



Dept. of Foreign Affairs
Min. des Affaires étrangères

AOUT 14 2001
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Savoir-faire

CFSI NEWSLETTER MARCH 2000

Getting Ready for Your Posting

Whole Family Taps Pre-Posting Program

Breakfast in Ottawa, dinner in Timbuktu ... helping DFAIT personnel prepare for foreign assignments is the focus of an intensive pre-posting program from April through June, 2000. More than 200 employees are leaving Ottawa this summer and their appointments also affect their spouses and family members. The pre-posting program addresses the many challenges of life abroad whether it's upgrading professional skills and language proficiency, learning cultural do's and don'ts or convincing your children that their lives will be enriched, not ruined, by life abroad.

The pre-posting program is being offered by a number of training partners in DFAIT to provide employees and their dependants (as well as Immigration, CIDA and colleagues from other government departments) with the best possible training and information to handle their professional and personal lives at post. It's aimed at both novice and seasoned rotational personnel.

The Centre for International Affairs Learning and Management Development (CFSD) of the Canadian Foreign Service Institute is co-ordinating activities with the Centre for Language Training(CFSL), Centre for Corporate Services Learning(CFSS), Centre for Intercultural Learning(CFSC), Consular Training(JPDT), Personnel Security and Security Education Section (ISDT) and the Services Centre(SERV). Information on professional pre-posting training organized

by CFSD will be available through a number of avenues, including a pre-posting course calendar, an information kiosk, announcements in Panorama, information on the Intranet and a series of information sessions being held for participants from different streams.

For entry-level officers leaving on their first posting, to "old-hands," each posting brings new challenges and requires specific preparation. Take advantage of this year's program and leave Ottawa feeling confident and equipped to meet the demands of a new job, country and culture. The pre-posting team will give everyone all the assistance necessary to prepare effectively for living and working abroad. For further information, call Jean Hage (CFSD) at 944-0741.

Letters to the Editor Are Welcome;

so are your views on HR topics.

Send us a 100 word (or less) note and we will consider it for the next issue of Savoir-faire.

When in Rome

CFSC Lets You Do As the Romans

The Centre for Intercultural Learning (CFSC) is offering a pre-departure and Intercultural Effectiveness Course to all DFAIT employees heading off to a mission. Focussing on the practical intercultural skills necessary for working in a modern diplomatic mission, this three day course covers country and culture specific topics, intercultural effectiveness strategies and is highlighted by a break-out session with a professional from the country of assignment. Also featured are segments on the challenges of individual and family adaptation.

In its third year, the pre-departure intercultural course is designed to be relevant across the complete range of posting experiences from first-timers to veterans. Given the importance of family adjustment to posting success, spouses are invited to attend the course. For training dates, consult the CFSI Intranet site at <http://intranet.lbp/cfsi/menu-e.asp>. For more details contact Judy Chaplin at 994-7773.

Some thoughts from past participants:

"This training should be mandatory for everybody going out."

"I liked the concrete examples, real experience, very well-organized and valuable workshop."

"Everyone should take this course- especially the part with the host national- to know what to expect on your arrival at the mission."



An origami lesson by Emi Furuya: A group of Japanese teachers and foreign and official languages students, who have been in training at Bisson for a few months, participate in a monthly cultural activity organised in turn by students of each language. On Thursday, January 27, the Japanese students (Bernadette St-Jean, Caroline Charette, Emi Furuya, Stephen Doust, David Steuerman, and Claude Demers) offered tea to 50 colleagues and teachers. The group also learned basic notions of origami, enjoyed a brief demonstration of haïki-do, and observed various displays of Japanese politeness.