



The Skelton Lobby

A lobby in the southwest corner of the main floor is named for Oscar Douglas Skelton, who served as Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs from 1925 until his death in 1941.

Dr. Skelton helped to define a distinct Canadian perspective and approach to international affairs. He believed in competitive entrance to the foreign service and promotion by merit. His remarkable list of recruits included two future governors general, Georges Vanier and Jules Léger, one future prime minister, Lester B. Pearson, as well as many distinguished diplomats and senior officials. In 1991, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade initiated an annual O.D. Skelton Memorial Lecture to mark his unique contribution to Canada's public life.

The Robertson Conference Room

Adjacent to the Skelton Lobby is the main conference room, named after Norman A. Robertson. It contains an oval "United Nations-style" table and accommodates 40 delegates and 125 observers. The room features full audio-visual and simultaneous translation facilities.

Mr. Robertson joined the Department of External Affairs in 1929 and worked during the next decade as an economic adviser and trade negotiator. He served twice as Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, twice as High Commissioner to the United Kingdom and once as Ambassador to the United States. From 1949 to 1952, he was Clerk of the Privy Council and Secretary to the Cabinet.