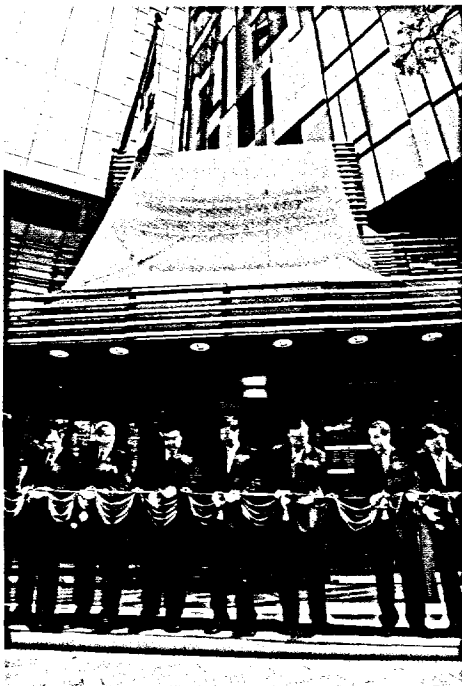


New Seoul Chancery

A symbol of our relationship with Korea



New Chancery ribbon cutting ceremony. *From left to right:* Chun Yungwoo, Special Representative for Korean Peninsular Peace and Security Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Len Edwards, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs; MP Deepak Obhrai, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs; Chung Yoon, Vice Minister, Ministry of Science and Technology; Rep. Yu Pil-U, Vice Chairman of Korea-Canada Parliamentary Friendship Association; Ted Lipman, Ambassador; Chun Gwi-Kweon, Vice Mayor of Jung-gu District.

While Canada's new Seoul Chancery has obviously been designed for the future, its features have clearly been inspired by the past. In fact, the chancery was literally built around a 520-year-old tree. A Korean landmark, the 17-metre tall pagoda tree inspired the design team to adopt nature as the building's theme.

A symbol of the importance of Canada's partnership with Korea, the Seoul Chancery stands as compelling evidence of the strong belief, shared by both countries, that even greater bilateral ties are possible.

The embassy is located in the historic Jeongdong area of Seoul, near the Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and other government offices. Designed by the award-winning Toronto architectural firm of Zeidler Partnership, the 10,000-square-metre building consists of two main blocks connected together by a base. Inside are staff quarters, offices and

reception facilities that house 83 Canadian-based and locally engaged staff. The massing and skin of the building were inspired by impressionist images of the Canadian landscape.

Within the chancery is a memorial, honouring Canadian soldiers who fought in the Korean War more than half a century ago. The centrepiece of the memorial is a large rock, taken from the site of a battle in which more than 200 Canadians lost their lives.

Perhaps the most noteworthy feature of the new building is its welcoming atmosphere, reflective of the warm and positive relationship that exists between Canada and Korea. The area surrounding the main entrance to the embassy—with its broad open walkway, water fountain and curved black granite benches—has already become a gathering place.

Although it actually began operations in July 2007, the chancery was officially

unveiled on November 9, 2007. A senior delegation from Canada was on hand to celebrate the opening, led by the Honorable Deepak Obhrai, Member of Parliament and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Len Edwards, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, who is also a former Canadian Ambassador to Korea. Vice-Minister Cho Jung-pyo of the Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade represented the Republic of Korea.

Ambassador Ted Lipman, who arrived in Seoul in July 2007 and is accredited to both the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, describes the opening of the embassy as "a new chapter in the history of Canada-Korea relations." Canada and Korea have enjoyed dynamic and friendly relations for many decades, he said, adding that "the new chancery aspires to give our commitment to that relationship a physical form."



The 17-metre tall pagoda tree that stands at the foot of the new Seoul Chancery inspired the design team to adopt nature as the theme for the building.