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## NEW CANADIAN CHANCERY IN WASHINGTON

The Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, today released the conceptual design for the new Canadian Chancery to be built in Washington, D.C. The design for the Chancery, one of Canada's most important projects abroad, is by Arthur Erickson Architects, Toronto/Vancouver, whose appointment was announced in February 1982. The start of construction is dependent upon approvals in Washington and Ottawa of final plans and specifications. The cost of construction is estimated at US\$28.0 million.

The site of the new Chancery is at the north-west corner of the intersection of John Marshall Place (4th Street), Pennsylvania Avenue and Constitution Avenue, diagonally opposite the East Wing of the National Gallery of Art. The building will front onto Pennsylvania Avenue, which is the processional route from the Capitol to the White House, and will form the first corner of the Pennsylvania Avenue facade from the Capitol. Given the large open area at the intersection with Constitution Avenue, it will be highly visible. Although the original plan of 1791 intended that Pennsylvania Avenue become a centre of civic activities with embassies flanking the Mall, today foreign embassies are remote from either the Mall or Pennsylvania Avenue. The Canadian Chancery will be unique in occupying a location which is closer to that originally intended for embassies and, at the same time, will be in close proximity to international and United States government agencies and many national landmarks.

The Embassy plays a key role in representing Canada in the United States. Through daily contacts with the Administration and Congress, the Ambassador and his officers convey Canadian policies and attitudes to key decision makers.

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An extensive public information program extends the influence of the Embassy to Americans outside the government in business, cultural and academic circles and the media.

The Chancery has been designed in accordance with the guidelines and conditions established by the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation as part of its master plan for the total redevelopment of Pennsylvania Avenue. It will also consolidate into one location the facilities which house the staff of all federal government departments represented in Washington. The Canadian Embassy and the Permanent Observer Mission of Canada to the Organization of American States are now accommodated in three separate buildings.

In addition to office space, the new Chancery is intended to provide:

- a conference centre capable of seating 175 people for use for film showings, press conferences, lectures, etc.;
- a space for full-time exhibition of Canadian visual arts;
- a library which will accommodate 20,000 volumes;
- a general purpose room capable of accommodating meetings;
- representational dining facilities for up to 24 people;
- indoor parking for staff and visitors.