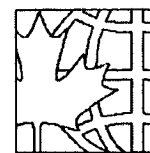




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FOREWORD: THE DIRECTOR GENERAL'S OVERVIEW

The Canadian Foreign Service Institute is pleased to present its Annual Report for 1997-98, its sixth year of operation. With its three Centres of excellence – the Centre for Professional Development, the Centre for Intercultural Learning and the Centre for Language Training, supported by the Division of Management Services – the Institute deployed a wide array of learning services both within and outside the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. During the year, processes of change in the Department were reflected in the objectives set for the Institute. As described in the following pages, the increasing role of information technologies in Canadian diplomacy is posing new challenges for the learning function.

The need to provide value for money, emphasized in last year's report, is continuing to receive ongoing and close attention by the Institute's Management Committee.

An important occurrence for the Institute this year was the presentation of a Report to the Department's Executive Committee on the Departmental Learning Function. This report led to a reinforced mandate for the Institute as the functional authority for learning in DFAIT. (The full text of the Executive Committee Decision is contained in Annex I).

Challenges for the coming year are many. The Department's Foreign Language Training Policy will go through a full scale review. New activities designed to assist departmental employees functioning effectively in foreign cultures are being developed. A "Virtual Campus" is being created that will promote and deliver training at each of Canada's 157 overseas locations.

The Institute is changing as the Department and the conduct of international diplomacy are changing. We in the Institute are looking forward to the new challenges. We are confident we can meet them.

The Dean of the Institute since its founding, Mr. Graham Mitchell, retired in February 1998. I was named to replace him. Graham created an organization that has become a vibrant part of the culture of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. It positively affects the careers of most employees. We are now able to build on all that he achieved.

A.C. de Hoog
 Director General
 Canadian Foreign Service Institute