

- b) by deducting from salary in equal instalments beginning from his or her return to duty and extending over a period equal to the period of leave without pay.

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.

It is interesting to note that through a special arrangement with the United States, spouses accompanying an employee posted there can claim unemployment insurance benefits as if they were in Canada. Unfortunately, this is the only country with whom we have such an agreement.

#### **- Countries where there is no Reciprocal Employment Agreement**

In the case of countries where there is no REA, it may still be possible to find employment at the mission as locally engaged staff, replacing staff on holiday, teaching English or French to Canada-based staff, or as Community Coordinator. (About 50 of our missions hire a Community Coordinator on local contract to welcome newcomers, run an information centre, organize community activities and publish a community newbulletin. Candidates for the work must submit a proposal to the mission and should have been living at the mission for at least six months.) One may also work with international organizations or other embassies (although they would probably give preference to their own spouses.)

#### **- Foreign Service Directive 17**

Spouses on posting who were employed in their profession up until six months prior to their departure should consult Foreign Service Directive 17 regarding reimbursement of dues to professional associations while abroad, and retraining on return to Canada. This directive is administered by the Posting Services Centre. For reimbursement, proof of employment in the relevant profession to within six months of being posted, proof of prior membership in the association, a letter from the professional association certifying the requirement of such dues, and the original receipt for payment of the dues should be submitted to the Posting Services Centre. In subsequent years on the same posting, one need only submit the receipt. Only original receipts are accepted.

#### **- Once you arrive at the Mission**

At the mission, you could ask the Community Coordinator or Administrative 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.