

11. INEFFECTIVE INVENTORY CONTROL:

According to a study by Diamond Communications on the Materiel Account System for Chanceries and Official Residences, DFAIT also lacks a complete, useful and operative Distribution Account system. According to Diamond, Internal Auditors warned that "the lack of recording assets under missions responsibility increases the risk of loss and reduces the likelihood of losses being detected." This also decreases the chances of damage being noted or reported.

12. DAMAGED AND MISUSED FURNITURE AND ARTWORK:

Canada's Chanceries and Official Residences house a large collection of impressive and expensive pieces of furniture and artwork. Unfortunately, many individuals are unaware of the proper procedures for the care and storage of these pieces. There have been cases when antiques or pieces of art on display have been ruined by water leaked from plants, improper lighting conditions, incorrect polishes, and/or poor storage. Not only is this costly to Canada, but it also gives a bad impression to the many visitors who have an interest in furniture and artwork.

12. POLITICS:

Canada prides itself on supporting a diverse and multicultural population. Often when it appears the Government is favouring one group over another, a political debate ensues and the Government must answer for their apparent oversight. Without a clearly defined and monitored image policy, Chanceries and Official Residences are vulnerable to this type of challenge.

13. INEFFICIENT SYSTEM:

The time between the discovery of a need and the modification of a design is said to be very long - if the Mission follows the appropriate channels. The Mission must alert headquarters to their request, wait for approval, and then wait for their materials to be shipped from Canada. It is argued that it is sometimes faster and cheaper to ignore official channels and simply buy what is needed using the Mission's available capital funds.

14. COST OF CHANGES:

Suppose the \$21,900 worth of teak patio furniture mentioned in #9 was actually an "unnecessary" rug for the foyer of the Official Residence. Like the patio furniture, this order for this rug passed and it was purchased. After a year or so this rug is determined to be "unacceptable" by either a new HOM, the MAO, SRD, etc. A new rug is ordered. Obviously the cost associated with this change is great. Is it a necessary cost? No.