

## **1.3 Education of Foreign Service Children**

The Department has long recognized that the rotationality of many of its employees depends to a great extent on the opportunities available for their children to continue in school without serious disruption. At headquarters, two areas are responsible for education issues: the Education Counsellor (ABMA) located in The Posting Centre, and Benefits Policy and Implementation Section (ABMA).

### **Education Counsellor**

If you have school age children, or children who will start school while you are on posting, it is vital that you contact the Education counsellor located in The Posting Centre as soon as you are offered an assignment and read the following explanations of the FSDs relating to education. It is extremely important to check out what educational services are available at the mission even before accepting an assignment abroad.

The Foreign Service Directives attempt to provide the equivalent of an average Canadian public school education for children on postings. Children with special needs — the learning disabled, the gifted and talented, the physically disabled — are not always provided with the formal education opportunities overseas that are available in Canada. For these very reasons the Education Counsellor, located in The Posting Centre is responsible for providing counsel and guidance on educational programs, courses of study, and compatibility in school systems and ensuring that employees have up-to-date information on types of schools available in Canada and abroad. The counsellor will also coordinate the necessary arrangements with the mission for admission of children to the appropriate education establishments.

The majority of schools used by foreign service employees overseas are private schools that focus on an academic education to prepare a child for eventual university entrance. Few of these overseas schools have any form of technical education facility, so it may be difficult for children whose aptitudes are technical to be provided with educational facilities comparable to Canada's. However, before an employee refuses a posting due to lack of educational facilities, he/she would be well-advised to discuss the matter with the Education Counsellor. Since the education section of the mission reports usually cover general education matters, a special inquiry could be made to find out if such training is available at the mission.

In addition to the Education Counsellor, the following resources exist in the Education Section of The Posting Centre:

1. Description of educational resources as reported by the missions.
2. Directories of French and English schools abroad.
3. Directory of residential schools in Canada.
4. Brochures and videos on residential schools in Canada and abroad.
5. The Report on Education in the National Capital Region.
6. The Report on Special Education in the National Capital Region.
7. Updates on schools in Canada and abroad.

**Education-Related FSDs: - Education Assistance at the Lycée Claudel (FSD 33), - Education Allowances (FSD 34), - Education Travel (FSD 35), and - Family Reunion (FSD 51)**

### **FSD 33 — Education Assistance at the Lycée Claudel**

The purpose of this directive is to provide, under certain circumstances, financial assistance to career foreign service employees and RCMP Liaison officers while serving in Ottawa/Hull, in enrolling their dependant children at the Lycée Claudel. This is in order to ensure continuity in French language education while serving outside Canada.

### **FSD 34 — Education Allowances**

By providing you with financial assistance, the objective of FSD 34 is to ensure that your children obtain primary and secondary education approximating Canadian standards, thus enabling them to re-enter the Canadian school system with as little disruption as possible. A comprehensive list of admissible and inadmissible education expenses is set out under Sections 34.01 (b) and (c) of this Directive. Three main factors are involved in determining the extent of assistance made available. These are: