

# YOUNG PROFESSIONALS INTERNATIONAL

OP/EA 2004/52

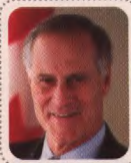
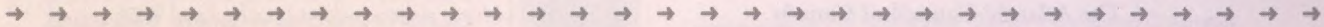


**In 1996**, The Ministerial Task Force on Youth studied recommendations for a new Government of Canada youth strategy. Canadians reported the importance of ensuring that young people are prepared to succeed in a rapidly changing world. The result was the creation of the 1997 Youth Employment Strategy (YES), including an international internship component, with a number of departments participating. The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), as it was known at that time, developed the Youth International Internship Program, now called Young Professionals International (YPI). The program used extensive contacts with the private sector, as well as multilateral international governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to develop opportunities for participants to hone their

international employability skills and to initiate a global network. Since 1997, 3,215 people have participated in the program. These overseas placements were organized by a team of Canada-based implementing organizations (please see page 6 for a complete list). These partner organizations arranged the 3,215 overseas placements through 1,580 overseas host organizations. Placements are aligned under one of three foreign policy pillars: Security, Prosperity and Identity. This includes approximately 200 placements that cross two or three pillars, such as circumpolar affairs, communications and disability issues, of which we had 57 placements.

For more information on YPI please consult the Web site <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/yipi-jpi/>.

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## MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

In 1996, the Ministerial Task Force on Youth, subtitled "Helping Young Canadians Build a Better Future," recommended that young Canadians gain more international exposure. Since then, 2,105 young people have acquired high-quality foreign experience under the Security and Identity pillars of Young Professionals International. They have enhanced their employability skills and made significant contributions in the areas of rule of law, democracy and respect for human rights.

We are very grateful to our Canadian partner organizations for their hard work in developing international linkages, placing young graduates, and ensuring that both participants and hosts abroad benefit from this initiative. As Benjamin Disraeli said, "The youth of a nation are the trustees of posterity." Young Professionals International is an investment in Canada's future.

The Honourable Bill Graham  
Minister of Foreign Affairs



## MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Exports of goods and services make up more than 40% of Canadian gross domestic product. Understanding how others do business is critical to our continued success. Over the last seven years, 1,110 young Canadians have gained valuable international trade experience through Young Professionals International.

After their placements, some participants continue to work overseas, serving as a focal point in Canada's network abroad. Some have returned to Canada, bringing with them newly acquired expertise — new languages, greater adaptability, a fresh understanding of other cultures and business environments, and an unparalleled ability to respond to a changing labour market. In all cases, their presence overseas has served as a constant reminder not only of the innovation, energy and vitality of Canada, but also of our ongoing commitment to the international community.

The Honourable James Scott Peterson  
Minister of International Trade