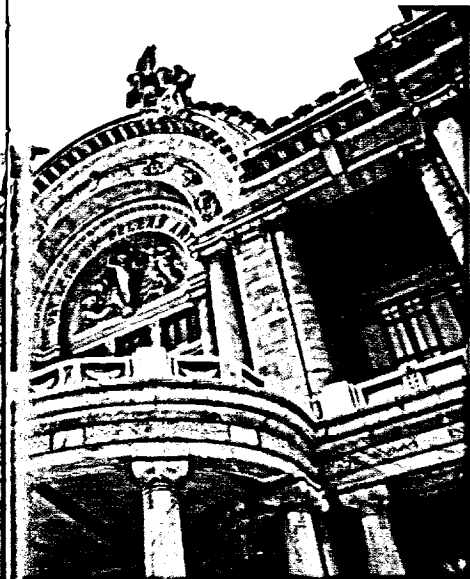


testament to the broad Canada-Mexico relationship, which could be a model for the implementation of an all-of-government approach to international relations. The embassy is staffed by representatives of ten federal government departments or agencies and houses provincial representatives from Alberta and Ontario. (The Province of Quebec, with which the embassy also works closely, has

Jeffrey Marder has been head of the public affairs program at the Canadian Embassy in Mexico since 2005. He has previously been posted to the Canadian Embassy in Santiago, Chile. Returning to Ottawa this summer with his wife and daughter, he'll be on the lookout for fresh papaya and authentic tacos.



Ambassador Guillermo Rishchynski (left) with Mexico City Mayor Marcelo Ebrard



had a general delegation in Mexico City for more than 25 years.)

Canada's presence in Mexico has grown in tandem with the relationship between the two countries and reached a scale unforeseen a generation ago. Inaugurated in 1982 by Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau, the stand-alone embassy, with its distinctive dark brown Mexican stone, has reached its capacity. Though the mission currently stands at 34 Canadian-based staff and 85 locally engaged staff, expansion this summer will see up to six more Canadians posted there with a corresponding growth in local hiring. Including contract employees, 150 people will probably be working at the embassy by 2009. Demands are particularly heavy on the Immigration Section, which deals with increasing numbers of temporary workers, and the Consular Section, whose growing client base includes both tourists and permanent or seasonal residents. Planning continues for construction of a new, larger embassy in the next few years.

Life and work in Mexico City are fast-paced and exciting. But whenever you need a little break, it's easy to slip into a local haunt, put your feet up, and enjoy an ice-cold Corona and spicy taco. And for the adventurous who are curious about local delicacies, the escamoles (ant larvae) are highly recommended.

AT A GLANCE

COUNTRY NAME: United Mexican States

CAPITAL: Mexico City

GOVERNMENT: Federal Republic

INDEPENDENCE: September 16, 1810

POPULATION: 105,900,000 (2007 est.)

LANGUAGE: Spanish

TOTAL AREA: 1,972,550 km²

GDP (PPP): US\$ 1.149 trillion (2006 est.)

GDP: Cdn\$ 960 billion (2007 est.)

REAL GDP GROWTH: 3.27% (2007 est.)

GDP PER HEAD (\$Cdn): 9,064 (2007 est.)

CURRENCY: Mexican Peso

EXPORTS: manufactured goods, oil and oil products, silver, fruits, vegetables, coffee, cotton

EXPORT PARTNERS: U.S.A., Canada, Spain, Germany, Colombia and Venezuela

IMPORTS: metalworking machines, steel mill products, agricultural machinery, electrical equipment, car parts for assembly, repair parts for motor vehicles, aircraft and aircraft parts

IMPORT PARTNERS: U.S.A., China, Japan, South Korea, Germany and Canada