

Passing the Torch

As the Canadian teams were packing up their medals at the end of their successful Olympic and Paralympic adventure in China, the Canadian Olympic and Paralympic Committees asked for the Canadian embassy's help in finding homes for \$4,000 in leftover supplies.

With the assistance of colleagues from CIDA, the embassy arranged for the donation of kitchen appliances and equipment to a Beijing school for migrant children, which helps prevent child labour and illiteracy. Teachers and children can now enjoy eating and preparing food together at their new Canadian Bistro. Two community organizations for people with mental disabilities also received clothing, bedding, bicycles and food.

Through the donations, Canada showed that the Olympic and Paralympic spirit isn't just about performance, it's about international cooperation and friendship—and the best they bring out in all of us.



Dining at the new Canadian Bistro



Exploring Canada-France Relations

The Historical Section of the Policy Research Division wrapped up a successful one-day academic symposium on Canada-France relations. The first of a series of conferences DFAIT is hosting to mark its 100th anniversary, the gathering on October 31 in Montreal was co-sponsored by the McCord Museum of Canadian History, the Université du Québec à Montréal and the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada.

Given the current focus on Quebec City's 400th anniversary, as well as our own centennial, the symposium explored the department's role in both the evolution of Canada-France relations and the con-



temporary relationship. Presentations by leading Canadian scholars explored the varied careers of Canadian representatives to France Philippe Roy, Georges Vanier, Pierre Dupuy, Jules Léger, Gérard Pelletier and Lucien Bouchard. Contemporary experts in Franco-Canadian relations—including Anne Legaré, David Haglund, Justin Massie and Frédéric Bastien—added assessments of the relationship today. Marc Lortie, Canada's ambassador to France, and François Delattre, France's ambassador to Canada, spoke at a concluding session devoted to the future of this vital bilateral partnership.

The department's second conference, on the history of the department, is to take place in Ottawa on December 17 and 18, with three more conferences planned.

Campaign Goes Over the Rainbow

The Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign (GCWCC) at DFAIT has raised some \$1.1 million, far surpassing its goal and putting us in the "Million Dollar Club" for the third consecutive year. DFAIT had the highest average gift per capita in the public service.

Campaign highlights included the launch itself. The theme was *The Wizard of Oz*, which showed how giving to the campaign requires courage, a brain and (especially) a great big heart. The production was masterminded again by creative directors Ian Burchett (BCD) and Simone MacAndrew (BCM), and starred our deputy ministers (the Wizard, Dorothy and the Good Witch), assistant deputies and a passel of brave, smart and generous employees as the Munchkins of Oz.

Other activities included an "anti-fashion show," hockey tournament, online auction, and a variety of events and contests organized at Headquarters and at missions. As always, DFAIT staff had a great deal of fun while showcasing the compassionate spirit within our department.

Emcee Ian Burchett (behind) listens to the Wizard, Len Edwards.



photo: Michel Pixel