

LANDMINES



BANNER

Mines Action Canada's Newsletter
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March organized by students at St. Michael's University School in Victoria, BC in support of MAC. Photo: SMUS

CANADIAN LANDMINE ACTION WEEK

Clearing the Path: Removing Lethal Barriers

February 23rd – March 1st, 2009

We did it! The work of Canadians and concerned civil society groups as well as supportive governments around the world has resulted in the Ottawa Treaty banning landmines and the newly created Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). Together, these international treaties outline state obligations on these indiscriminate weapons, and affirm the global community's commitment to end the suffering they create. From words to concrete action, the fulfillment of these goals is becoming a reality. Significant decreases in landmine stockpiles, contaminated land, and mine-related casualties all indicate a transition to a mine free world. **As Canadians, we have played a fundamental role in clearing the dangerous and devastating path left by these weapons.** We have much to be proud of!

Despite these achievements, **there is still much to be done.** The messages that need to be sent are clear. To the small number of countries not yet part of the Ottawa Treaty: join and ratify, stop producing these weapons, and destroy your stockpiles. To affected countries: meet your commitments to survivors by providing appropriate victim assistance, and avoid future tragedies by increasing land clearance operations. To the international community: enhance your diplomatic efforts to universalize these documents, and increase the level of assistance to countries in need. In short, remove all barriers that inhibit the full realization of a world free of landmines and cluster bombs – the barriers are real and their consequences are lethal.

(continued on back page)

DONATE!

Now more than ever, MAC needs your support in the campaign against landmines and cluster bombs.

Here's how you can help!

Donate Online:

www.minesactioncanada.org

Mail a Cheque:

Payable to: Mines Action Canada
1502-1 Nicholas Street
Ottawa, ON K1N 7B7

Become a Monthly Donor:

Contact info@minesactioncanada.org

Join iGive.com

A portion of your online shopping will be donated to MAC—at no cost to you.

Use the [iSearchiGive](http://iSearchiGive.com) Toolbar

A donation will be made to MAC every time you do an online search. Download isearch.igive.com/toolbar.cfm and select Mines Action Canada as your cause.

Buy a gift at

www.changingthepresent.org

Find Mines Action Canada in the "For Nonprofits" section.

UNCERTAIN FUTURE FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS INTERNATIONAL MINE ACTION PROGRAM

The future is bright for the 10 Young Professionals newly returned from working with MAC's partners overseas. The future of the program, however, is uncertain. There have been no updates on the status of CIDA's International Youth Internship Program (IYIP) or the funding application process since fall 2008 when the Canadian International Development Agency said renewal of IYIP required Treasury Board approval.

MAC launched the Young Professionals International Mine Action Program (YPIMAP) in 2004 in response to calls from our over-worked, under-resourced partners for help to run their campaigning activities. Since then, **51 young Canadians have contributed their skills, time and enthusiasm to International Campaign to Ban Landmines organizations in countries from Azerbaijan to Zambia.**

Laura Adviento, currently finishing a placement with Instituto de Ecologia Politica in Chile, notes "for my host organization, the internship has provided

YP Nathan Muegge applied his mechanical engineering background to support the mine clearance work of Handicap International in Mozambique such as the operation pictured below. Photo: Nathan Muegge



African campaigners add their names to the People's Treaty at an event organized as part of the Regional Conference on Cluster Munitions by YP Matt Campbell working with the Uganda Landmine Survivors Association. Photo: Matt Campbell

help that would otherwise not be available. Many of the people that are involved in mine action also take on several other responsibilities. I have been able to provide the extra help and organization that is needed to push initiatives forward."

YPIMAP has been the launching pad for impressive careers. Young Professionals have gone on to work with CIDA, Department of Foreign Affairs, international mine action organizations, and a range of Canadian NGOs. Their accomplishments, both during their internships and since, make MAC proud and are testament to the importance of international internship programs.

In the words of Jordan Nott, the 2008-09 Young Professional with the Relief and Development Organization in Ethiopia, the program "allows young Canadians to work with well-established leaders in the field of international development in Canada and in the developing world. Without being able to participate in this program, I would be in the same position I was in when I graduated from university: a young person with lots of skill and drive but no real experience."

IYIP grants \$15,000 per internship which covers the interns' monthly stipend, airfare, health insurance, visa costs, pre-departure briefing, post-placement career development training, as well as costs to MAC to administer the program. Louis Century, Young Professional with the Zambian Campaign to Ban Landmines, says "The program, though miniscule in the context of Canadian aid and the federal budget, enjoys unparalleled international repute. CIDA-funded interns spread Canadian values of peace and solidarity in corners of the globe; furthermore, these Canadians return home equipped with unique and diverse skills and perspectives."

"I am proud that my government has committed resources and funding to sponsor youth work internationally. NGOs in Canada and abroad can work with government to attain change and promote long term sustainable development. The youth have a right to play a role in change and YPIMAP offers this opportunity," said Harini Nallapothola at end of her internship with the Society for All Round Development in India.

If you think CIDA's International Youth Internship Program is important and should be continued, please tell your Member of Parliament!



MAC's Executive Director Paul Hannon (far left) and others witness Canada's signature on the Convention on Cluster Munitions in Oslo, Norway, 3 December 2008. Photo: Gyro

CLUSTER BOMBS BANNED! CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS SIGNED!

Once again, MAC helped make history! On 3 December, 94 countries gathered in Oslo, Norway to sign the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). Tunisia has since signed the treaty, bringing the total number of signatories to 95. The CCM is the inspiring result of years of campaigning by the international Cluster Munition Coalition, of which MAC is a founding member.

The treaty bans the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of cluster munitions and places obligations on countries to clear affected areas, assist victims and destroy stockpiles. It is the most significant treaty of its kind since the Ottawa Treaty banning anti-personnel landmines in 1997. Like the Ottawa Treaty, this new treaty is likely to have a powerful effect in stigmatizing cluster bombs, so that even those countries that do not sign the treaty will not be able to use them without being subject to international condemnation.

Thanks to the efforts of MAC and people like you, Canada was one of the first countries to sign the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Over 150,000 Canadians and other supporters worldwide signed the People's Treaty pledging their support to the ban on cluster bombs. "The People's Treaty sent a loud and clear message to our government that Canadians think the Convention on Cluster Munitions is important and Canada should do everything it can to make cluster bombs a thing of the past," said MAC's Executive Director, Paul Hannon.

MAC and our international partners will be working hard throughout 2009 to ensure Canada and other countries ratify the CCM so the Treaty can be implemented without delay. The People's Treaty is your way of telling governments that their commitment does not end with a signature.

LANDMINE MONITOR LAUNCH

The 10th annual Landmine Monitor Report was released on 21 November 2008. The 2008 report contains information on mine ban policy, demining, casualties, risk education, victim assistance and support for mine action in 121 countries and areas. The report can be viewed online at:

www.icbl.org/lm/2008.

PEOPLE'S TREATY

Cluster bombs cause predictable and unacceptable harm to civilians, both at the time of use and for many years after. It is my strong belief that these weapons are morally unacceptable.

I fully support the new international treaty on the prohibition of the use, stockpiling, transfer, and production of cluster bombs.

Through **their signature and ratification of this treaty**, governments will legally commit themselves not only to ban cluster bombs, but also to clear contaminated land and provide assistance to victims and affected communities.

Through **my signature** on the People's Treaty, I commit to work to ensure that governments live up to their obligations.

www.minesactioncanada.org

SIGN TODAY!

minesactioncanada.org/peoples_treaty

Landmine Monitor Report
TOWARD A MINE-FREE WORLD
2008

CAMPAIGN AGAINST LANDMINES

Photo: Joseph Wenkoff

Canadian Landmine Action Week (continued)

February 23rd – March 1st, 2009 marks the ninth annual **Canadian Landmines Action Week (CLAW)**. This year's theme is **Clearing the Path – Removing Lethal Barriers**. It is a time to recognize our leadership in clearing the path of victim-activated weapons, and to take stock of the legal, political, and financial barriers that continue to prevent the realization of goals set out in the Ottawa Treaty and Convention on Cluster Munitions. It is an opportunity to: highlight the movement's past successes and the challenges ahead; reinforce Canadian commitment to human security through public events; mobilize people to tell their political leaders that these issues are important to us; fundraise to support MAC's vital role in this movement; and finally, to have a great time! Organize and participate in any number of events, including public lectures, mock mine fields, poetry and art showcases, film screenings, and music concerts.

Even better, become directly involved in CLAW! You can:

- 1) sign and collect signatures for the People's Treaty;
- 2) engage your community and local governments through awareness raising events;
- 3) fundraise to support Canada's campaign against landmines and cluster bombs.

There are many resources available to help you get started. Downloadable educational and promotional material can be accessed in the "Resources" section of our website, including a Raise It & Donate It event idea kit.

Check www.minesactioncanada.org regularly for event information. Contact claw@minesactioncanada.org or 613 241 3777 with questions and ideas.



Student at St. Michaels University School in Victoria, BC adds her voice to the campaign against landmines and cluster bombs. Photo: SMUS

Tear Off and Mail to MAC: #1502-1 Nicholas St, Ottawa, ON, K1N 7B7

Landmines and other victim-activated weapons continue to maim and kill daily...
The next step is critical and it's YOURS. **Act now** to support MAC's work for a mine-free world!

- Please accept my monthly contribution of: \$10 \$15 \$20 \$25 \$_____
- I prefer to give \$_____ as a one-time donation.

Payment options:

- My cheque is enclosed. Please make payable to Mines Action Canada.
- Please bill my credit card: VISA Master Card American Express Diners Club

Card #: _____ Expiry date _____

Name on card (Please print) _____ Signature _____

- I would like to be added to MAC's mailing list to receive updates
- I do not want my name listed as a MAC supporter on MAC's website and publications.

Name _____ Age: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____ Email: _____

OR: Donate online using your credit card at www.minesactioncanada.org

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the strong advocacy nature of Mines Action Canada, we are not eligible for charitable status and we cannot issue tax receipts. You will receive a letter acknowledging your contribution and our annual financial reports will be posted on our website.