

For immediate release:

## **Canada Leads The Way**

February 28, 2009 – Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup> marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the day the Ottawa Treaty banning landmines became international law.

In October 1996, Canada challenged the world to eliminate landmines. This effort culminated in the signing of the Ottawa Treaty on December 3, 1997 - outlawing production, use and trade in anti-personnel landmines. Promoting, negotiating and implementing of the Treaty gave Canada a new role and a distinctive voice on international issues. It reshaped the global community's assumptions on global affairs and set a new precedent on how to stop humanitarian disasters.

Canadian Landmine Foundation President Scott Fairweather said "This Treaty marks the first time in the history of the world that government and civil society, working together, eliminated a weapon that had some military utility. What a tremendous step forward for mankind!"

Across Canada fundraising dinners are occurring to support the removal of mines around the world. "Through the efforts of the Canadian Landmine Foundation in partnership with Rotary Clubs, United Churches and others, Canadians continue to lead the way", said Board of Directors Chairman Tom Molloy.

The Canadian Landmine Foundation is Canada's leading awareness building and fundraising organization for humanitarian landmine action. Directors include former Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy, past Rotary International President Wilf Wilkinson, and former Canadian Ambassador for Mine Action Dan Livermore.

More details at [www.canadianlandmine.org](http://www.canadianlandmine.org).

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