

LIFE IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE

What Do You Mean You Don't Sell Peanut Butter?

On your first, and every other posting, you can expect the unexpected. No amount of previous travel, planning and reading can totally prepare you for the realities of extended living abroad. Canadians are generally well-housed and provided for at a diplomatic mission, but it's still best to pack your patience and a good sense of humour, as you'll need both, whether in Bamako, Boston or Buenos Aires.

Life in foreign environments can mean exposure to restrictions on personal movement due to political or safety considerations, telephone systems that don't work, the need to filter water and disinfect food, unfamiliar products in shops and markets, endless line-ups ... a different style and rhythm of living. Beyond the problems and frustrating moments, however, there are opportunities to see the world in depth, experience rich cultures, and be an eye-witness to the future as it unfolds.

Representational Duties

Depending on your job, rank and posting, you may be required to entertain host-country nationals, a responsibility known as

