

Print Production Centres

Two central print production centres — in Hull and Toronto — will soon replace on-site printing facilities in regional offices. Data captured in regional offices will be transmitted electronically to a print centre where the passport will be produced and mailed directly to the applicant. IRIS makes this streamlined system and the reduced turnaround time possible.

The new print technology and its security features will be virtually impenetrable to forgers.

The two print production centres are scheduled to begin production by the end of 2001. By Spring 2002, the two centres should be fully operational.

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The Five Nations Virtual Secretariat

Since 1994, Canada has been a member of the Five Nations Conference, which brings together the passport agencies of the United Kingdom, the United States, Australia, New Zealand and Canada to discuss common concerns and issues.

The Conference is a forum to consider these matters and to share ways of doing business.

Meeting more often than once a year is not an option so Canada pro-

posed a common secure Web site that would allow member nations to exchange information in a virtual forum. We also offered to set it up and maintain it. The Virtual Secretariat was officially launched on November 1, 2000.

