immigration Canada, will help the Russian FMS develop and implement immigration and refugee policies and practices that conform to international standards.

"The strengthening of the Russian Federal Migration Service, to make it an effective organization for monitoring and determining immigrants and refugees, will be an important step in the overall objective of supporting human rights and democratic reform in Russia," said Mr. Ouellet.

"Canada is happy to be one of the countries in the forefront of institutional building in the immigration and refugee field. We know the demands are significant, and we hope that other countries and organizations will respond to the challenge," Mr. Marchi added.

The project will provide the recently established Russian FMS with: legal advice in the drafting of legislation and regulations; assistance in establishing a data management system and documentation centre; and support for a number of activities designed to help train Russian FMS personnel. The assistance package will provide funding for project management, training, technical and advisory assistance, equipment, and translation and interpretation services.

The contribution was announced today in Moscow following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding by Minister Marchi, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Shakhrai and Russian Minister of Federal Migration Service Tatyana Reguent.

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

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