

Canadian Foreign Service Institute

Backgrounder

- April 1, 1992: The Canadian Foreign Service Institute (CFSI) given responsibility for departmental training; first Dean, R.H. Graham Mitchell, appointed.
- October 1, 1992: Official inauguration and exhibit.
- October 2, 1992: Classes will begin at Asticou Centre in Hull (temporary location).
- April 1, 1993: The Institute will move into the Bisson Centre in Hull.
- CFSI's role is to support the Department's goal of establishing a work environment that encourages training and development for all personnel, throughout their careers. It will help to develop the skills, knowledge and motivation of Canada's foreign service personnel in the effort to promote the interests of Canada in the world.
- The Institute comprises two schools: the Professional School, which offers training through its career and development programs, and the Language School, which offers training in both official languages -- English and French -- as well as over 40 foreign languages.
- Training will be available to all Canadian foreign service employees including officers and administrative and technical staff. This includes all employees at External Affairs and International Trade Canada (EAITC) and career foreign service officers at Employment and Immigration Canada (EIC).
- CFSI's Professional School will launch two career programs on October 2: one for entry-level officers at EAITC and EIC; the other for administrative and technical staff in EAITC.
- The career program for entry-level officers includes over 40 short courses covering such subjects as Canada's foreign policy, interpersonal skills, project management, and relations with the news media. All four officer streams participate in a common training program of seven weeks duration. This is followed by training specific to the stream. For example, Political/Economic officers take "International Law," Trade Commissioners follow "Canada's Trade and Industrial Structure," and Administrative officers study "Resource Allocation, Management and Budgeting." Further training for officers in the Social Affairs group is carried out by EIC. After up to four months of courses, the