

Canadian Delegation to the  
Organization for Security & Cooperation  
in Europe



ENGLISH only  
Délégation du Canada auprès de  
l'Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération  
en Europe

**DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE  
STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR FREDERICKA GREGORY  
ON JOINT PROTECTION OF BORDERS BETWEEN RUSSIA AND  
SEPARATIST REGIONS OF ABKHAZIA AND SOUTH OSSETIA  
760<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL  
7 MAY 2009**

Thank you Madame Chairperson,

I'm taking the floor today to mark a rather "frosty week" in relations between NATO and the Russian Federation, and to flag Canada's concerns about recent developments in Georgia that, in our view, are not going in the right direction for the OSCE's important work in the areas of confidence-building and conflict management.

The Russian Federation's recent agreements with the *de facto* authorities of Georgia's two breakaway regions are a disturbing development.

In our view, these agreements are a clear attempt by Moscow and the *de facto* regional authorities to legitimize the presence of thousands of Russian troops in the separatist regions, and to control the administrative boundary lines. We consider this action a clear violation of the cease-fire agreement of August 12<sup>th</sup> 2008, which required all forces to pull back to positions held before the fighting broke out last August. These agreements constitute an unacceptable violation of Georgia's territorial integrity.

The Russian Federation is failing to comply with its OSCE Commitments and relevant principles of international law.

Canada is also concerned by the CiO's report today before the Council that the *de facto* authorities in South Ossetia did not facilitate access to the Geneva Process Co-Chairs, during their visit to Georgia this week. This is unacceptable and runs contrary to the spirit and goals of the Geneva Process and the OSCE. We encourage all parties to ensure the free and unhindered access across Georgia administrative borders.

Canada remains committed to support efforts aimed at a peaceful and sustainable solution to this situation, and at ensuring a continued and meaningful OSCE presence in all parts of Georgia towards this end.

Thank You Madame Chairperson.