



FEB 20 2009

Mr. Stephen D. Goose
Executive Director, Arms Division
Human Rights Watch
1630 Connecticut Avenue Northwest, Suite 500
Washington D.C. 20009
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Goose:

On behalf of the Honourable Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Foreign Affairs, I wish to thank you for your letter of January 30, 2009, concerning cluster munitions.

Canada was among the 46 countries to endorse the Oslo Declaration in February 2007, and participated actively throughout the process that led to the successful negotiation of the new Convention on Cluster Munitions in Dublin, in May 2008. The Government of Canada was pleased to sign the Convention on December 3, 2008.

The next step in the process will be the formal consideration of ratification. However, it is Canadian practice that all domestic legislation must be in place, prior to ratification of any international agreement that requires that legislation be enacted.

Because Cabinet has not yet considered ratification, it would be premature to provide information with respect to the implementation of the Convention. Canadian officials are preparing documentation so that Cabinet can consider ratification at the earliest possible date.

Canada is committed to destroying its complete stockpile of cluster munitions. Canada has destroyed all stocks of "Rockeye" bombs and is in the process of destroying stocks of M483A1 155mm artillery projectiles.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

Paul Hong
Director of Policy
Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs