

How do we match ever-shrinking resources to ever-changing needs? Thoughtful, sustained innovation.

—**Stefanie Beck**, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister of the International Platform Branch

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE IPB AND COMMON SERVICES GOVERNANCE

Five successful years have passed since the consolidation of common-service delivery functions under the International Platform Branch.

A broad range of services is provided to Canada's Network abroad. These include:

- Real-property service management and accommodation planning (chanceries, official residences and staff quarters);
- Human-resources policy framework, compensation and benefits determination as well as services for locally engaged staff (LES);
- Information management and information technology;
- Administration of the Foreign Service Directives (FSD);
- Diplomatic mail services and distribution of goods and equipment;
- Stewardship of financial resources required to deliver common services abroad and operate the mission network.

The key capacity of the International Platform Branch is providing a single point of service to all partners and co-locators. The advantages of a consolidated structure allow for:

- Decision-making processes that fully integrate partners' considerations regarding all services;
- More efficient and equitable service delivery to partners abroad;
- Efficiencies and sound, consistent management of facilities and resources at all locations.

The operation of a network of infrastructure and services in and for missions abroad plays a crucial role in achieving the Government of Canada's international priorities.



The Canadian Cultural Centre in Paris.

Courtesy of ARBC