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# news release

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## DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet announces the following diplomatic appointments:

**Michael D. Bell**, currently Director General, Central and Eastern Europe Bureau, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, as Ambassador to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

**Réjean Frenette**, currently High Commissioner to Nigeria, as Ambassador to the Swiss Confederation.

**David Karsgaard**, currently Director, Caribbean and Central American Relations, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, as Deputy Permanent Representative of Canada and Ambassador to the United Nations in New York.

**Suzanne Laporte**, currently Director General, Strategic Management — Americas, Canadian International Development Agency, as Ambassador to the Republic of the Ivory Coast with concurrent accreditation to the Republic of Mali and Burkina-Faso.

**John Schram**, currently Director, Eastern and Southern Africa Relations Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, as High Commissioner to the Republic of Ghana.

Biographical information is attached.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office  
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade  
(613) 995-1874

## BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

**Michael D. Bell** (B.A., Honours, University of Windsor, 1966; M.A. [Political Science], University of Windsor, 1967), born in Windsor, Ontario, joined the Department of External Affairs in 1967. He served abroad in Kingston, Port of Spain, Tel Aviv and Rome. From 1987 to 1990, he was Ambassador to Jordan and from 1990 to 1992, Ambassador to Israel. In Ottawa he served as Executive Assistant for Middle East Affairs to the Honourable Robert L. Stanfield from 1979 to 1980; Director, Middle East Relations Division; and Senior Advisor, Middle East Refugee Working Group. Since 1992, Mr. Bell has been Director General, Central and Eastern Europe Bureau. He is married to Linda Bell and they have one daughter. Mr. Bell replaces Jacques Simard.

**Réjean Frenette** (B.A., Université de Montréal, 1963; B.Sc. [Political Science], Université de Montréal, 1965; M.A. [Industrial Relations], Université de Montréal, 1967), born in Québec, joined the Department of Trade and Commerce in 1967 and served abroad in Bonn, Washington, Tehran, Kuala Lumpur, and Paris. From 1992 to 1993, Mr. Frenette was Ambassador to Zaire with concurrent accreditation to Burundi, Congo and Rwanda and most recently has been High Commissioner to Nigeria, concurrently accredited as Ambassador to Benin. In Ottawa, he has held the position of Director, Asia Pacific South Trade Development Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. He is married to Charlotte Dallaire and they have two sons. He succeeds Jacques Roy.

**David Karsgaard** (B.A. 1966; M.A. 1970; University of Manitoba), born in Vancouver, British Columbia, joined the Department of External Affairs in 1972. He served abroad in New Delhi, Bonn, and from 1988 to 1990 as Ambassador to Iraq. In Ottawa, he held the positions of Director, Cabinet Liaison and Co-ordination Division from 1984 to 1985; Director, Defence Relations Divisions from 1985 to 1988 and most recently as Director, Caribbean and Central America Relations Division. Mr. Karsgaard is married to Elizabeth Lorine Karsgaard. He succeeds David Malone.

**Suzanne Laporte** (B.A., B.Ed., University of Ottawa, 1971), born in Ottawa, Ontario, joined the Department of Communications in 1972. She has served abroad in Abidjan and in Paris where she was Canadian Representative to the Organization For Economic Co-operation and Development from 1986 to 1990. In Ottawa, at the Canadian International Development Agency, she has held the positions of Director General, North Africa and the Middle East Division; Senior Advisor, Transition Team, and most recently, Director General, Strategic Management - Americas. Ms. Laporte is married to Denis Franco and they have one child. She succeeds Denis Bélisle.

**John Schram** (B.A., Honours, University of Western Ontario, 1962; LL.B., University of Toronto, 1965; M.A., University of Ghana, Institute of African Studies, Commonwealth Scholar, 1967), born in London, Ontario, joined the Department of External Affairs in 1969 and served abroad in Lagos, Manila, London and Pretoria. In Ottawa, he held positions in Legal Operations and the Pacific Division and was Deputy Director, Arms Control and Disarmament Division; Logistics and Protocol Co-ordinator for the 1987 Vancouver Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting and the 1988 Toronto Economic Summit; and currently Director, Eastern and Southern Africa Relations Division. He is married to Alena Schram and they have three children. He succeeds Douglass Fogerty.