



**From the
Foreign Service
Community Association**

125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, K1A 0G2 (613) 993-5729



**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
FOREIGN SERVICE COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION SUBMISSION
ON THE CITIZENSHIP ACT**

The FSCA has completed its survey of foreign-born spouses of foreign service employees. The results of the survey and our conclusions and recommendations are written up in a submission which has been presented to the office of the Secretary of State of Canada.

For your interest, we print here the Executive Summary of the contents of the submission. Anyone interested in seeing the full submission may contact the FSCA office.

PURPOSE

To present the results and conclusions of a survey of foreign-born spouses of rotational employees of the Canadian foreign service who currently encounter obstacles in fulfilling the residence requirement for obtaining Canadian citizenship.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That, to fulfill residence requirements for citizenship, foreign-born spouses of federal and provincial public servants and members of the Armed Forces:

1. Have periods of residence outside Canada attached to government service treated as residence in Canada, or
2. Accumulate residence requirements during successive stays in Canada.

BACKGROUND

The Foreign Service Community Association became increasingly aware of foreign-born spouses of foreign service employees who had considerable difficulty in obtaining, or failed to obtain, Canadian citizenship because of the rotational nature of their spouses' employment with the Government of Canada. As no data on this group were available (the exact number of foreign-born spouses with the Department of External Affairs is still unknown), the Association devised a questionnaire and conducted a survey within the Department. The results of the survey are presented in this submission.

**ARGUMENTS FOR REVISING
THE CITIZENSHIP ACT**

1. There is an inconsistency in existing legislation which does not allow these spouses to be deemed resident in Canada for citizenship purposes, while for taxation purposes they are so deemed.
2. Because of the rotational nature of their spouses' employment, which requires regular and repeated assignments overseas, these spouses are in a position of disadvantage.
3. All spouses represent and serve Canada while abroad. At present this contribution is completely disregarded.

CONCLUSIONS

More than half the respondents in this survey are not yet Canadian, and would like to be. The primary obstacle they encounter is the current residence requirement

Direct Communication with Spouses

Since the last issue of *Liaison*, the following notice has been sent to spouses on our mailing list:

August 17, 1987 — Distribution: National Capital Region (1987-88/01)

— A notice from the Official Languages Division concerning courses which will be offered this fall to spouses of foreign service employees.

Reminder: if you have recently moved — been posted or returned to the Ottawa/Hull area — don't forget to let us know your change of address. Just fill in the form on page 20 and send it to the Posting Services Centre. Thanks!

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FOREIGN SERVICE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2

- Membership Application
- Fee: \$12.00 per year
\$15.00 per family

Name:

Postal address:

Telephone No.: Home Office

Name of Spouse (if married):

Memberships are due in January of each year.

Tel.: (613) 993-5729