

If desired, spouses employed outside the Public Service should try to make arrangements to return to their work at the end of the posting, though this is often difficult.

Military personnel should consult with their own personnel officer regarding internal regulations on leave.

Be sure to hand carry to the place of assignment all professional credentials, transcripts of marks, letters of reference, work samples, portfolios, and a good resume.

Contacts at Missions

At the mission, you could ask the Community Coordinator or the Management and Consular Officer for employment suggestions, and comments on restrictions and legal formalities. You should also investigate possibilities through new contacts, working colleagues, and information interviews with local organizations. Self-employment is another possibility for those with a transportable skill, such as tutoring, photography, writing, word processing, catering etc.

Spouses Returning to Ottawa

Upon your return to headquarters, you may wish to participate in re-entry workshop offered by the Services Centre that focus on employment. You could also work out a job search strategy with the Spousal Employment Counsellor. You may leave an up-to-date résumé on file, and fill out a spousal employment form so that your employment history can be entered in the Data Bank. Occasionally, requests are received for applicants from our files. For the most part, however, it is up to the individual to look for specific job openings. The Spousal Employment Counsellor can help with suggestions on résumé format, appropriate places to apply and give applications to the Public Service Commission.

Whether abroad or in Ottawa, be sure to send your current address to SERV so that you continue to receive "Direct Communication With Spouses" news bulletin.

1.3 Education of Foreign Service Children

The Department has long recognized that the rotationality of many of its employees depends to a great extent on the opportunities available for their children to continue in school without serious disruption. At headquarters, two areas are responsible for education issues: the Education Counsellor (SERV) located in The Services Centre, and SBM (Geographic Service Section).

Education Counsellor

If you have school age children, or children who will start school while you are on posting, it is vital that you contact the Education counsellor located in The Services Centre as soon as you are offered an assignment and read the following explanations of the FSDs relating to education. It is extremely important to check out what educational services are available at the mission before accepting an assignment abroad.

The Foreign Service Directives attempt to provide the equivalent of an average Canadian public school education for children on postings. Children with special needs are not always provided with the formal education opportunities overseas that are available in Canada. For these very reasons the Education Counsellor, located in The Services Centre is responsible for providing counsel and guidance on educational programs, courses of study, and compatibility in school systems and ensuring that employees have up-to-date information on types of schools available in Canada and abroad. The counsellor will also coordinate the necessary arrangements with the mission for admission of children to the appropriate education establishments.