

# THE GLOBE AND MAIL

WORLD

## Wanted: Project evaluator. Location: Afghanistan. Salary: Big bucks

Colin Freeze

Kandahar, Afghanistan — From Thursday's Globe and Mail, Wednesday, May. 27, 2009 09:01PM EDT

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Canadian officials in Kandahar are hiring a \$200,000-a-year Afghan-Canadian consultant to tell them whether they are doing their jobs.

This spring, Ottawa posted a contract saying it desperately needed a "monitoring and evaluation consultant" for the Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team.

Half of the value of the contract is earmarked for "professional fees."

"The need is one of pressing urgency in which delay would be injurious to the public interest," the contract documents say. The urgency surrounds assessments of "reconstruction and development programming in Kandahar."

Khair M. Sharif, an Afghan living in Ontario who once headed a group called the Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan, was chosen.

He said he is looking forward to briefings in Ottawa prior to deploying in July.

Mr. Sharif was deemed uniquely qualified owing to his Pashto and Dari language skills, as well as his "demonstrated local knowledge and understanding of Afghanistan tribal, ethnic and religious issues."

The PRT said it badly needs an Afghan with on-the-ground knowledge who can liaise with local contractors, Canadian developers and Afghan bureaucrats.

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