



Canada, Bosnia-Herzegovina Sign Memoranda of Understanding on Health Reform

(SARAJEVO, Date September 12, 2007) Ambassador of Canada to Bosnia and Herzegovina David Hutchings, together with Minister of Civil Affairs Sredoje Nović today signed two Memoranda of Understanding for Canadian-funded projects aimed at reforming the health sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Memoranda of Understanding set out the terms and conditions for Canada's and Bosnia's participation in the C\$7 million (approximately €4.85 million) Balkans Primary Health Care Policy project, and the C\$7 million Balkans Youth and Health project. Both projects will also be implemented in Serbia, with half of the budget of each project being devoted to activities in each country. Both projects will continue until September, 2009.

The Balkans Primary Health Care Policy project, which is being implemented by the Canadian Society for International Health and Queen's University (Kingston, Ontario) will develop capacity and provide technical advice on the design and implementation of primary health care reforms in key areas, including policy development, strategic planning, and human resource management. The Balkans Youth and Health project, also being implemented by the Canadian Society for International Health together with the World University Service of Canada will: assist in the design and delivery of youth-friendly models of health counseling, diagnosis and treatment; and will undertake education and outreach initiatives aimed at promoting healthy lifestyle choices.

"Ensuring that a nation's citizens have access to a modern and well-functioning health system is of prime importance," said Ambassador Hutchings. "Without a healthy population, governments can't function, economies falter, and nations grow weaker. These projects should contribute not just to keeping Bosnians healthy, but to keeping the country of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a whole a healthy and contributing member of the European neighbourhood."

Canada has been delivering technical assistance to the Balkans including Bosnia and Herzegovina since 1990, and has disbursed over C\$540 million in funding for some 800 projects. Programming in Bosnia and Herzegovina is focused on two broad sectors which are critical to the transition process and are in line with the priorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina: health, and rule of law. Gender equality between women and men, youth, refugees/internally displaced persons, and the environment are cross-cutting themes.

- 30 -

Additional information:
Technical Cooperation Section
Canadian Embassy
Tel: +33 222 -033