

# SAFE LANE

Spring 2000

Number 11

CANADA'S LANDMINE BAN REPORT



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## SPECIAL ISSUE

# Sustaining the Canadian effort

A royal handshake at Ban Landmines 99





# RESOURCES

DFAIT materials can be ordered by calling:

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For other materials, dial the numbers provided below.

Unless otherwise indicated, all materials available in French and English. DFAIT mine action publications are also accessible on the Web at: [www.mines.gc.ca](http://www.mines.gc.ca)

*Measured Steps: Assessing Global Progress on Mine Action*

May 1999 report circulated at the First Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty in Maputo, Mozambique: DFAIT

*Information Kit*

Includes the above items marked by an asterisk (\*), the most recent issue of *SafeLane*, a signatory and ratification list, and a statement by the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

DFAIT

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International Committee of the Red Cross

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Text of the *Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction: "The Ottawa Treaty"*

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CD-ROM

*Ban Landmines! The Ottawa Process and the International Movement to Ban Landmines:*

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Web Sites

DFAIT's *SafeLane*:

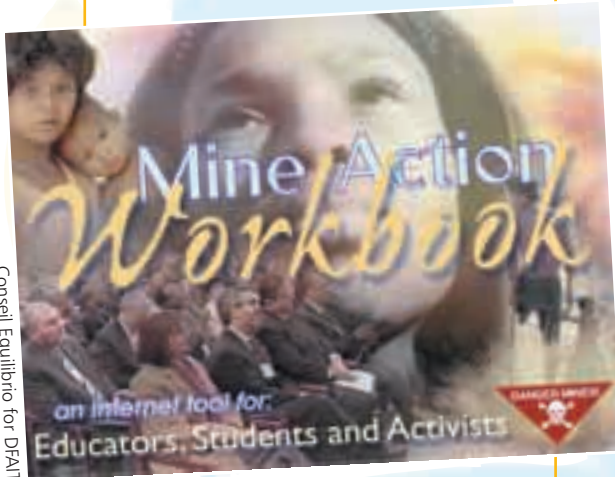
[www.mines.gc.ca](http://www.mines.gc.ca)

Mines Action Canada:

[www.minesactioncanada.com](http://www.minesactioncanada.com)

International Campaign to Ban Landmines: [www.icbl.org](http://www.icbl.org)

International Committee of the Red Cross: [www.icrc.org](http://www.icrc.org)



## New on Safelane!

*Mine Action Workbook*, a new Internet tool for educators, students and activists that provides lessons, links and activities on landmines, their global impact, the Ottawa Process and the Mine Ban Treaty.

## Print

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*Bi-Monthly Progress Report* \*  
3 pages: DFAIT

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Short backgrounders on the Ottawa Process: DFAIT

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*In Years, Not Decades*

An 8-minute presentation-length video – Available in English, French, Arabic & Portuguese: DFAIT

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A 24-minute, broadcast-length documentary – International broadcasting rights have been obtained for stock footage; licensing fee for airing can be donated to NGOs. Available in English, French, Russian & Spanish: DFAIT

# SAFE LANE

CANADA'S LANDMINE BAN REPORT



Spring 2000, Number 11

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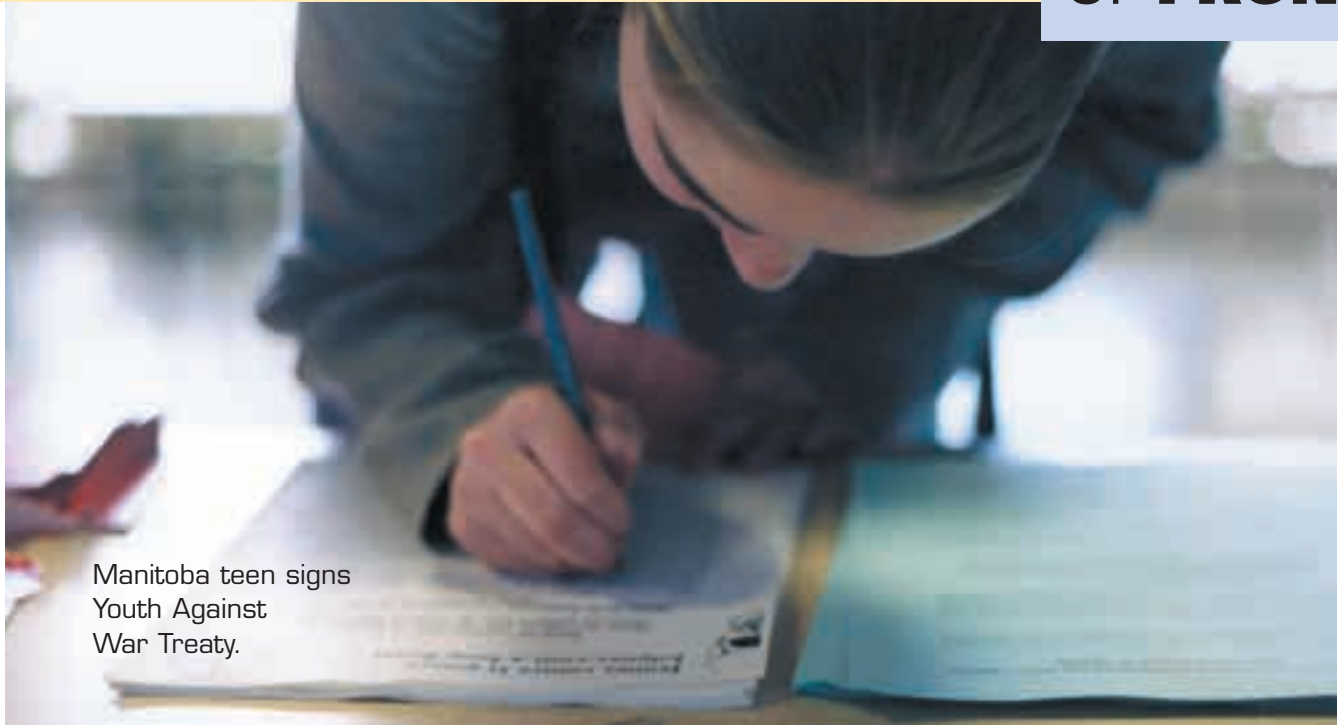
Submissions are invited from governmental agencies and NGOs active in the campaign against landmines. Please send articles of 400 words or less; *SafeLane* editors reserve the right to condense and adapt text. Captioned, print-quality photos much appreciated.

Send submissions, along with clear contact information, to:

Outreach and Communications, Mine Action Team (ILX), Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade

125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, ON, Canada, K1A 0G2  
Fax: (613) 944-2501

Cover photo: CP PICTURE ARCHIVE (Adrian Wyld)  
Left to right: Ray James of Med-Eng Systems; U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy; Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy; and Jordan's Queen Noor.



Manitoba teen signs  
Youth Against  
War Treaty.

Daryl Toews

## People vs. landmines? Canadians just do it

What do landmines have to do with a wealthy, northern country whose soil has been virtually free of armed conflict in 133 years of nationhood? Why should Canadians feel any connection with a crisis that must seem a world away, particularly a crisis that unfolds in slow motion, taking just a few victims at a time, relentlessly, but without the massive, single stroke body-counts that make headline news?

People in this country could be forgiven for feeling they have done their bit for this particular cause – having lent the name of their nation's capital to an international treaty banning these vicious weapons. The Ottawa Convention, which will mark the first anniversary of its entry-into-force this March, is now widely embraced. If treaties alone could clear land, the problem would be solved.

Millions, however, remain at risk as, day-by-day, these mindless

**Canadians are working to see the spirit of the treaty translate into action.**


sentinels continue to mistake civilians for the long-gone combatants they were intended to kill. The scale of the problem is such that it will take sustained commitment over several years to address.

What is this process we call “sustainability”? It is a spark that lights many candles. It is the commitment of an individual sharing his or her knowledge and inspiring others to act. It is the transformation of concerned individuals into a whole community of committed activists.

This issue of SafeLane cele-

brates Canadian efforts to keep the momentum alive, to see our bold and well-intentioned first steps through to their rightful end: a world with no more landmines and no more victims. Politicians and diplomats have played a role in leading other nations towards a ban. But as Nobel Peace Prize winner Jody Williams said on a recent visit to Ottawa, this movement started with the actions of ordinary people and it is ordinary people who will carry it through.

Both within and outside our borders, Canadians are working to see the spirit of the landmine treaty translated into sustained action. You'll read in this issue about high school students building crutch kits, wealthy patrons donating to landmine charities, youth ambassadors raising funds and awareness through 'Dance without Fear' and new Canadians trying to address landmine problems in their former homelands. All are united by a common Canadian sense of decency, an urge to do the right thing.

And as efforts such as theirs multiply, the more the possibility of ending the landmine crisis becomes a certainty. 

# MINE ACTION GOES PUBLIC AT BAN LANDMINES 99

On December 2-3, 1999, the Aberdeen Pavilion of Ottawa's Lansdowne Park – a venue better known for cattle shows – was temporarily transformed into a mine action showcase. The event brought together some of the landmine ban's most famous proponents, alongside many of those involved in the practical and dangerous work of clearing land and assisting mine victims and their communities.

For two days, the public had the opportunity to interact with a

[A Red Cross minefield rescue.](#)

range of players active in the global mine action effort, from equipment and services companies – such as protective suit manufacturers Med-Eng Canada and the dog trainers of Notra Systems – to mine clearance organizations such as Alberta's Wolf's Flat and Nova Scotia's Canadian International Demining Centre. Organizations working with victims – like World Vision and the Canadian Red Cross – were also there to share some of their experiences with the community impact of landmines. And mine ban advocates such as Mines

Action Canada and the Youth Mine Action Ambassador Program were on hand to tell people how to get involved.

According to Paul

**“These tours gave people a chance to stretch their imaginations, to connect with landmine victims and survivors.”**

Hannon, Executive Director of Mines Action Canada, one of the event organizers, Ban Landmines 99 brought home the reality of landmines to those not normally exposed to their impact.

“We succeeded in bringing together a great number of those

Ray James of Med-Eng Systems with Capt. Al Jensen.



active in the fight against these bloody weapons – key people – and at the same time, we provided the public a window on this issue.”

The event centred on tours of a simulated mined village which demonstrated the painstaking work of mine detection experts from Angola, Bosnia and Mozambique. Visitors – including students from several area schools – were put in the shoes of villagers returning to a mined community in the aftermath of conflict. After watching a short drama depicting a battlefield decision to deploy landmines, participants went through a mine awareness training session to prepare them to re-enter their mine-infested village. They witnessed a simulated mine accident, rescue operation and detection work by Norwegian Peoples Aid deminers working with specially trained sniffer dogs. Red Cross volunteers then debriefed tour members on the impact of mine accidents on victims and the challenges of treatment.

Canada's Youth Mine Action Ambassadors were instrumental in organizing the tours – escorting the public through the scenario and explaining what people in a typical mined community would experience.

For Youth Ambassador Jennifer Brammer, the simulation gave people a personal experience of something they have difficulty relating to their lives.

“One of the biggest challenges in working with the public is how to answer the



question, ‘Why should we care?’. This isn't a problem people see in their own backyard. These tours gave people a chance to stretch their imaginations, to connect with

landmine victims and survivors.”

Visitors had a chance to broaden their knowledge of the issue through multimedia exploration at the ‘cyber centre’ and by attending a mini ‘film festival’ and listening to guest speakers.

Expert panels spoke about importance of the treaty and making it work. Jordan's Queen Noor, Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy, U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy, and Nobel Peace Prize recipient Jody Williams spoke on the significance of the Mine Ban Convention, two years after it was first signed in Ottawa.

Williams appealed directly to those present to get involved in the issue: “Don't just care about it,” she implored. “Get up and do it.”

*continued on next page*



Doug Morrison of Notra Environmental Services with mine detection dog.

# BAN LANDMINES 99

– continued from page 3

Queen Noor, patron of the Landmine Survivors Network, spoke engagingly of Jordan's loss of access to sacred lands because of mine infestation and of her recent travels to meet with survivors and activists in Viet Nam.

The celebrities' presence, along with the striking images of deminers in protective gear, dogs at work and colourful displays by mine ban advocates proved a powerful draw to local and national

media. David Pardoe of the Canadian Red Cross was surprised by the volume of positive reporting:

"The media coverage was top-notch and displayed none of the "this is an old story" syndrome that we all dread. I think we reached a really large audience this way, through print, radio and TV."

Ban Landmines 99 was a coop-

erative effort among Mines Action Canada, DFAIT's Mine Action Team and the Canadian Red Cross.

**"One of the biggest challenges in working with the public is how to answer the question, 'Why should we care?'"**



Mike Pinder

Youth ambassador Carla Potts gives mine awareness briefing.



NPA deminers at work.

# Landmine Action Fund gives \$30,000 to CIDC

Public donations to the Canadian Landmine Action Fund (CLAF) have borne fruit with the fund's first grant to a mine action project.

On December 3, 1999 it was announced that \$30,000 from the CLAF would be donated to the Canadian International Demining Centre (CIDC), a not-for-profit Canadian demining organization.

The money will be used for the purchase and first-phase training of two mine detection dogs. There is a growing trend in demining operations to use sniffer dogs in area reduction to increase the efficiency of mine clearance. CIDC dogs are currently at work in Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)-sponsored mine clearance in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"Canadians should be proud of their contribution to landmine clearance around the world," says CIDC Chair Irving Schwartz. "CIDC is grateful to have the opportunity to train two dogs that will help in this worthwhile cause."

The Canadian Landmine Action Fund – a special purpose account created by DFAIT and Mines Action Canada – was established in 1998 to receive charitable

donations from the public for mine action projects in the field.

Funds raised so far include proceeds from 'Dance Without Fear' and other activities of the Youth Mine Action Ambassador Program, fundraising activities carried out at the Pan Am Games in Winnipeg 1999 and contributions from individual donors.

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and CIDC chairman Irving Schwartz with canine friend.



Margaret Murray/Edlyn Kennels



Mike Pinder

Left to right: Governor General Adrienne Clarkson; Queen Noor of Jordan; Prime Minister Jean Chrétien; John Ralston Saul; and Madam Aline Chrétien at Rideau Hall.

## Foundation supports Nicaragua demining

The Canadian Landmine Foundation – a recently launched private sector charitable foundation – has announced its first major funding commitment. The Foundation has dedicated US \$100,000 toward a bridge clearing program in Nicaragua, jointly supported by the Organization of American States (OAS).

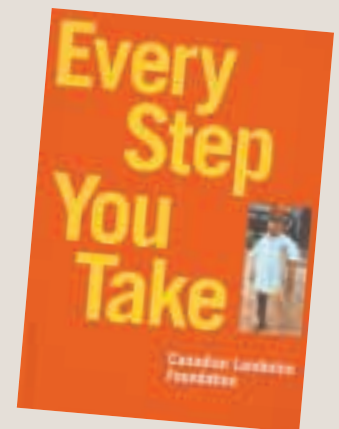
The Foundation expects to announce funding of more demining projects following its board meeting in April.

On December 3, 1999, Their Excellencies Adrienne Clarkson and John Ralston Saul hosted an inaugural dinner for the foundation at Rideau Hall, with Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan as Guest of Honour.

Founding Patrons gathered to celebrate the foundation and the second anniversary of the Ottawa Convention signing ceremony with Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and Madam Aline Chrétien, Ministers Lloyd Axworthy (DFAIT), Maria Minna (CIDA) and Art Eggleton (DND), and representatives from many Canadian and international organizations dedicated to the landmine issue.

For more information, contact the Canadian Landmine Foundation at 2 Lombard St., Suite 302, Toronto, Ontario, M5C 1M1. Tel.: (416) 365-9461, Fax: (416) 365-7109, e-mail: info@canadianlandmine.com, Web site: www.canadianlandmine.com.

— Canadian Landmine Foundation



## YOUTH AMBASSADORS: Mobilizing Canadians and crossing borders

This year's Youth Mine Action Ambassadors continue to demonstrate their commitment to the program's goal of creating "sustainable community action within Canada to support the global movement to end the suffering caused by landmines."

Since September 1999, almost 90 new volunteers have been trained and dozens of events have been held. Here is a snapshot of just some of the youth ambassadors' activities:

In Edmonton, Nancy Ingram helped students at Holy Trinity High School organize activities for a mine awareness day. The school has followed up by setting a fundraising target of \$10,000 to support landmine action. Jackie Hansen assisted a Vancouver school with the creation of an interactive floor game. Rochelle Johnston launched the program in Toronto in conjunction with Remembrance Day events. And Winnipeg's Darryl Toews set up

Winnipeg's Darryl Toews leads students on a mine awareness hike.

an experiential mine-field for students on a 10 kilometre hike.

Carla Potts organized a mine action awareness day for volunteers in Ottawa. Quebec City and Montreal youth ambas-

sadors Violaine Des Rosiers and Mélanie Gagnon represented the Youth Mine Action Ambassador Program (YMAAP) at La Francophonie in Moncton. More than 1,000 people visited a booth staffed by the Youth Ambassadors at le Village de la francophonie, where both Mélanie and Violaine did numerous media interviews.

A Québec city mounting of a large interactive landmine display by Violaine in November proved amazingly successful – attracting more than 7,000 visitors.

The youth ambassadors were also key to the success of Ottawa's Ban Landmines 99 event. In addition to organizing volunteers and school tours, they had a chance to roll up their sleeves for the cause, working flat out to help build the set. Barely skipping a beat, the ambassadors then moved directly



Mélanie Gagnon

Youth ambassador Violaine Des Rosiers and Jill Olscamp of the Fredericton YMCA at le Village de la francophonie.

on to a week-long training and evaluation session.

Exciting upcoming events are planned in all regions through the remainder of this year's program.

Dalhousie University will be the site of the first Atlantic Landmine Action Exhibition in February, as Halifax youth ambassador Jennifer Brammer works with campus-based organizations and regional mine action partners to raise public awareness of the landmine crisis and Canada's role. This exhibition features displays by local NGOs, a mine detection demonstration, expert speakers, and films.

The new year has brought numerous invitations to youth ambassadors from south of the border. Darryl Toews recently represented the program at the U.S. Presidential Candidates Forum





and Landmine Action Workshop in Iowa. Carla Potts will be joining the Canadian mission in Chicago and the American Refugee Committee in 'Focus on Hope' – an outreach initiative with five area schools to raise student awareness of refugee issues – including the impact of landmines. Rochelle Johnston will be working with the Consulate-General in Buffalo on a school twinning program to pair Ontario and New York students.

In the months ahead, youth ambassadors will prepare to travel abroad to a mine-affected region as part of their internship. Plans are being made for travel to Mozambique and Bosnia.

In the meantime, all are busy with plans for marking the second anniversary of the Mine Ban Treaty's entry-into-force on March 1. Events include faith services, landmine awareness days, 'Dance Without Fear' fundraisers and a host of other community based activities. Watch for details in local media!

The year will round out with Regional Youth Conferences in May to build the skills of youth across the country who want to do their part on this issue.

For more information on the program, contact the YMAAP Secretariat at 613-241-4141 or e-mail: [ymaap@sympatico.ca](mailto:ymaap@sympatico.ca).

— Gail Zboch,  
YMAAP Program Manager

**Since September 1999, almost 90 new volunteers have been trained and dozens of events have been held.**

## TOOLS FOR SURVIVAL: Ottawa students build crutch kits

Students at Sir Wilfrid Laurier Secondary School have taken on the task of making do-it-yourself crutch kits for landmine victims.

Developed by Ottawa entrepreneur Leonard Lee, owner of Lee Valley Tools, the landmine crutch kit consists of a wooden box containing all the tools required to build a wooden crutch using small trees or branches. Each kit contains a brace, drill bits, a tanen, a hack-

saw, a wood-cutting blade for the hacksaw and a small wooden model of a crutch.

The kits will be sent to coun-

tries where landmine injuries are a problem and the environment allows for crutches to be constructed by the local people. The advantage of the kit is that it allows crutches to be custom-made. When a person grows out of their crutches, for example, new ones can be built and the old ones passed on.

To build the boxes, project organizers arranged to have wood donated by Ottawa lumber-supplier Waerhauser while the branches to build the mini-crutches came from a local golf course being built outside of Ottawa.

With the help of teachers Iain Reid and Dave Rodger, the class has produced more than 100 boxes and mini-crutches. The goal is to have 500 boxes built by the end of February or early March.

The school also plans to develop a crutch-kit web page and organize an "empathy day". The students will build their own crutches and use them for a day.

This project builds on Sir Wilfrid Laurier's recent involvement in the landmine issue. The national Youth Mine Action Ambassador program was launched at the school in the fall of 1998.

Organizers would like to involve other schools in the project. For further information, contact Dave Rodger at: (613) 834-4500 or e-mail: [david\\_rodger@ocdsb.edu.on.ca](mailto:david_rodger@ocdsb.edu.on.ca)

— Dave Rodger, Sir Wilfrid Laurier Secondary School



Dave Rodger

Sir Wilfrid Laurier student with crutch assembled from kit.

## MINES ACTION CANADA: New tools and new partners

**M**ines Action Canada (MAC) launched the on-line Landmine Monitor database in early December. This new campaign tool, which can be accessed at [www.lm-online.org](http://www.lm-online.org), will be used to monitor compliance with the 1997 Landmine Treaty and its impact on the landmine crisis.

MAC is also helping to organize a pioneering conference of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines Non-State Actor (NSA) Working Group to address the problem of non-state actor use of landmines. Armed opposition groups (or NSAs) are not directly addressed in the 1997 Landmine Treaty and yet account for much of the current use of landmines. The conference will take place in Geneva in March.

Domestically, MAC continues to educate Canadians about the impact of landmines through its involvement in the Youth Mine Action Ambassador Program and

other programs.

MAC is supporting the work of the dynamic Cambodian Association of Ottawa Valley as it expands its education work on the landmine issue from Ottawa to Montreal, Quebec City, London and Toronto. The association has been

### **MAC continues to educate Canadians about the impact of landmines through its involvement in the Youth Mine Action Ambassador Program and other programs.**

organizing information evenings with the Cambodian-Canadian community to discuss the mine problem in Cambodia.

MAC is also beginning to work with Somalian-Canadian organizations interested in addressing the mine problem in Somalia, one of the most mine affected countries in Africa. In January, MAC and the Som-Can Institute for Research and Development co-organized a meeting of Somali-Canadian community leaders to discuss the issue.

On March 1, with the help of

the Jesuit Refugee Services in Cambodia, MAC will unveil a new symbol for the landmine campaign in Canada. The new symbol will be used to alert

Canadians that the battle against landmines is not yet won. Mines and similar weapons are still being used and mines already deployed are continuing to injure individuals and impoverish communities in many countries.

To increase involvement and expertise of NGOs addressing the problem on the ground, MAC is sponsoring a second capacity-building workshop for Canadian NGOs involved in mine clearance and victim assistance work in March.

For more information contact: Mines Action Canada, 1210-1 Nicholas St., Ottawa, Ontario, K1N 7B7, Tel: (613) 241-3777, e-mail: [macinfo@web.net](mailto:macinfo@web.net)

— *Mary Foster,*  
*Mines Action Canada*



*Left to right: Ebyan Salah, Som-Can Institute for Research and Development; Saacdia Nuh, Somali Centre for Youth, Women and Development; Idil Salah, consultant; international campaigner Rae McGrath; and Mary Foster of Mines Action Canada.*

# Kosovo: Reflections on a unique effort

LCol Normand Levert recently returned from a six-month secondment to Kosovo as Liaison Officer to the NATO peace-keeping force KFOR for the UN Mine Action Coordination Centre (MACC) in Pristina. He shares here his observations on how the project was coordinated and on Canada's assistance to the global effort in Kosovo through its work with the MACC.

Kosovo mine action may well be unique in history – Serbian capitulation came shortly after the First Meeting of States Parties to the Ottawa Convention. Kosovo is in Europe's backyard and the Kosovo crisis was front page news for months. At the First Meeting of States Parties in May 1999, diplomats discussed the need for rapid mine action and for the UN Mine Action Services (UNMAS) to be ready "for the likes of Kosovo".

The first humanitarian demining organisations rolled into Kosovo on the heels of the advancing NATO-led KFOR peacekeeping troops. UNMAS, through the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) sent an initial team in mid-June, to set up a Mine Action Co-ordination Centre (MACC) in Pristina, under the UN Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). In



Lenny Grogan and Dave Bruce of Wolf's Flat Ordnance Disposal check for mines at a pig farm near Pristina.

Mark O'Neill/Toronto Sun

addition to co-funding the initial UN assessment mission, Canada provided a serving military officer to be the MACC liaison officer to KFOR. I arrived in Kosovo on July 6th, 1999.

The international response to provide humanitarian demining was almost overwhelming. The MACC eventually would co-ordinate 17 different demining and ordnance disposal (EOD) organisations, ranging in size from two-man teams to some over 100 strong. As time went by, mine awareness education organisations

multiplied in Kosovo, so that by September there were many mine awareness initiatives running concurrently.

A traditional mine action centre *controls* mine action, on behalf of the national authorities within a national territory. The situation in Kosovo called for a different approach. There were too many demining agencies to be effectively controlled by the initial small group of MACC staffers. The solution adopted was to establish a mine action *coordination* centre. The basic philosophy was to provide overarching standards and direction, to certify humanitarian mine action organisations and to have the execution of mine action managed at the regional level, closer to actual needs.

Coordination among the key players in Kosovo (KFOR, UNMIK and NGOs) was facilitated by using common boundaries – the existing Kosovar internal boundaries. In this way, areas of responsibility of the military and various UN agencies matched well. NGOs

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## Year two of mine action

Canada is now developing the components of its second-year program for Kosovo. It will focus on:

- support for MACC;
- non-emergency mine clearance;
- mine awareness; and
- victim assistance.

## Yemen: Concrete steps to meet treaty obligations

As one of the strongest supporters of the Ottawa treaty process and the first country in its region to sign and ratify the Mine Ban Convention, Yemen has shown commitment and demonstrated leadership on this issue.

More than 100,000 mines were laid in South Yemen during the 1994 civil war, mostly in inhabited areas close to Aden. Several thousand mines from earlier conflicts remain scattered throughout the country. According to government sources, 30% of mined areas have been cleared. Yemen has also reported destruction of 42,000 stockpiled mines.

Mine clearance is conducted by two major entities in Yemen. The Demining Unit headed by the Engineering Department of the Ministry of Defence has been engaged in clearance work for many years. It now has a mandate to continue its mine clearance operations under the auspices of the recently founded National Demining Centre, funded largely by the United States.

Canada and the U.S. are the two main donors to Yemeni mine action. Canada's contributions include the provision of protective demining gear, victim assistance funding and \$1.5 million to the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) to conduct a level one survey in Yemen, now nearing completion. In all, Canadian funding to date surpasses \$1.9 million.

Canada's victim assistance programming consists of two CIDA funded projects coordinated by Canadian NGOs – ADRA Canada and Alternatives Canada. Both projects aim to reintegrate severely disabled victims into productive community living through increasing awareness of landmine disabilities, providing home based care to mine victims and training health care professionals to deal with survivors' special needs. ADRA is also cooperating with UNMAS in collecting mine victim data for the level one survey.

Future Canadian involvement in Yemen will probably focus on continued victim assistance.

## Kosovo: Reflections on a unique effort

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could also be assigned a geographic area that matched them with natural partners. For example, the largest of the Canadian demining organizations was assigned to the Glogovac municipality, within the area of responsibility of the Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry Battle Group, under British KFOR command.

Matching partners in this way eased coordination between the military and civilian camps of deminers. The MACC followed the same practice when assigning areas of responsibility to demining and mine awareness organisations. This in turn facilitated co-operation and co-ordination with KFOR at the regional level. Even so, the distribution of demining and eventually mine awareness education organisations within Kosovo was uneven in space and time. Sponsors sometimes eagerly sought to help in specific areas of Kosovo. It was a delicate balancing act for the MACC leadership to convince some donors to allow their resources to be re-directed to other areas of pressing need.

The Kosovo Mine Action Co-ordination Centre (MACC) grew quickly and became effective much

faster than Mine Action Centres in other parts of the world. Still, it could not grow fast enough to control the details of demining and EOD activities and, eventually, mine awareness activities in all the regions of Kosovo. The solution was to adopt a 'senior partner' in each of the five regions, corresponding with the five NATO led KFOR Multi-National Brigades sectors.

The senior partners acted as regional coordinators for mine action. In this way, calls for assistance did not come to the central office in Pristina to be relayed to an NGO in the vicinity of the demand. This was especially important because basic communications tools such as telephones were practically non-existent outside military circles for all of 1999.

By the close of the demining season, the coordination techniques described above were clearly paying off on the ground. In fact, even by mid-August, one could see the strategy working. Operations were already beginning to function quite well. By establishing these relationships among players, people got to know each other better and trust each other more which, in turn, led to even greater coordination.

— *LCol Normand Levert*



Col. Chip Bowness with General Teeradej Meepien.

## Mission assesses Thai mine action

A Canadian-sponsored delegation visited Thailand between November 29 and December 9 1999 to assess the role of the newly created Thailand Mine Action Centre and advise on the development of humanitarian demining capacity.

Thailand is a signatory to the AP Mine Ban Convention and has anti-personnel landmines along all four of its borders, a legacy of decades of regional conflicts, including the Viet Nam War and wars in Cambodia and Myanmar. The country has experience with military mine clearance along its borders and has contributed engineers and dogs to Cambodian clearance efforts, but will likely need international support to meet humanitarian standards for demining.

The three-person delegation was led by Col. Chip Bowness, Canadian military attaché in Seoul, and included George Fox and Chalermluck McCracken, all three with extensive mine action experience in neighbouring Cambodia. The mission was well received and well supported. As part of its assessment, the team had frank and productive discussions with General Teeradej Meepien, the Permanent Secretary of Defense, in his capacity as Chairman of the National Mine Action Committee.

The team also met with officials of the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs, interested donors, the UNDP and locally based NGOs. The delegation debriefed

with the Thai Sub-Committee of International Cooperation and Implementation of the Ottawa Treaty.

The mission's report is current-

ly being finalized and is expected to help to guide Thailand's continued progress towards a humanitarian demining program which meets international standards.

## Colombia: Mine awareness builds on commitment

To strengthen and assist Colombia's recent engagement with the anti-personnel mine ban treaty process, Canada is contributing \$100,000 to a UNICEF Colombia campaign to raise local awareness of the dangers of landmines.

While Colombian accession to the AP Mine Ban Convention is yet to be formally completed, President Andres Pastrana used the occasion of Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy's recent visit to sign his country's ratification legislation.

"We have taken the commitment to ensure the destruction of all the anti-personnel mines sewn in areas under state control within the next 10 years," said President Pastrana

at the January 14 signing ceremony.

The UNICEF-coordinated mine awareness project aims to prevent landmine accidents in 18 provinces of Colombia, help identify mine threats in populated areas and promote rehabilitation of mine victims. The project is being implemented by three local constituencies who will be working to meet international standards for mine awareness set by UNICEF, the lead UN agency in this field.

From December 8 to 11, the Scouts of Colombia kicked off a child-centred awareness campaign in which 150 Scouts led an additional 500 children through 'gamifying' exercises intended to familiarize them with landmines, their dangers

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## Colombia

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gers and appropriate strategies for avoiding and reporting them. This exercise will be repeated in several provinces over upcoming months.

The Kiwanis organization has conducted a nation-wide survey of mine survivors and will publish their findings in book form, complete with maps. The service group is also planning the premiere of a youth-targeted video on Colombia's AP mine problem—with the cooperation of Warner Brothers and Cine Colombia. The aim of the film will be to raise both awareness and funding for Kiwanis' work with child victims of AP mines.

The third prong of the local awareness project is work being undertaken by the Colombian Ministry of Communications to engage community radio stations in affected regions to reach local populations with a mine awareness message. The Ministry is also developing relations with the newly-created Colombian Campaign to Ban Landmines.

Canada supports this initiative as a means of encouraging ratification of the AP Mine Ban Convention and helping Columbia meet its treaty commitments. It also dovetails with priorities set by the international community for maximizing mine action efforts in countries attempting to resolve disputes and rebuild in the aftermath of conflict.

# Canada donates \$1 million to Slovenian Trust Fund

Last December, arrangements were completed for a \$1 million contribution by Canada to Slovenia's International Trust Fund (ITF) for mine action in Bosnia, Kosovo and Croatia. Recent conflicts in the Balkans have left the region severely infested with landmines which continue to take lives and impede peacetime reconstruction.



Carol Hart/CIDA

Clearing land in Bosnia.

In addition to building on existing Canadian mine action commitments in the Balkans, there are several compelling reasons for contributing through the ITF. Because the United States matches all contributions to the ITF on a dollar-for-dollar basis, our money is effectively doubled. Working with Slovenia also strengthens Balkan regional cooperation on mine action and affirms the integration of Slovenia into the global mine action community.

The sources for this funding are evenly split between the \$100 million Canadian Landmine Fund, announced in December 1997 and a \$100 million fund for Balkan reconstruction announced in November 1999. CIDA will contribute 60% of the funding and DFAIT will contribute 40%.

## Regional break-down of \$1 million contribution

**Bosnia: \$300,000**

**Kosovo: \$500,000**

**Croatia: \$200,000**

## ICBL: Ratification push continues

December 3, 1999 was an important date on the calendar for the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL).

The second anniversary of the opening for signature of the Mine Ban Treaty galvanized campaigners into worldwide action: from theatre and basketball games between disabled teams in Angola, to exhibits in South Korea and special hockey matches in the US. The international Landmine Monitor database was also launched online at [www.lm-online.org](http://www.lm-online.org) to mark the anniversary.

A second international landmines conference was held in the former Soviet Union in Tbilisi, Georgia from December 5 to 7. "Toward A Mine-Free Future: Outlook from the Caucasus on Landmines" was sponsored by ICBL members International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War and the Georgian Campaign to Ban Landmines. European ICBL members lobbied at the Helsinki Summit

of the European Union on December 10 and attended Citizens' Agenda 2000, an open platform for dialogue between European civil society and institutions.

The ICBL continued its commitment to the intersessional work program established in Maputo at the First Meeting of States Parties by actively participating in the first round of meetings. Human Rights Watch produced a Landmine Monitor fact sheet and press release for the opening of the Stockpile meeting. Through the course of the meeting it received new information and feedback and has issued a revised fact-sheet "Antipersonnel Landmine Stockpiles And Their Destruction" which is available on the ICBL Web site at <http://www.icbl.org/lm/1999/stockdestr.htm>

Prior to the Meeting on the General Status of the Treaty, ICBL wrote letters to all states parties and signatories expressing key ICBL concerns for the meeting. The meeting's agenda subsequently included all of the topics identified as top priorities for the ICBL and an ICBL represen-

Angolan celebrations marking second anniversary of the signing of the AP Mine Ban Treaty.

tative gave a presentation on each one. Important progress was made on a number of these key issues. Human Rights Watch circulated two new fact sheets, "Anti-vehicle Mines with Anti-handling Devices" and "Mine Ban Treaty Transparency Reporting," which are available at <http://www.icbl.org/lm/1999/factsheets.htm>.

The First Meeting of States Parties of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) – Amended Protocol II took place December 15 to 17. During the CCW talks, the ICBL made a renewed call to all governments to become party to the Mine Ban Treaty. The ICBL particularly criticized on-going use of antipersonnel mines by both sides in the conflict in Chechnya.

January 31 to February 2, 2000, the Landmine Monitor held a meeting in Brussels of its expanded network of approximately 100 researchers to prepare for its second annual report on progress in the implementation of the ban treaty.

The current campaign Action Alert is for ratification. ICBL continues to push for at least 100 ratifications by March 1, 2000. The ICBL, UNICEF and the International Committee of the Red Cross are undertaking a coordinated letter-writing campaign to urge all signatories to ratify by this date. Campaigners will visit embassies of targeted signatories in capitals around the world and will mark the first anniversary of entry into force around the globe.

— Liz Bernstein, ICBL



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# Campaigners converge on Des Moines, Iowa

International, national and local landmine ban campaigners met in Des Moines, Iowa on January 7 and 8, 2000 for a series of high-profile media and grassroots organizing events.

The purpose of the Iowa gathering was for campaigners – including Nobel Peace Prize co-laureates Jody Williams and Tun Channereth, General Robert

Gard, Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation military advisor and Ken Rutherford, co-founder of Landmine Survivors Network – to press all presidential candidates to take a strong position in favour of the Mine Ban Treaty.

The candidates and the national press corps spent a great deal of time in Iowa leading up to the Iowa Caucuses on January 24, giving mine ban campaigners an opportunity to educate an attentive public about landmines and demand a response from the candidates.

Upon arrival in Des Moines, Iowa on January 6 for the high-profile Iowa Caucuses later that month, United States Democratic candidate Senator Bill Bradley publicly endorsed the Landmine Ban Convention stating that, if elected, he would sign it.

Another purpose of the gathering was to spotlight the work

Iowa Senator Tom Harkin and ICBL campaigner Tun Channereth with mine ban campaign poster.

of Iowans to Ban Landmines, a grassroots campaign organized by Physicians for Human Rights and the US Campaign to Ban Landmines (USCBL).

Iowans to Ban Landmines gathered 2,000 signatures on petitions urging all presidential aspirants to support the Mine Ban Treaty and assembled a Blue Ribbon Steering Committee of 40 prominent Iowans from across the political spectrum.

The Iowans and their USCBL and ICBL supporters met with the *Des Moines Register* editorial board and gave a well-attended press conference on January 7th, complete with a simulated mine field that looked like an Iowa cornfield, surrounded by 'Danger Mines!' signs and mine field tape.

The acting mayor of Des Moines, Christine Hensley, presented Jody Williams and Tun Channereth with keys to the city, and Iowa Governor Vilsack proclaimed Saturday, January 8 Landmines Awareness Day. The Associated Press ran a lengthy story on the event which appeared in the *Des Moines Register* and other Iowa papers on January 8 and 9.

On January 8, some 65 Iowa ban campaigners joined the ICBL and USCBL campaigners for a workshop at Des Moines University. Canadian Youth Mine Action Ambassador Darryl Toews and representatives of the Minnesotans to Ban Landmines participated in the workshop along with Williams, Gard, Rutherford, Channereth and PHR organizers.

— *Holly Burkhalter,*  
*Advocacy Director,*  
*Physicians for Human Rights*





## Iowa: Youth Ambassador gets taste of international campaign

On January 7 and 8, 2000, I had the privilege of representing the Canadian movement to ban landmines at the Campaign to Ban Landmines Action Workshop in Des Moines, Iowa.

The event, centred around the Democratic presidential candidates' debate, was the perfect forum to promote Canada's Youth Mine Action Ambassador Program

(YMAAP) as a model that could be adapted for the growing U.S. campaign. I spoke to activists from Iowa, Minnesota and other states about the outreach work being done by Canadian youth ambassadors and the success we are having involving young people in the landmine issue.

The Iowa event was also an incredible opportunity to meet and talk with individuals central to the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), including Jody

Williams and Tun Channereth, co-recipients of the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize and International Ambassadors with the ICBL. Both sent personal messages of encouragement and support to Canadian young people who want to help end the threat caused by anti-personnel landmines.

I returned to Manitoba with a greater sense of being part of an important international movement.

— *Darryl Toews, Youth Mine Action Ambassador – Manitoba/Saskatchewan*



Youth ambassador Darryl Toews with ICBL ambassador Jody Williams.



Jeff Kan Leef/Santa Rosa Press Democrat

## Concerts draw Californians to the cause

Emmylou Harris in concert.

During the first five days of December, music was the medium for unprecedented attention to the campaign to ban anti-personnel landmines in California.

Legendary singer-songwriters such as Emmylou Harris, Kris Kristofferson, Mary Chapin Carpenter and Canadian Bruce Cockburn performed to sold-out houses and standing ovations in a five-city concert tour to promote the Campaign for a Landmine Free World sponsored by the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation (VVAFA).

The Canadian Consulate General in Los Angeles worked with the VVAFA to promote the concerts and to draw influential members of local communities to the events. During each concert, VVAFA President Bobby Muller highlighted the grievous harm caused by landmines and Canada's leadership in forging the international agreement to ban them.

Canadian Consul General, the Rt. Hon. Kim Campbell, capped the tour with a luncheon on December 6, marking the second anniversary of the treaty signing and honouring U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy and Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy for their leadership on the anti-landmines campaign.

Responding to generous comments from Senator Leahy about Canadian leadership, and especially the role of Minister Axworthy, Ambassador for Mine Action Daniel Livermore called the attention of the assembled leaders from religious, human rights, public affairs, foreign policy and entertainment communities to the generous U.S. role in demining, as well as the need to view the treaty as a new beginning, rather than an end in itself, since universalization and implementation still lie ahead.

— *Jerry Kramer, Consulate General of Canada, Los Angeles*

# Treaty status and operation – SCE meets

On January 10, 2000, Canada and South Africa opened the first meeting of the Standing Committees of Experts (SCEs) on the General Status and Operation of the Ottawa Convention (Committee 5). This committee is one of five SCEs launched at the First Meeting of States Parties in May 1999 as part of an intersessional work program to identify and resolve practical challenges to implementing the Ottawa Convention.

Officials from approximately 30 states parties and 10 non-states parties met in Geneva for two days along with representatives of relevant international and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

The meeting reviewed progress to date in the intersessional program. Delegates discussed the Article 7 reporting process, stockpiles retained for development and training, measures being taken by states parties to implement the ban, compliance measures, definitional aspects of the Convention and promoting universalization.

Among the points of consensus at the meeting was an agreement to pursue means of broadening participation and streamlining the intersessional work. The co-chairs, Canada and South Africa, will present recommendations on this topic at the next Committee 5 meeting scheduled for May. Participants also strongly supported the notion that all parties should press ahead with universalization efforts, with a short term target seeking the 100th ratifica-

tion by March 1, 2000. Participants were encouraged to work at greater coordination of ratification efforts.

As a result of discussions prompted by the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) on the numbers of AP mines being retained for development and training, it was recommended that states parties be encouraged to submit information on their anticipated use of stockpiled mines to the May 2000 meeting. States parties who have retained no stockpiles for this purpose were also invited to provide their perspective on the issue.

The ICBL and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) asked why so few states parties have passed legislation on national implementation measures. States parties are encouraged to provide more information on their approach to implementation and on national implementing institutions.

A paper distributed by the ICBL also prompted live-

ly discussion on matters related to Article 2: definitions. The paper raised questions about definitions of anti-handling devices and anti-vehicle mines, as well as on the presence of foreign mines stockpiled in the territories of states parties and on the “understandings” of some states parties with respect to the Convention. Co-chairs will undertake informal consultations with a view to the possible establishment of an expert group on definitional issues.

The meeting concluded with planning discussions on a number of aspects of the Second Meeting of States Parties, scheduled to take place in Geneva, September 11 to 15, 2000.

## Intersessional Work: Coordinating treaty implementation

The intersessional work program, established at the FMSP, involves five standing committees of experts (SCEs) meeting twice between meetings of states parties, to focus efforts on the following themes:

- mine clearance;
- victim assistance, socio-economic reintegration and mine awareness;
- stockpile destruction;
- technologies for mine action; and,
- the general status and operation of the Convention.

Documents pertaining to the intersessional program can be found on the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining Web site at [www.gichd.ch](http://www.gichd.ch).

# SCE Report: Stockpile Destruction

**D**estroying stockpiled anti-personnel (AP) mines is essential to establishing an effective ban on AP mines. Eliminating stockpiled mines is the only way to guarantee that they will never be used to harm innocent civilians. Stockpile destruction is also a cost-effective way to use mine action resources, since destroying mines before they are placed in the ground is as much as 1000 times cheaper than mine clearance.

It is difficult to estimate the numbers of AP mines currently held in stockpiles, as they are held by militaries and often subject to secrecy on the basis of national security concerns. Current estimates range as high as 250 million mines. Given the lack of information on the numbers and composition of government stockpiles, efforts to destroy stockpiles must be coordinated among states and in concert with interested NGOs, technical specialists and private sector organizations.

The first SCE meeting on Stockpile Destruction took place December 9 and 10, 1999 in Geneva. This was the first time an international meeting of such scope had been convened on this theme. As a result, initial discussions focussed on establishing priorities for the international community and concrete tasks to enable a quicker, safer,

more efficient and environmentally sound process for destroying stockpiles. Among the issues highlighted were:

- the need to work toward ensuring that states fulfil their stockpile destruction obligations under Article 4 of the Convention;
- the importance of helping states gain access to appropriate technologies and techniques for the destruction of their stockpiles; and
- the need for transparency, monitoring and verification during the process of destruction.

A number of concrete initiatives were proposed, including the establishment of technical working groups to examine specific issues, providing the widest possible access to relevant scientific and technical data (probably through a dedicated Web site), coordinated political efforts to raise global awareness of the need for stockpile destruction and the establishment of mechanisms to match donor countries with states needing destruction assistance.

A follow-up SCE meeting will bring representatives of the international community together again in May 2000. This meeting will work towards concrete outcomes which can be shared at the Second Meeting of States Parties to the Ottawa Convention in September 2000.



M. Wareham/CBL

## Stockpiles: The global picture

Figures released by the ICBL in December 1999 put the total number of stockpiled AP mines destroyed at 17 million, with an estimated 250 million remaining in 105 countries.

Countries that have completed destruction:

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, El Salvador, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Luxembourg, Mali, the Netherlands, Norway, the Philippines, South Africa, Switzerland and the United Kingdom

Countries that have recently reported progress on destruction:

Croatia, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Slovenia, and Spain.

SCE