

POSTING SERVICES CENTRE UPDATE

COMMUNITY LIAISON SECTION

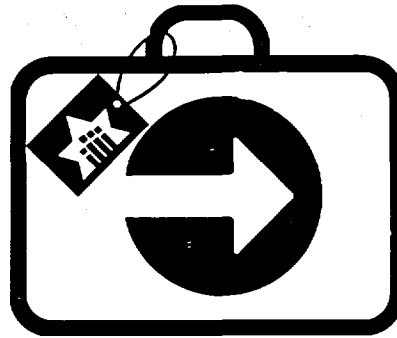
Community Co-ordinators. It seems that since the June issue of *Liaison*, the "pending" implementation of community co-ordinators in our missions abroad has been a constant topic. Once again, this fall, the implementation of such a program was delayed, this time by Treasury Board announcing a temporary freeze on all discretionary expenditures throughout the civil service. On November 8, 1984, however, we received the "go ahead" from the Minister's office so finally all the necessary information has been sent to our missions abroad. Please see the article "Community Co-ordinators at Posts Abroad" for more details about this program. Good luck to participating spouses.

Spousal Employment Policy. The situation remains unchanged. As soon as the policy is approved by the Executive Committee, all missions and divisions of the Department will receive a copy of it.

Spousal Employment Abroad. What are the possibilities for employment for spouses at your post? The Centre would like to computerize these facts, so they can be made available to spouses prior to posting. Contracts are being sent out to all posts abroad (except the United States), so that this research can be done. (See the article "Spouses Working At Home and Abroad" for further details.)

School Questionnaires. To date, 95 missions have returned the information sheets pertaining to the educational facilities at their posts. The facts are now being processed through a computerized data bank and should be accessible in time for the next posting season.

Day Care Centres and Kindergartens. We have recently gathered information on Day Care Centres and Kindergartens in the National Capital Region. This includes all the public establishments in the area, plus



all the private ones in the Outaouais Region (of which there are very few) and 10% of the private ones in the Ottawa-Carleton region. We now wish to know what facilities are available at posts abroad. Should you be interested in a project of this nature, please contact the administrative officer at your post.

Career Planning Workshops. A successful three-day workshop (in English) for spouses was held in November and December. Topics included such diverse and interesting activities as a personality test, a self-assessment, and a computer scored interest inventory. A similar workshop will be offered in French in the Spring. To pre-register please contact Lise Beauregard at 992-2221.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE SECTION

The temporary freeze had halted several of the foreign language programs at Headquarters as well as abroad. As of early November, however, an exemption was obtained, so our programs have resumed as usual. Families going on postings in 1985, who wish foreign language training, should contact their assignment officer who will make the necessary arrangements with the Foreign Language Section.

POSTING OPERATIONS AND TRAINING SECTION

Panorama II Slide Project is proceeding as planned. Response from the missions has been good and numerous colour slides have already been received. Spouses at thirty posts abroad are presently taking slides to be used in the production of video cassettes and other posts may be asked later to take specific slides to enhance their post reports.

Protocol Brochure. Where exactly should you seat your dinner guests? How do you address a female ambassador, a visiting Member of Parliament, a Cabinet Minister? In response to concerns expressed about the present day rules of protocol and the rights and privileges of Canadian representatives abroad, a brochure is being published by the Centre with the co-operation of the Office of Protocol. Although it was hoped that it would be ready by the fall, it has been delayed, but should be ready for distribution to all rotational employees and everyone on the *Direct Communication With Spouses* list, by early 1985.

Training in Consular and Immigration Affairs. Although the *Employment Policy for Spouses* has not as yet been approved, one of the proposals in it is that interested spouses should receive basic training in those areas which often require additional staff during peak periods — such as consular and immigration affairs. Preliminary steps are being taken to organize such a course for sometime in the spring. More details will be given in the February issue of *Liaison*.

Training for Community Coordinators. A course will also be offered this spring, in both French and English, for spouses who are interested in working as Community Co-ordinators. The training will include such areas as the setting up of a documentation centre, administrative procedures, Health and Welfare services abroad, newsletter writing and more. Further details will be given in the February issue of *Liaison*.

OUR FRONT COVER — Montmartre in Paris by Marielle Trottier

The scene on our front cover may well be very familiar to many of us. Marielle Trottier, with this oil painting in rich beige-brown tones, has definitely captured the mood of "Place du Tertre". Her vast collection of other oils, as well, vividly and aesthetically depicts cities and landscapes around the world.

Marielle and her family have just returned from a two year posting to Belgium, where she participated in a group show



entitled "Les Arts en Europe" and was awarded a bronze medal by "l'Association Royale des Artistes professionnels de Belgique". She was the first Canadian to be honored in such a way. Prior to that, she studied at the École des Beaux Arts in Montreal and the Ottawa School of Arts.

Home now, she is presently exhibiting in Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa, has just opened a gallery in her home, and is also teaching both art and French.