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## CRS Named Centre of Excellence for Third World Development

The Centre for Refugee Studies (CRS) at York University has been designated a "Centre of Excellence in International Development" by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

York has the largest concentration of scholars undertaking refugee research in Canada, while the CRS is one of the main centres of its kind in the world.

CIDA will provide approximately \$5.2 million over 5 years to York University to increase and integrate research projects in the areas of settlement, resettlement, repatriation and the law.

These research projects will be primarily geared to assisting refugees and improving the policies and programs of non-government and government agencies dedicated to serving the

needs and responding to the rights of refugees.

The CIDA grant will enable the CRS to expand its research into the whole international refugee field. The funds will also contribute towards the publication of an annual survey and the establishment of a new program in refugee studies at York.

## Refugee Law Research Unit Publications

The Refugee Law Research Unit has recently been established under the direction of James C. Hathaway as an operating Unit of Osgoode Hall Law School's Centre for Research on Public Law and Public Policy, and a partner of York University's Centre for Refugee Studies. Its primary goal is to promote understanding of the Convention definition of refugee status, and more generally to promote the humane application and progressive reform of international and Canadian refugee law.

Among the projects of the Unit, one of the most important is the preparation of a series of discussion papers on issues of refugee law. The first discussion paper deals with the recent decision of the

Federal Court of Appeal in the case of *Patrick Francis Ward*, a citizen of the United Kingdom and Ireland whose claim to refugee status was ultimately denied by Canada. The decision is extraordinary in its breadth, dealing with notions of agents of persecution and availment of protection, dual nationality, and the definition of membership of a particular social group. Moreover, it has important jurisprudential value, as the majority judgement is complemented by a thorough concurring decision, which read together present most of the major concerns in relation to these three aspects of Convention refugee status.

It is hoped that this discussion paper will be of assistance to advocates

involved in the process of refugee determination, to decision makers, and ultimately to those charged with the reform of policy in this field. The Refugee Law Research Unit welcomes the comments of those who read this discussion paper, and look forward to a continuing dialogue with individuals and groups concerned to ensure the continuing viability of the refugee protection system.

Other pending publications include: *Agents of Persecution: When is There a Failure of State Protection?*, *Assuming Refugee Claims Arising from Civil War and Refusal to Perform Military Service as the Basis for a Claim to Refugee Status*.

