

□ POSTING SERVICES CENTRE UPDATE □

PRE-POSTING PROGRAM

The Centre has had an increase over previous years in the number of participants in its pre-posting briefing sessions. By the end of May, 14 sessions had taken place, and more than 250 employees from External Affairs and other departments had been welcomed with their dependants.

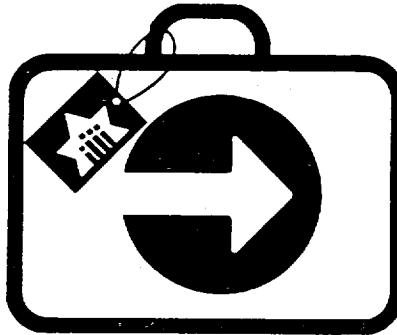
At the end of June, senior executives and their spouses were invited to attend special briefing sessions before going abroad. With assistance from the management of the executive group, the Centre organized and coordinated a series of briefings and workshops designed to better define the role and responsibilities of the senior executives with respect to the Department's different foreign programs.

A series of workshops have been offered to employees, spouses, and dependants to prepare them for posting. By the end of May, 375 employees and spouses had participated in 35 workshops, given either during the day or evening. The program will continue until July. Those who wish to attend can register by contacting the Posting Services Centre.

The Centre has implemented a special training program for the members of the military, and their spouses, posted to Budapest, Belgrade, Prague, Warsaw and Beijing. The program includes sessions on geography, stress, protocol and intercultural communication.

RE-ENTRY PROGRAM

Are you and your family apprehensive about returning to Canada? This Fall, the Posting Services Centre will offer a program for employees and their families returning to live in the National



Capital Region. The program will focus on readjustment to the local community and reorientation to the Department.

Further details regarding this program will be published in an administrative notice at the end of the summer. As well, each employee returning from posting will receive a personal invitation to attend the program.

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The new Consultative Committee on the Employee Assistance Program (E.A.P.) is not losing any time. Its members are currently finalizing a policy document on the Employee Assistance Program.

This program would provide support to employees and their dependants through confidential counselling and assistance. Presently, such services can be more readily obtained in the National Capital Region than at the missions. However, the Department is reviewing the situation to ensure that reasonable support services will be available to employees working abroad. The objective is to implement a program for the missions by the spring

of 1989. In the meantime, those employees wishing to obtain assistance or services should contact the counsellor available at the Posting Services Centre □

NOTATIONS

Sylvie Gauvin's work as Editor of *Liaison* has been greatly appreciated over the last two years. She encouraged and maintained a standard of excellence in the production of *Liaison* and can be credited with delivering a professional publication of solid content and value to our readers. Thank you Sylvie, for your two years of work and congratulations to you on your new position with the Department of Regional and Economic Development.

A new publishing season begins with this issue. Elizabeth Campbell-Pagé will be at the computer keyboard as Editor of *Liaison*. Elizabeth will continue the tradition of linking families and professionals, building news and information bridges between External Affairs and your posting. *Liaison* is your forum to be used, enjoyed and to continue to learn from. Make the most of it.

A hearty thanks to all those who submit articles, stories and photos. We count on you for your opinions on what you want to read in your publication. We will carry your letters and stories in *Liaison* as much as possible, so please send us your comments.

This issue of *Liaison* is designed for the whole family, and will provide a flavour of the summer activities for those of you heading this way □