

of their second official language, and, a study will be carried out by linguists, to determine why some persons appear to be unable to learn a second language and whether, as a consequence, teaching methods can be improved.

Exemption at age 60

Effective immediately, Mr. Chrétien continued, unilingual employees age 60 or over would automatically be exempted from language training while retaining the right to occupy or be appointed to bilingual positions. This means that a unilingual employee, age 60 or over, who has all the other qualifications for a bilingual position, can be appointed to the position without having to become bilingual.

Obesity related to clock-watching?

If the amount you eat depends on what your wrist-watch, rather than what your stomach tells you, the probability is that you are obese. Research being conducted by Dr. Patricia Pliner, a psychologist at Erindale College, University of Toronto, shows that external stimuli affect obese people more than they do people of normal weight.

Earlier experiments, explained Dr. Pliner, clearly showed that the amount of food eaten by obese people was directly related to the sight or taste of food or the time on the clock, whereas these factors had less influence on how much was eaten by people of normal weight.

"The next question is," Dr. Pliner continued, "if obese people are affected by environmental cues for eating, are they also more responsive to all kinds of external stimulation?"

The answer so far seems to be in the affirmative. For example, obese people

perform significantly better than people of normal weight on a reaction-time task, in which the subject is asked to release a key when a light goes on. Obese subjects react quicker.

In another experiment, in which subjects were asked to rate on a scale their reaction to one pleasant picture and one unpleasant picture, obese subjects responded more positively to the first and more negatively to the second than did normal weight subjects.

"We also extended the study to young children," says Dr. Pliner. "In the Hospital for Sick Children [Toronto] it was discovered that obese children were more quickly comforted by a nurse. After they had had a blood sample taken they continued to cry, on an average, for 20 seconds after comforting, whereas normal-weight children cried for longer — around 30 seconds."

Studies, to confirm the greater responsiveness of obese people to stimuli unrelated to food, continue.

"Right now," says Dr. Pliner, "we are looking at the physiological responses to loud and quiet sounds." Obesity, it seems, may be just one component in a basic physiological complex which distinguishes some people from others.

Toronto's zoo for all seasons

The new \$39.5-million Toronto Zoo now open on a 700-acre site in suburban Scarborough's Rouge River Valley, will remain open all year. Construction is in the final stages.

Most of the 5,000 mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fresh-water fish living there will appear as if they are still in their native habitat. This is made possible by the ideal nature of the region, a spectacular area of undeveloped land — 300 acres of plateaux, 400 acres of river valley — comprising highlands, valleys, rivers, forests and grassland. Iron bars and other forms of conspicuous containment are at a minimum.

Animals and birds accustomed to the tropical environment of a rain forest, for example, will live the year round in similar surroundings, with suitable protection from the climate. Animals from mountainous areas, accustomed to cold nights and warmer days, will live outdoors most of the time, but

with protection provided against ice conditions. Species indigenous to North America will remain outside all year.

Geographic regions

Five geographic regions will be represented: the Americas, Africa, Indo-Malaya, Eurasia and Australia. Eventually, the World of Oceans will present a wealth of marine life, including whales, and a walk-through viewing tube at the bottom of the 'ocean'.

Pavilions, paddocks and walkways have been precisely planned so as to invite the visitor's participation in the total experience of being with the animals. Other walk-ins will enable visitors to move among the more benign mammals.

A walk-through flight cage, spanning about 30,000 square feet of wooded valley, will form a canopy over tall trees in suspended netting and afford free flight in a jungle of their own for numerous species of tropical birds.

CLC officer elected to international labour body

Shirley G.E. Carr, executive vice-president of the Canadian Labour Congress, was elected workers' vice-chairman of the International Labour Organization tenth regional conference of the Americas held in Mexico City recently.

Representatives of labour, management and government of the 26 member states met to examine methods of improving the living and working conditions of peasants and strengthening tripartism within the organization and the nation states.

The ILO, oldest of the UN agencies, is the only one in which government, employers and workers are represented. Mrs. Carr was elected CLC executive vice-president at the national convention of the Congress held in Vancouver last May.

Canada Weekly is published by the Information Division, Department of External Affairs, Ottawa, K1A 0G2.

Material may be freely reprinted, for the use of which credit would be appreciated; photo sources, if not shown, will be provided on request to (Mrs.) Miki Sheldon, Editor.

Cette publication existe également en français sous le titre Hebdo Canada.

Algunos números de esta publicación parecen también en español bajo el título Noticiero de Canadá.

Ähnliche Ausgaben dieses Informationsblatts erscheinen auch in deutscher Sprache unter dem Titel Profil Kanada.