

His “life-on-the-move” began at six weeks of age when his mother and Canadian father, a Westinghouse sales representative, left Toronto for Panama City. After a decade there, the family spent several more years living throughout the United States. When Mr. Rishchynski visited Expo 67, “I fell in love with Canada and decided that’s where I wanted to return to live.”

After several years working for a trading company in Ottawa and travelling around the world, during which time he met his Honduran-born wife, Jeanette Portillo Tinoco, he joined Canada’s foreign service in 1982. His first postings were as a trade representative in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo in Brazil. Mr. Rishchynski has also had assignments in Amman, Melbourne, Jakarta, Chicago and as

Canada’s Ambassador to Colombia. Last September he came full circle back to Brazil.

Like his counterpart in Panama, Mr. Rishchynski believes Canada’s links with the region must be stronger. “Brazil and Canada need to know each other better. We’re both large, multi-ethnic, multicultural countries. We’re both federations—among the few in the hemisphere.” A number of trade irritants have arisen between the two countries in recent years, he says, but “we need to move beyond these issues, to work more closely in areas where our points of view converge, and to better manage our differences without losing sight of the totality of our relationship.”

Mr. Rishchynski and Mr. Herran-Lima see Canada as a key player at the Organization of American States in promoting democracy, with a pivotal role in the hemisphere. Canada’s model of social democracy is interesting to Latin Americans, says Mr. Herran-Lima. “More and more people are looking at Canada,” he says. “They see that we have been able to achieve economic growth and social equity and they find that very intriguing.” 🍁



Getting the message out: Ambassador Rishchynski is interviewed by Ginette Lamarche, the Radio-Canada correspondent for South America, at the Canadian Consulate General in Rio de Janeiro.



photos: FAC

Canadian Ambassador to Brazil Guillermo Rishchynski and his wife Jeanette Portillo Tinoco, who is from Honduras, have been on eight postings abroad together.

## Family ties

In addition to their Latin roots and their long and varied careers, José Herran-Lima and Guillermo Rishchynski share another similarity—both are married, with two children who have grown up in a succession of world capitals but now face the typical family conundrums and separations involved in life abroad.

“The foreign service has been very enriching for our kids,” says Mr. Rishchynski, whose son and daughter are now at university in Washington. “It has made them very adaptable, very tolerant of differences. And they have a solid understanding of the world.”

This is Mr. Rishchynski’s eighth posting with his wife Jeanette Portillo Tinoco, and the first without the children. However, he points out, the family’s two schnauzers are in Brazil, enjoying their fifth term overseas.

Mr. Herran-Lima’s younger daughter has just joined her older sister at the University of Ottawa this year, and he and his wife, Susan Magee, have made the difficult decision that Magee will stay behind in Ottawa both to provide support to the girls and to continue working as a management consular officer at Foreign Affairs Canada.

Magee has been with the department since 1976 and, while FAC has always been supportive of the pair as a working couple, the mission in Panama is too small to employ them both. “We decided we’ll try this for a year,” says Mr. Herran-Lima. “Then we’ll look at it again.”