

products in shops and markets, and losing touch with friends and family. Although it may seem strange to anyone who has not already experienced it, returning to Canada can also provoke a certain amount of culture shock. Potential Foreign Service Officers must consider very carefully what this nomadic lifestyle may mean for children's education, spousal employment and family well-being.

CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

Foreign Service parents make many decisions concerning their children's schooling. Because the quality of overseas education can vary from country to country, it is not always possible to ensure continuity of subject matter and instructional methods for children. Abroad, most Canadian diplomatic children attend British, American or French schools. An education counsellor is available to help families find the schools that best meet their children's needs.

SPOUSAL EMPLOYMENT

Continuous professional employment overseas is usually not possible for spouses. In many countries, despite the lifting of formal barriers, it is difficult for spouses to find work due to linguistic and economic restrictions on the employment of foreigners. Some spouses find salaried work with an international agency, an embassy or an international school; others do volunteer work or studies related to their careers or personal interests. Self-employment has been the approach taken by those with an entrepreneurial bent and portable skills.

A spousal employment counsellor is available at headquarters to advise on employment possibilities that do exist abroad and to assist spouses with job-hunting techniques on their return to Ottawa.