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Since 2002, the media industry in Afghanistan has continued to grow and develop. In Kandahar, Canadians are working with the local media community to support that development by addressing issues ranging from professional development to personal security.

"Afghanistan faces a number of challenges, and the media industry is no different," said Lucas Robinson, a Canadian official in Kandahar. "We meet regularly with members of the local media to see how we can assist in areas they have indicated they need help in."

Three months ago Canadian civilian and military public affairs met with representatives from the local media community to discuss the state of the industry in Kandahar. An on-going dialogue developed and the extent of needs and issues became apparent. Based on those initial meetings, Canadian officials made an offer to assist.

"We organised a professional development session addressing a specific concern they had about not having enough technical background information required to cover ISAF related operations," said Major Vance White, Canadian Forces. "With the cooperation of colleagues from Regional Command South Headquarters, we were able to provide them with a lecture and materials they needed to do a better job."

Another concern that was raised by local media was the inherent dangers they faced in covering events in Kandahar province. With the help of the Canadian Civilian Police detachment in Kandahar, 10 members of the local media were given hostile environment training at the Provincial Reconstruction Team headquarters.

"We really appreciate what the Canadians have done to assist us," said Abdul Qadoos Baes, Cheif Editor of Tolo-e-Afghan Newspaper. We have a thriving media in Kandahar – it's important that we continue to develop our skills and knowledge."

More professional skills development sessions for local media will take place in the coming months.

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Local media in Kandahar take part in professional development training being offered by Canadian civilian and military officials at Provincial Reconstruction Team headquarters.