

for years because of a moment of recklessness with drugs? We must appreciate consular work for what it often is -- life in the trenches of the diplomatic world.

The Consular Awareness Program I am announcing today is designed to educate Canadians as to the limits of what we can do and to detail the services we provide. Knowing what we cannot do should assist Canadians in taking responsible measures themselves to protect their well-being. And knowing what we can do will allow missions abroad to help Canadians more efficiently and effectively.

In the coming months, my Department will help Canadians travel with realistic expectations of our consular services and an appreciation of their own responsibilities while abroad. This is not a responsibility of the Government alone. I am pleased that for the first time the travel industry will work with us to inform Canadians about safe travel abroad. To date, American Express Canada, Canadian Airlines International, NationAir, Alberta Blue Cross, Ontario Blue Cross and the Medical Services Association of British Columbia have joined us in this partnership. I am pleased that several representatives could be here today. We look forward to expanding these links with other partners in the travel industry as the Consular Awareness Program gets under way.