

1. HIGHLIGHTS OF CFSI ACHIEVEMENTS

1.1. The Canadian Foreign Service Institute

A significant development in the governance of the Institute was the creation of a Canadian Foreign Service Institute (CFSI) Governance Board, chaired at the Associate Deputy Minister level and having as members senior officials of DFAIT, Citizenship and Immigration, the Canada School of the Public Service and CIDA. The Board, which had its first meeting in September 2005, will guide the strategic direction of the Institute to ensure that it meets the priorities of the government.

1.2. Foreign Language Training

The Foreign Language Committee was established in January 2006 and has already met twice. Its mandate is as follows:

- Promote the value and importance of foreign language capacity within the department and the government
- Promote the training capacity of CFSL with other government departments with a view to better integrating language training resources
- Make recommendations on improving foreign language training based on programme audits and a regular review of test results
- Identify and analyse innovative approaches to foreign language training
- Provide advice to HCM on recruitment opportunities to improve foreign language capacity in the department
- Provide advice to HCM and to geographics on the language designation of positions and on proposed assignments to those positions
- Recommend changes to the foreign language policy to DMA Management Committee
- Report annually to Executive Committee on all aspects of foreign language training
- Meet at a minimum of eight (8) times per year.

CFSL proposed to the Committee various scenarios to better adapt Professional Proficiency, Social Integration and Immersion courses to the employees' current needs. The committee will be studying those proposals during the coming year.

An important new contract was negotiated to offer foreign language services for the next five years. Although the budget situation forced the suspension of language training for Canada-based staff abroad, new modules were developed to offer online courses in foreign languages, especially at the beginner level.

Various departments have demonstrated an interest in the services provided by CFSL which is increasingly being recognized as a center of expertise in foreign languages. Important memorandums of understanding (MOUs) already exist with CIDA and CIC to provide language training to their employees. Other agreements have been negotiated with about 30 OGDs that are submitting increasing requests for full-time training. Plans are made to negotiate another important MOU with at least one department in 2006.

