

ENGLISH only

Canadian Delegation to the
Organization for Security & Cooperation
in Europe



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

**DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE
INTERVENTION UNDER “CURRENT ISSUES” ON
DUMA ELECTIONS IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
689TH MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
22 NOVEMBER 2007**

Canada regrets that, due to an apparent lack of cooperation by the Russian authorities, the OSCE/Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights has had to cancel its mission to observe the Duma elections on December 2.

The ODIHR judged that it was unable, under the conditions and restrictions imposed by Russia, to fulfill its election observation and assessment mandate in a meaningful and comprehensive manner.

It is ODIHR's responsibility to evaluate of whether the conditions imposed by Russia compromised their ability to conduct a meaningful and comprehensive assessment of the election.

Canada respects ODIHR's judgement and strongly supports the continuation of ODIHR's unhindered and independent role in electoral observation.

ODIHR's methodology requires sufficient time in a country to adequately judge whether an election is in line with international and national commitments.

This unfortunate situation should not be viewed as a precedent. Canada urges all OSCE participating States to allow for meaningful international observation of national elections, before, during and after election day, in accordance with their commitments and the well-established practices developed over the years within the OSCE.

Canada expects that upcoming elections will see the ODIHR play its usual role in election observation and assessment.