

**For Immediate Release:**

**Mine-Affected Countries: Landmine Crisis Not Over!**

(Toronto – November 24, 2008) Today country representatives will gather in Geneva for the Ninth Meeting of State Parties to discuss the progress of the Ottawa Treaty that bans anti-personnel landmines.

Although, the treaty has been a success in diplomatic terms, at this conference many of the most heavily mined countries will be letting the world know that there is still a long way to go. Article 5 of the treaty obligated these countries to be mine-free by March 2009. The countries will be asking for clearance extensions because they lack the resources to meet the 2009 treaty deadline.

Many developed countries pledged to support mine action programs in countries that lacked the economic capacity to ensure that they met their treaty deadline. Sadly, the Geneva conference demonstrates that the support has been inadequate.

**The landmine crisis is not over!**

Millions of landmines continue to lay hidden in the ground, waiting to strike in over 70 countries around the world. Sadly, thousands of people (76% civilians) are killed or injured by new landmine blasts every year, taking the lives of children, farmers and mothers. The longer it takes, the greater the toll - more injuries, more deaths and more poverty. Much more is needed to be done!

We encourage Canadians to join thousands of others and take part in the Night of Thousand Dinners (N1KD) to rid the world of landmines. Host a dinner in your home, office, or with others in your community. Instead of your guests bringing wine, flowers, or dessert invite them to make a donation to the Canadian Landmine Foundation.

This year, the Canadian Landmine Foundation is focusing its N1KD campaign on helping Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and other countries to become mine safe as quickly as possible. To do this, we will be funding two particular programs with the proceeds from N1KD:

- A significant demining project in BiH
- Canine Demine - Raise the most money for a mine detection dog and you get the opportunity to name it. Be the TOP DOG!

For more information on N1KD and to register to receive a Host kit visit:

[www.canadianlandmine.org](http://www.canadianlandmine.org).

Please support the eradication of landmines. 2009 is fast approaching, the obligations will not be met, and more effort is needed finish the job!

For more information:  
Paul Faucette  
Manager of Programs and Campaigns  
Canadian Landmine Foundation  
P: 613-422-8608  
E: [paul@canadianlandmine.org](mailto:paul@canadianlandmine.org)