



Organization of
American States

Canadian Minister of State of Foreign Affairs (Americas and Consular Affairs) visit to OAS Adjacency Zone Office

October 13, 2012

The Honourable Diane Ablonczy, Minister of State of Foreign Affairs (Americas and Consular Affairs), completed her official visit to Central America, visiting the Belize and Guatemala Adjacency Zone. The Minister was accompanied by the Chief Executive Officer of Belize's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Alexis Rosado, Guatemala's Vice-Minister of External Relations, Carlos Raúl Morales, the OAS Secretary General's Special Representative for Belize and Guatemala, Ambassador Raúl Lago, the Chief of the Peace Fund, Magdalena Talamas and the Director of the OAS Office in the Adjacency Zone, Sergio Benitez. "Our government is committed to working alongside our neighbours throughout the region to improve safety and security for the people who call the Americas home," said Minister Ablonczy. "Canada is pleased that Guatemala and Belize are working closely together to resolve the issue of the Adjacency Zone between their two countries. We are confident that a resolution will improve the stability and security of both nations and are pleased to be helping to achieve a peaceful result." The work of the OAS Office in the Adjacency Zone is crucial as it contributes to reducing violence and insecurity, while improving prospects and conditions for effective conflict resolution. Canada recently announced \$1 million in additional support for the Organization of American States (OAS) Office in the Adjacency Zone to help it in its work to bring Guatemala and Belize toward a permanent solution. This adds to the \$445,000 Canada has contributed to the Office since 2009.