

the private sector. Jim Balsillie, co-CEO of Research In Motion (RIM), spoke on the theme of investing in Canadian international leadership. Parker Mitchell, co-founder and co-CEO of Engineers Without Borders, spoke on the practice of model leadership.

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— Marie-Lucie Morin, Deputy Minister of International Trade

The Honourable David Emerson, Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Pacific Gateway and the Vancouver-Whistler Olympics; the Honourable Maxime Bernier, Minister of Foreign Affairs; and Kevin Lynch, Clerk of the Privy Council and Secretary to the Cabinet, Privy Council Office, also addressed attendees. The Clerk spoke passionately on the need for Public Service Renewal in order to make Canada competitive in a globalized world.

On the second day, a panel made up of Richard B. Fadden, Deputy Minister, Citizenship and Immigration Canada; Richard Dicerni, Deputy Minister, Industry Canada; and Suzanne Hurtubise, Deputy Minister, Public Safety Canada, addressed interdepartmental partnership and the need to work collectively to achieve our shared international agenda. There was a clear recognition of the importance of our collective goals and DFAIT’s leadership role in international relations.

Also discussed were the changes in our global community—the rise of India and China, a more competitive global economy, continuing and unpredictable political instability—together with global threats like terrorism, environmental degradation, health pandemics and crime. All these necessitate a more assertive foreign policy and international commerce strategy that serves

Canadian values and interests, including the promotion of Canadian prosperity.

The Deputy Minister of International Trade, Marie-Lucie Morin, explained how the department’s Global Commerce Strategy will focus resources in those areas of greatest importance to Canadians. “The government has been very clear in its intention to build a more competitive Canadian economy,” she noted. “That includes ensuring that our department has a focused and clearly defined role in supporting this goal. That’s what the Global Commerce Strategy is all about.”

The 2007 DFAIT Leadership Conference was organized by the Canadian Foreign Service Institute. For more information, please visit the Intranet site at: <http://intranet.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/leadership/menu-en.asp>

Town Hall

The day after the Leadership Conference, a Town Hall meeting was held on November 30 in the Cadieux Auditorium of the L.B. Pearson Building, where employees listened and exchanged with Deputy Ministers about departmental priorities and several of the key corporate themes that DFAIT managers had discussed at the Leadership Conference. The interest level of employees for this Town Hall was very high, with over 500 participants filling the Cadieux Auditorium to capacity and overflowing into the Skelton Lobby and the adjoining Robertson Room. Many missions abroad also participated via teleconference. The Town Hall was also rebroadcast on the television monitors in the L.B. Pearson Building and at 111 Sussex.

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Building Tomorrow Step by Step – A Transformation Process

Excerpt from Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Len Edwards’ Leadership Conference remarks

The Alignment and Strategic Reviews are providing direction to better align departmental priorities with those of the Government.

We need to continue to strengthen the department’s core value-added to Government—the overseas platform and the people who serve Canada abroad—by focusing resources in areas where we can have the greatest impact.

Reallocation decisions need to be made with a focus on the Department’s core business in an effort to strengthen policy and program activities.

The Department will continue to work to improve departmental accountability and to meet the highest standards of financial management.

Reallocation decisions will continue to be made with a firm eye to the future—both on the increasingly international nature of Canadian society and on the opportunities and challenges Canada will face in a fast-changing world.



Deputy Ministers’ Town Hall meeting, Cadieux Auditorium.

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