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1909-2009

Celebrating Our Past  
Embracing Our Future



On June 1, 2009, the department will celebrate its centennial anniversary. *OUR WORLD* will mark the occasion with a three-part series, paying tribute to the past, present and future. But first, a nod to the occasion.

## CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF GLOBAL SERVICE

**T**o the surprise of some, a recent Environics poll has determined that Canadians do in fact pay attention to Canada's role in world affairs and care deeply about that role.

"The research revealed a Canadian population that is, as a whole, deeply engaged with the world outside its borders, and keen to be more so," notes the survey's conclusion. "Significant numbers of Canadians closely follow world events, have personal or family connections to other countries and regions, provide financial assistance to organizations and family members overseas, travel to many parts of the globe for a variety of reasons, and are interested in doing even more. Most have a positive view of their country's current role in world affairs, but also believe it can do more to demonstrate leadership in such areas as environmental protection, human rights and famine relief."

It is fitting that the findings of *Canada's World Poll* are published as Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada prepares to celebrate its centennial anniversary. The department can take great pride in the above-noted "positive view of the country's current role in world affairs," which affords us even greater reason for reflection and celebration.

From its humble beginnings atop a small barbershop

in downtown Ottawa to today's modern, dynamic foreign and trade ministry, DFAIT has undergone tremendous transformation and this process continues.

As a tribute to this important milestone and the many accomplishments along the way, the Historical Section of the Policy Planning Bureau and the Communications Bureaus have started planning a series of events and activities. Centred in Ottawa but stretching across the country and to missions abroad, these activities and events will begin in June 2008 and culminate on June 1, 2009.

As part of its own tribute to DFAIT's centennial, *Our World* is launching a short-essay writing contest (800 word maximum) for DFAIT employees. In keeping with the findings of the survey, the essay should reflect on how DFAIT has contributed to Canada's positive standing in the world. The deadline for submissions will be February 2009 with the winner to be published in the June 2009 edition of *Our World*. Please note that essays should incorporate both foreign affairs and trade components. For more guidelines, and to submit your essays electronically, please write to [ourworld-notremonde@international.gc.ca](mailto:ourworld-notremonde@international.gc.ca) noting "essay" in the subject heading. The winner of the contest will also receive a DFAIT prize. The top five essays will be published in *Our World Online* in June 2009.