

Focus on The Canadian Trade Commissioner Service



Lebleu, Marcel

Marcel Lebleu joined the Department in 1987 after completing an MA at the École des Hautes Études Commerciales in Montreal. Since August, Marcel has led the trade program at the Canadian Embassy in Buenos Aires. This is his third assignment, having been posted in Yaoundé and San José. He was previously Deputy Director, Commercial Affairs, South America Division and has held several positions with DFAIT, and with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), as a manager in the Industrial Cooperation Program.

Madan, Kapil

Kapil Madan served for two years at the Canadian Embassy in Jakarta (1994-96) as Trade Commissioner responsible for the high-tech sector. After two years in Ottawa (1996-98) handling trade relations with South Africa and working on the Nelson Mandela visit to Canada in 1998, Kapil is now Trade Program Manager in Kingston, Jamaica, which includes responsibility for the Bahamas, the Caymans, Turks and Caicos and Belize.



O'Neil, Kim

Kim O'Neil is First Secretary (Agriculture) at the Canadian Embassy in Mexico City. Kim has had extensive experience working with Mexico, as Senior International Marketing Officer – Mexico Desk with AAFC (1993-96) and Trade Commissioner in DFAIT's Latin America and Caribbean Division (1996-99). These positions have given her the opportunity to work closely with government, private sector and industry associations in both Canada and Mexico.

Potvin, Sylvia

Sylvia Potvin joined DFAIT as a commercial officer and later became a foreign service officer. She has served in Brussels (1979-81), Hong Kong (1987-90) and Barbados (1990-93), where she returned this summer as Commercial Counsellor. Sylvia brings a wealth of experience to her assignments having worked for the SNC Group in Montreal as Director of Marketing, IFIs (1983-84) and operating her own company in Washington (1995-97). During this time, she also served on the International Marketing Advisory Board for a large Canadian company.



Strasser, Mark

Mark Strasser's first posting is in Lima, Peru, as Assistant Trade Commissioner, having joined DFAIT in 1998. From January to March 1999, while in Dubai, Mark worked on the GulFood '99 trade show as well as on the Minister for International Trade's business mission to the region. Prior to his assignment in Lima, he instructed various posts in the Middle East on the new version of WIN Exports. Mark graduated from McGill University with a Masters of Science degree and was employed as a research assistant at McGill before joining DFAIT.

Middle East and Africa

Battel, Leopold

Leopold Battel is Head of the Trade Section in Rabat. He was previously Deputy Director, International Financing Division, responsible for international financial institutions (IFIs), where he published a special report on Arab and Islamic Financial Institutions (on *IFInet*). Leopold's past postings include Helsinki (1992-96), Haiti (1991-92) and Abidjan (1982-85). He was Director of the Haiti Division at CIDA, and desk officer in the Francophone Africa and Western Europe divisions.



Garner, Karen

Karen Garner is responsible for telecommunications, broadcasting, agriculture, agri-food, fisheries, sea products, education and cultural industries at the Canadian High Commission Trade Office in Johannesburg. Prior to her current posting, Karen was part of the Team Canada Trade Missions Task Force, helping organize the Prime Minister's trade missions to Warsaw and Kyiv as well as a Minister-led mission to the Middle East.