

News Release

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NEW FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE INAUGURATED

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, will inaugurate on October 1 the Canadian Foreign Service Institute (CFSI), a new training institution for the Canadian foreign service. The ceremony will be held at the Pearson Building in Ottawa at 3:30 p.m.

"A rapidly evolving international system demands innovation, foresight and skill in the development of Canada's foreign policy and the effective management of Canada's international relations," said Mrs. McDougall. "The Institute will provide training to equip all members of Canada's foreign service with the skills and knowledge necessary to formulate and implement a foreign policy that promotes Canadian interests and values, brings understanding of the world to Canadians, and serves Canadians at home and abroad."

The CFSI will offer professional and language training, incorporating and building on existing training programs as well as developing new ones. Courses have already been initiated in the Language School in both official languages and over 40 foreign languages. The Professional School will launch in October two career programs: one for new officers and the other for administrative and technical staff.

"The Institute is a direct result of the Canadian government's increased emphasis on the value of training for its employees to augment their skills and professional development with the goal of improving productivity," said Mrs. McDougall.

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