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REGY FOR THE 90s...

Corporate Review Update

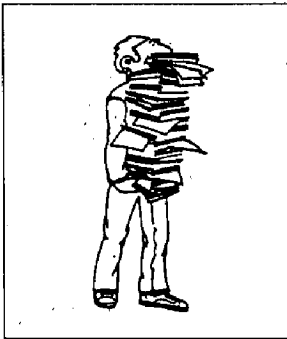
Dept. of External Affairs
Min. des Affaires extérieures

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In the midst of the annual September surge of activity around the Department you received the first Update newsletter. In fact, there was so much activity that getting out the first Update, with competing priorities in printing, translation and distribution was in doubt (our thanks to the staff in these areas for their patience and help):

This second newsletter brings news of what is underway in one particular area of great interest to all of us ...

FOCUS ON PERSONNEL

In June the staff in Personnel were faced with a difficult task-taking the lengthy list of Corporate Review decisions relating to their work, and making it a reality for all of us. Some of these decisions mean enormous changes in our present system, some require extensive negotiations with central agencies and other departments, some have important resource implications (translation: they are going to cost the Department a lot of money) and all require close work with our staff associations. In short, this is a complicated and lengthy project.

However, because these initiatives affect us all so directly, our Deputies have made it clear that they are a priority for action and implementation. So, to answer the question on many of your lips "What's in it for me?"...here is the **short** list of actions taken in Personnel in the past weeks.

THE BAD NEWS FIRST...

Plans for a Day Care Centre in the Pearson building have had to be put on hold. Treasury Board has still not approved the government policy on day care at the workplace. In addition, the latest potential user survey within the Department (carried out in the Spring) indicated very low demand for a Day Care Centre located here.

Once we have a government policy, the Parents Group and the Department will undertake another survey. If the results are more positive, the project will be reviewed.

THE GOOD NEWS IS....

TRAINING:

A major commitment of resources (both \$ and PYs) is being made to the area of staff development and training. Not only is the budget for these activities being greatly increased, but all managers are being made aware of their responsibility to ensure that needed training is made available to staff in all categories. A revised training program is being prepared based on input from all Bureaux and resources required to carry out these new activities will be allocated.

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