

- *professional, independent evaluations and audits be conducted to assess the policies, programs and operations of the department to augment and enhance the performance information provided by management and, in particular to support DFAIT management in the provision of performance assertions for the Business Plan and associated Outlook document;*
- *managers seek the advice and/or participation of the Inspector General's professional reviewers when initiating formal reviews (as opposed to day-to-day monitoring) and/or contracting for review services from outside the department;*
- *the department lead interdepartmental reviews where the department has prime responsibility and participate in interdepartmental review teams where another department has prime responsibility or in government-wide review teams, as required;*
- *the department use the findings of reviews and other performance information in decision-making to provide cost-effective programs for the Canadian public and foster good stewardship and accountability in the use of public funds; and*
- *once completed, final review reports (i.e. evaluation and audit reports), be accessible to the public with minimal formality, in accordance with the spirit and intent of the Access to Information Act and the Privacy Act.*

POLICY REQUIREMENTS

1. The Department will review the performance of its policies, programs and operations in a timely, relevant and cost-effective manner. It will emphasize feed back on achievement of results and the efficacy of their delivery systems. In the case of identified problems or opportunities, the reviewers should provide innovative alternatives and feedback on lessons learned. In order to meet this requirement the department will:
 - (a) conduct internal audits according to established standards in areas of significance, based on risk, to provide senior management with independent and professional advice and assurances on the performance of the management framework, specifically as it has an impact on the cost-effectiveness of program delivery activities and internal operations, the economical and efficient use and protection of resources, the integrity of information and compliance with statutes and policies; audit plans which outline the scope and timing of future audits, shall be reviewed and approved by DAEC at its quarterly meetings;
 - (b) conduct evaluations of key policies and programs according to established standards to provide senior management with objective information about the relevance of policies and programs, their success in achieving stated objectives and their cost-effectiveness compared to alternatives; evaluation plans, which outline the scope and timing of future evaluations and implementation of resulting recommendations for improvement, shall be reviewed and approved by DAEC at its quarterly meetings; in order to enhance the