

In announcing the program, John Jennings, then-president of the Canadian Bar Association, explained that it would allow outstanding law students and young lawyers who have distinguished themselves by academic excellence to participate in a work-study internship in Canada.

"The program complements the political and social reforms that have swept Eastern Europe. There is a pressing need to develop appropriate infrastructures which will enable the nations of Eastern Europe to participate in the international marketplace," said Jennings.

Höltzl agrees: "Our whole country is in a state of transition. We are changing from a one-party to a multi-party system and to a market economy. It is a very challenging and interesting time for the lawyers to create a new atmosphere," he said.

"Freedom of the press, human rights, minority rights, these concerns are all on the agenda of the legislation right now and we are dealing with that and the new constitution," according to Höltzl, who was the only government lawyer in the group.

During his internship in the Department of Justice, Lipót Höltzl worked in the areas of criminal prosecution, family law, legislative drafting and international law. His internship took him beyond the halls of government as well: he participated in a number of Justice-sponsored events such as the annual meeting of the Canadian Bar Association's National Sections, a meeting of the Council of Canadian Law Deans and a meeting of the federal-provincial Working Group on International Law.

Already possessing a theoretical knowledge of Canada's legal system, Höltzl particularly appreciated the opportunity of seeing how the system works in practice. The contacts established during his stay should greatly facilitate his task as liaison officer between his Ministry and Canada's Justice Department. He also identified a number of legal initiatives that Hungary and Canada might eventually want to jointly undertake.

It should be noted that Justice officials also learned a lot about the Hungarian legal system from Mr. Höltzl.



Hungarian lawyer Lipót Höltzl (centre) with Anne-Marie Trahan, Associate Deputy Minister of Justice, at the meeting of Council of Canadian Law Deans.

According to Associate Deputy Minister of Justice Anne-Marie Trahan, who is responsible for co-ordinating all co-operative initiatives of her department with Central and Eastern European countries, "Lipót Höltzl's internship was extremely fruitful. Thanks to Mr. Höltzl's stay, relations between the Department

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Lipót Höltzl

of Justice of Canada and the Ministry of Justice of Hungary are now solidly established and there is continuous exchange of information between the two organizations." ■

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