

Message from the Director General

I was named Director General of the Canadian Foreign Service Institute on August 8, 2005, five months into the fiscal year covered by this report. Senior management had just announced its decision to undertake a full-scale evaluation of the Institute and, at this writing in May 2006, we are awaiting the delivery of the evaluators' final report. The decision to undertake an evaluation was based on a number of factors - the Canada School of the Public Service was established in 2003, International Trade had been created as a separate department later that year and the transformation agenda within Foreign Affairs had been announced in early 2004. Clearly the context in which the Institute had been created in 1992 had changed significantly and it was time to step back and determine its future role and mandate in order to ensure that it continued to meet the learning needs of the department and the government.

One of the first findings of the evaluators was that the people they interviewed consistently regarded the Institute as an important and valuable asset for the department. Although this was not a surprise, it is always rewarding to have your work recognized. More importantly, the finding confirms the positive role the Institute has been playing in the careers of departmental employees and employees of other departments since its creation.

With the release of the final report of the evaluation, the Institute will be at a turning point. How do we ensure that we deliver quality training, the right quality training, in a period of limited budgets and constant change? How do we harness the power of technology to maximize our reach and effectiveness? How do we work with the Canada School and other partners to complement and reinforce our particular areas of expertise? How do we continue to earn the respect of our clients? The answers to these questions will not be contained in the evaluation report. It will provide guidance, suggestions and options that will need to be studied and analysed. The true determinant of the Institute's future will be how the recommendations are implemented.

The greatest asset that the Institute possesses is its employees. They demonstrate every day their skills, determination, professionalism and dedication. They are the face and the heart of CFSI. I have been honoured to work with these women and men over the past ten months. With their continuing commitment to high quality learning and service delivery, I am confident that the future of the Institute is assured.

Michael Calcott
Director General
Canadian Foreign Service Institute

