

EDUCATION

The posting season will soon be upon us; outlined below are answers to some of the questions frequently addressed to ABC.

Parents often do not know who to contact when they have an education-related problem.

ABC often receives requests for information on Canadian school programs from parents wishing to make sure that what their children are being taught abroad measures up to Canadian standards. We would be pleased to investigate such matters for you.

However, we advise parents who have received official confirmation of their posting to contact the teachers and administration of their child's school in Ottawa-Hull before they leave, in order to obtain as much information as possible on the recommended programs and books. The FSDs authorize supplementary courses for children abroad who are attending schools where Canadian requirements are not met - for example, where the teaching of English or French as a second language is unavailable. It is much easier for parents to document their request for reimbursement if they already have the necessary papers with them. It is also easier to purchase the books required for these courses before leaving Canada, rather than having to ask the Education Counsellor (ABC) once you have left Canada, given the delays that can arise.

Should a difficulty occur before you leave or when you are at the post, ABC will do its utmost to assist you and will provide liaison between you and the educational authorities. Call Nicole Coulombe at 995-9547.

Employee Assistance Program

Chemical dependency is only one of the many personal problems the EAP can help you and your immediate family members deal with. We can also help with family, marital, personal, legal, health or work-related problems.

Chemical dependency is defined as the addiction to any drug, legal or illegal. The most commonly abused legal drugs are alcohol and prescription medications, such as tranquilizers (valium, librium), anti-depressants and sleeping pills. Although most of us are quite familiar with the legal drugs, we know less about the illegal ones. In order to raise your awareness on this topic, we present you, in this and the next two issues of Liaison, with *Facts On The Effects Of Illicit Drug Trade And Use In Canada*, prepared by the Alliance for a Drug Free Canada.

The following points give an indication of the nature and extent of the consequences of drug use and trafficking in Canada. Today, Canada ranks as a major consumer country of cocaine, marijuana and heroin. It is being used as a business centre of operations for drug traffickers and a point of entry into the United States.

1. Annual street sales in Canada of illicit drugs are estimated at \$12 billion.
2. The profits of the illicit drug trade are equal to the sum of the profits of the complete manufacturing sector of the Canadian economy.
3. Illicit drug profits are 40 times the after-tax profits of the Canadian pharmaceutical industry and more than 10 times the profits of the food and beverage industry.
4. Illicit drug money movements create a net outflow of some 4 to 5 billion annually from the Canadian economy. The outflow from Canada is 6 to 8 billion dollars annually (\$4 billion left Ontario alone). The inflow into Canada is 2 to 3 billion dollars annually.
5. In some workplaces, it is estimated that between 10-15 per cent of workers use illicit drugs. Millions of dollars are being lost through absenteeism, poor job performance and accidents. Moreover, there has been a sharp increase in the number of cases of trafficking in the workplace as more employees pay for their addiction through sales of drugs.
6. The total economic cost to the Canadian economy has been estimated to be in excess of \$10 billion annually. This figure includes excess health care costs, excess law enforcement costs, and reduced labour productivity.



The payment or reimbursement of education-related expenses under the Foreign Service Directives (FSD) is authorized by ABMA at 992-9309.

Parents with children who are experiencing difficulties beyond learning problems, for example, an emotional crisis, should contact counselling specialists Brenda Abud-Lapierre and Marjorie Caverly at ABCA (992-6167 or 992-1641).