



## INTRODUCING STEPHEN RIGBY

On March 3, Stephen Rigby officially joined Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada as Associate Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. He sat down with *Our World* on April 23 to give some insight into his character, his objectives and the challenges that he faces.

**Our World:** *Could you tell us a little about yourself?*

**Stephen Rigby:** I call Ottawa home. I was born in Tanzania and I'm British by birth. I came to Canada in my preteen years. As a child, I travelled extensively with my family. I am married with two children aged six and nine (one boy and one girl). I have been in the federal government for about 28 years. I started my career in Customs and Excise and in the early 90s, when that department was merged with Taxation, I spent the next 10 years largely working on the tax side of things and came up through the ranks of that organization, essentially. In 2005, I elected to go to the Privy Council Office as Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet, Security and Intelligence. I maintained that role for 12 months, with the additional responsibility of National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister for the last two months. At that point, I was asked to go to the Canada Border Services Agency as the associate deputy minister. I spent a very good 18 months there before I received a call one day with the happy news that I was the

Associate Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. Five weeks later, here we sit.

**OW:** *How do your travels early in life serve you here at DFAIT?*

**SR:** They gave me, through a young person's eyes, a bit of international context. As a result, I see the world not only as a Canadian but also as a British citizen to a certain extent, and, as somebody who comes from a family tradition of extensive travel and affiliation with other countries.

**OW:** *What are your main areas of responsibility?*

**SR:** The main responsibility of any associate in Ottawa is to first and foremost support the Deputy Minister in his or her role. Here at DFAIT, because both deputies tend to travel extensively at various times, I do find myself back here in Ottawa acting for Len. More specifically, I've been given certain areas of focus including: the Americas; Canada, the United States and Mexico; national security