



No. 193

September 30, 1992

NEW FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE INAUGURATED

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, will inaugurate on October 1 the Canadian Foreign Service Institute (CFSI), a new training institution for the Canadian foreign service. The ceremony will be held at the Pearson Building in Ottawa at 3:30 p.m.

"A rapidly evolving international system demands innovation, foresight and skill in the development of Canada's foreign policy and the effective management of Canada's international relations," said Mrs. McDougall. "The Institute will provide training to equip all members of Canada's foreign service with the skills and knowledge necessary to formulate and implement a foreign policy that promotes Canadian interests and values, brings understanding of the world to Canadians, and serves Canadians at home and abroad."

The CFSI will offer professional and language training, incorporating and building on existing training programs as well as developing new ones. Courses have already been initiated in the Language School in both official languages and over 40 foreign languages. The Professional School will launch in October two career programs: one for new officers and the other for administrative and technical staff.

"The Institute is a direct result of the Canadian government's increased emphasis on the value of training for its employees to augment their skills and professional development with the goal of improving productivity," said Mrs. McDougall.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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Canadian Foreign Service Institute

Backgrounder

- April 1, 1992: The Canadian Foreign Service Institute (CFSI) given responsibility for departmental training; first Dean, R.H. Graham Mitchell, appointed.
- October 1, 1992: Official inauguration and exhibit.
- October 2, 1992: Classes will begin at Asticou Centre in Hull (temporary location).
- April 1, 1993: The Institute will move into the Bisson Centre in Hull.
- CFSI's role is to support the Department's goal of establishing a work environment that encourages training and development for all personnel, throughout their careers. It will help to develop the skills, knowledge and motivation of Canada's foreign service personnel in the effort to promote the interests of Canada in the world.
- The Institute comprises two schools: the Professional School, which offers training through its career and development programs, and the Language School, which offers training in both official languages -- English and French -- as well as over 40 foreign languages.
- Training will be available to all Canadian foreign service employees including officers and administrative and technical staff. This includes all employees at External Affairs and International Trade Canada (EAITC) and career foreign service officers at Employment and Immigration Canada (EIC).
- CFSI's Professional School will launch two career programs on October 2: one for entry-level officers at EAITC and EIC; the other for administrative and technical staff in EAITC.
- The career program for entry-level officers includes over 40 short courses covering such subjects as Canada's foreign policy, interpersonal skills, project management, and relations with the news media. All four officer streams participate in a common training program of seven weeks duration. This is followed by training specific to the stream. For example, Political/Economic officers take "International Law," Trade Commissioners follow "Canada's Trade and Industrial Structure," and Administrative officers study "Resource Allocation, Management and Budgeting." Further training for officers in the Social Affairs group is carried out by EIC. After up to four months of courses, the

new officers from EAITC go on to structured on-the-job training for about eight months.

- A version of the entry-level program will be developed for junior officers, as well as a program for mid-career and senior-level officers.
- The program for administrative and technical staff offers courses on a variety of subjects including communication skills, time and information management, supervisory skills, problem-solving, and financial and property management. The first four courses will begin October 2 and will be offered on a regular basis. Additional courses will be developed.
- At the Language School, participants learn other languages within a larger, cultural context. This approach also means that speaking, listening, reading and writing skills are developed by applying them in "real life" situations similar to those that will be encountered on the job.