

# RISKING THEIR LIVES FOR CANADIANS

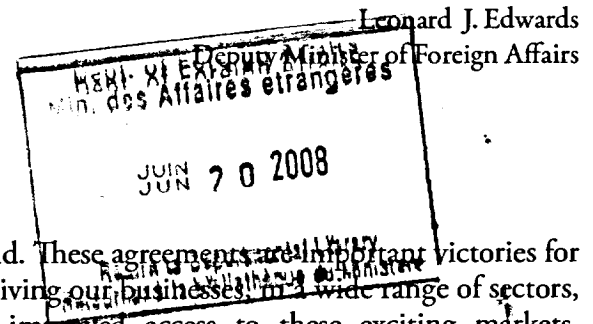
Much of the general public has a preconceived notion that life in our department is divided between high-profile meetings in luxurious surroundings and rubbing elbows with the glamorous while nibbling on succulent fare. Such notions are not only inaccurate, they are unfair.

While we should not dismiss the importance of high-profile meetings that advance Canada's interests and objectives or the value of representing Canada wherever opportunity may lurk, we also need to pay tribute to those public servants who surrender all comfort and even safety to conflict and war in ravaged countries.



We recently marked the second anniversary of the death of Glyn Berry, a Canadian diplomat who made the ultimate sacrifice for his devotion to both his country and others in need. We are daily reminded of the dangers that face all Canadian staff working in Afghanistan. But danger is not limited to that beleaguered state. In his captivating and compelling recollection of the Canadian hostage situation in Iraq, "Another Bad Day in Baghdad" (pp. 10-12), Stewart Henderson describes the 118 days he led the Canadian effort to secure the safe release of two Canadians taken hostage in Iraq. Stewart begins his account with a stark depiction of narrowly escaping gunfire.

Stewart and his colleagues were recently awarded the 2007 Foreign Minister's Award for their role in the 2005 hostage-taking incident (p. 24). The commitment, devotion and sacrifices that these valued members of DFAIT are regularly making are not going unnoticed. We are all very grateful.



Leonard J. Edwards  
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

# MOVING FORWARD ON FTAs

Free trade agreements don't materialize out of thin air. They are the direct result of wearing travel, long days—and often late nights—and seemingly endless meetings where numbers are crunched, concessions are negotiated, and each and every word and figure under consideration is checked and double-checked.

Switzerland. These agreements are important victories for Canada, giving our businesses in a wide range of sectors, new and improved access to these exciting markets. Moreover, they are an achievement in which all DFAIT employees can take immense pride.

Our negotiations team is made up of dedicated professionals, and they're moving forward with a long list of even more negotiations, with countries like South Korea, Colombia and Jordan. It means more travelling, more time away from family and friends, and more intense meetings, both here in Canada, and throughout the world. It's a tough job, but they understand that our businesses are counting on their continued efforts to fight for market access, and give our businesses new opportunities to compete—and thrive—in the global economy.

Their hard work, dedication and expertise are making an important contribution, both to Canada's economy and to DFAIT's reputation. We are all grateful for their efforts and look forward to even more successes in the future.



The last year has been an exceptionally busy one for DFAIT's hard-working trade negotiations team, as we achieved two important milestones: a free trade agreement with Peru, and one with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) nations of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and

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