

CONCLUSION

TOWARD A MORE EFFECTIVE, EFFICIENT NETWORK

In my five years in the International Platform Branch I have heard many great ideas. Some we have already put into action, but we can always do more. ... We will take the best of all parts of our newly amalgamated Department to become even more effective and efficient at meeting the Government of Canada's international objectives.

—**Stefanie Beck**, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister of the International Platform Branch

Canada continues to deepen its international relationships and to play a large role outside its borders. During the 2012–2013 fiscal year, Canada's Network and its managerial arm—the IPB—made considerable progress and recorded many achievements in support of this country's foreign affairs and international trade policies, and our partners' and co-locators' priorities. As this report illustrates, the actions and initiatives completed and currently underway have made the IPB more effective, efficient and responsive.

The IPB's model of building a strong network to deliver common services promotes empowerment and trust at all levels of government. This approach also aligns Canada's Network closely with the Government of Canada's current priorities, including those established in Budget 2012. The June 26th, 2013 amalgamation of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and DFAIT into the new Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development continues to be implemented and adjustments to the Network will be assessed and made as required.

As this publication goes to press, several projects are underway or completed, including:

- The opening of a mission in Baghdad, announced on April 1st, 2013;
- The accreditation of Canada's first-ever resident ambassador to Burma (August 2013), to support the opening of Canada's new mission in Yangon;
- The replacement of regional offices in Edmonton, Winnipeg, Charlottetown and Moncton with single-person satellite offices;
- The ongoing negotiations with the United Kingdom to realize space-sharing opportunities.

In the near term, IPB will continue to focus on improving collaboration within the department, and with partner departments and like-minded governments. Common services will be regionalized in the Asia-Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean regions with the introduction of common-service delivery points. In addition, various processes to improve client-service capacity and many initiatives related to automation, physical resources, procurement modernization, Foreign Service Directives, LES and IM/IT will be implemented. These improvements, along with information about IPB's support for Government of Canada priorities and the objectives of co-locators, will be featured in next year's report.

For more information, please contact us at aad@international.gc.ca.