

In October 1992, CFSI's Professional School launched two training programs: a career program for entry-level officers, and a career program for administrative and technical staff. These structured programs are supplemented by many individual courses to meet specific needs. The Institute's courses are offered in English, French, or in a combination of the two languages.

The Canadian Foreign Service Institute's Language School provides training in English, French and over 40 foreign languages to Canadian foreign service personnel, helping them promote Canada's interests more effectively in other countries. Effective communication with the governments, businesses and people of other countries is essential in the competitive international environment.

#### **TO ACT AS A FOCUS OF ACTIVITY**

The Canadian Foreign Service Institute was established in 1992 by External Affairs and International Trade Canada (EAITC) to incorporate and build on existing training programs, and develop new ones. The Institute embodies a unified and coherent vision of the importance of training in the development of individuals and organizations which must meet the challenges of an increasingly complex world. As a distinct institution, CFSI acts as a focus for the energy, imagination and resources necessary to achieve that vision.

The creation of CFSI resulted from a reassessment of priorities made necessary by decreasing resources and increasingly complex international circumstances. Part of this reassessment involved a commitment to enhancing efficiency and effectiveness through human resource development. This is congruent with the Canadian government's Public Service 2000 initiative, which affirmed the need to create a continuous learning environment for employees, thereby increasing productivity and effectiveness. For those working in foreign affairs in particular, more effective and ongoing training is essential for meeting the challenges created by the evolving international system.



*"Raised in Edmonton, I completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in French and Political Science at the University of Alberta. I worked for three summers with festivals, as Logistics Assistant for "L'Estival junior" in Quebec City, and as co-ordinator of "A Taste of Edmonton" in Edmonton.*

*"I have travelled to Japan and Mexico, as well as to Europe, where I studied for a year at the université Paul-Valéry in Montpellier, France. This travel, and my interest in foreign relations, are both rooted in the same fascination with lands abroad, their languages and their cultures.*

*"I believe in the possibility of a greater realization among nations of the necessity of co-operative effort to achieve mutual goals. I come to this Institute with a respect and sympathy for others, organizational skills and an interest in international affairs. I hope to leave with a specific, technical knowledge of policies and methods that will enable me to apply my skills to a career with the foreign service, and contribute to bringing the ideal of international co-operation to a reality."*

*Sandra McCardell  
Political/Economic Officer*