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## Canadian Foreign Service Alumni Forum (CFSAF)



Photo: Capital Modern

125 Sussex Drive frontage looking towards the main entrance and Tower D.

Shortly before the COVID19 pandemic enveloped the world, a small group of retired members of the Canadian foreign service began to meet in Ottawa/Gatineau to set up a new organization. We eventually decided to call this organization the Canadian Foreign Service Alumni Forum (CFSAF)/Le Forum des anciens du service extérieur canadien (FASEC). We also decided to try to make the "Forum", as we call it in short, as inclusive and representative as possible, open mainly to retired (or soon-to-be retired) Canadian foreign service personnel from all foreign service departments, all occupational groups and all streams.

CFSAF/FASEC aspires to achieve several goals. We hope to become a common point of communication for the retired or soon-to- retire members of the Canadian foreign service. When it becomes possible,

we may attempt to organize events, or help with the organization of events both in Canada and abroad. We also hope to offer opportunities to share experiences and expertise, possibly in specific projects, or possibly in advertising positions for which foreign service experience is desirable. Above all, in our communications both within our organization and with those outside of the Canadian foreign service, we hope to demonstrate the continuing value, relevance and significance of a vital foreign service, especially in times of difficulty.

All organizations of this nature serve the interests and visions of their membership. We hope, over time, to build up the organizational capacity of the organization, mainly through electronic communications. At the same time, the organization will achieve only what its membership puts into it. While we therefore

require ideas for the forward progress of the organization, we will also need volunteers to carry some of these activities out. At the present time, we need volunteers to help in various fields, from IT assistance, to the search for benefits for members, and help securing advertisers in FORUM. We hope that when members respond, the capacity of the organization will expand.

This first issue of our bulletin will go to everyone who responded to our invitation to use their email addresses. If we have missed people, please invite them to send in their email addresses, and they will be added to our distribution list. We hope to publish our second issue in February. From time to time, there may also be FLASH messages (our more urgent vehicle of communications), which will be sent out as occasions warrant.

If you have announcements you would like to make, thoughts on projects for the Forum, issues that should be tackled by an organization of this nature, or if you wish to volunteer to assist in our efforts, we would like to hear from you. Please be in touch by way of our email address: [edit.forum99@gmail.com](mailto:edit.forum99@gmail.com). Enjoy this issue!

# FORUM

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## Le Forum des anciens du service extérieur canadien (FASEC)

Peu de temps avant le début de la pandémie, un petit groupe de retraités du service extérieur canadien d'Ottawa/Gatineau s'est engagé dans une série de conversations pour discuter de la création d'une nouvelle organisation. Nous avons finalement décidé d'appeler cette organisation the Canadian Foreign Service Alumni Forum (CFSAF)/Le Forum des anciens du service extérieur canadien (FASEC). Nous avons également décidé de rendre le « Forum », sous sa forme abrégée, aussi inclusif et représentatif que possible, ouvert au personnel canadien retraité (ou bientôt à la retraite) de tous les ministères du service extérieur, tous les groupes professionnels et toutes les filières.

CFSAF/FASEC aspire à atteindre plusieurs objectifs, dont celui de devenir une avenue de communication privilégiée pour les membres. Lorsque cela sera possible, nous tenterons d'organiser des événements ou appuyer l'organisation d'événements au Canada et à l'étranger. Nous espérons également offrir des occasions pour partager notre expérience et notre expertise, éventuellement au sein de projets spécifiques, et publiciser des postes pour lesquels une expérience du service extérieur est souhaitable. Par-dessus tout, dans nos communications internes et avec ceux et celles qui ne font pas partie du service extérieur canadien, nous espérons démontrer la valeur, la pertinence et l'importance vitales du service extérieur, particulièrement en temps de crise.

Toutes les organisations de cette nature servent les intérêts et les visions de leurs membres. Nous espérons, avec le temps, renforcer notre capacité par l'utilisation des

communications électroniques. Le succès de notre organisation sera à la mesure de l'implication de ses membres. Bien que nous ayons besoin d'idées pour les progrès de l'organisation, nous devons également compter sur l'appui de bénévoles pour mener à bien certaines de nos activités. Nous voulons remercier ceux et celles qui ont déjà manifesté leur intérêt à contribuer aux efforts de création de l'organisation. À l'heure actuelle, nous avons besoin de bénévoles dans divers domaines, de l'aide technique à la recherche de bénéfices pour les membres, en passant par le recrutement d'annonceurs dans FORUM. Nous avons bon espoir que la capacité de l'organisation augmentera avec l'implication de ses membres.

Ce premier numéro du bulletin s'adresse à tous ceux qui ont répondu à notre invitation et nous permettent d'utiliser leur adresse courriel. Si vous connaissez des individus qui souhaiteraient se joindre à nous, veuillez les inviter à nous envoyer leurs adresses et ils seront ajoutés à la liste de distribution. Nous espérons publier notre deuxième numéro en février. Selon les circonstances, nous ferons également parvenir, de temps à autre, des messages supplémentaires par l'entremise de FLASH (notre moyen de communication le plus urgent).

Si vous désirez communiquer aux membres quoi que ce soit : des réflexions sur des projets pour le Forum et des questions qui devraient être abordés par notre organisation, ou vous porter volontaire pour appuyer notre travail, nous aimerions vous entendre. Veuillez nous contacter via notre adresse courriel : [edit.forum99@gmail.com](mailto:edit.forum99@gmail.com).

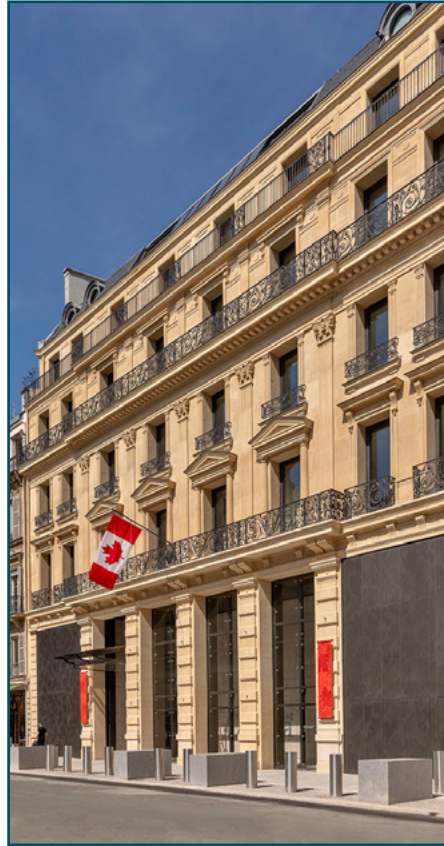
Bonne lecture !

# Nouvelle ambassade à Paris

Après 65 ans de présence sur l'avenue Montaigne, l'Ambassade est maintenant située au 130, rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré à quelques pas de la résidence officielle et du Palais de l'Élysée.

Projet dont la genèse remonte à plus de 10 ans, le déménagement de la chancellerie s'est fait par l'entremise d'un arrangement immobilier novateur qui a permis l'échange des immeubles sur Montaigne et Constantine pour une nouvelle propriété clé en main. L'arrangement incluait également le transfert de la majorité des risques à une tierce partie tout en tirant le maximum de la valeur des édifices.

L'ambassade réunit pour la première fois les présences diplomatique et culturelle du Canada à Paris, avec l'intégration du centre culturel sis autrefois au 5, rue de Constantine sur l'Esplanade des Invalides. Elle permet une plus grande synergie entre tous les programmes et devient un point de rencontre



*La façade avec l'oeuvre de Micah Lexier.*

unique pour faire rayonner la diplomatie, la culture et les valeurs du Canada en France. Le centre culturel offrira à l'art canadien une vitrine spectaculaire, à la mesure de l'importance de la culture dans la relation Canada-France. Qu'il s'agisse des espaces d'expositions comme la splendide galerie sous la verrière ou les œuvres intégrées dans le bâtiment, la nouvelle chancellerie place la richesse et la diversité de l'art canadien au cœur de son projet. Les artistes et les œuvres ont été choisis après consultation d'un groupe d'experts. La chancellerie raconte aussi l'histoire des Premières Nations, leurs cultures et leurs langues à travers les œuvres d'une nouvelle génération d'artistes qui attirent l'attention nationale et internationale.

La présence de matériaux symboliques, comme le cuivre en provenance de l'ancien toit du Parlement canadien, rend hommage au patrimoine de notre pays et est un rappel visuel des institutions de la gouvernance et de la démocratie canadiennes. À l'entrée de l'édifice, la pierre Tyndall du Manitoba qui orne quelque 4000 bâtiments canadiens évoque les vastes espaces et la richesse des ressources naturelles du Canada.

La chancellerie sera la première du réseau diplomatique à obtenir une certification du plus haut niveau pour la performance environnementale des bâtiments de la part de deux organisations internationales — BREEAM et HQE. Les architectes canadiens et français ont su travailler de concert pour concevoir un édifice aux lignes pures et contemporaines, parfaitement intégré à l'esthétique haussmannienne de la « Ville lumière », tout en reflétant la modernité du Canada, son dynamisme, sa créativité et son ouverture sur le monde.

*Gérald Cossette – Le texte est une adaptation d'une circulaire d'AMC. Les photos sont tirées de la publication Le Canada au cœur de Paris.*



*Les matériaux canadiens rendent hommage au Canada partout dans l'ambassade. Salle de conférence du 6<sup>ème</sup> étage.*

# “Into the Lion’s Den...”

## A Vignette of Life with Howard Green and John Diefenbaker in London

By *Eric Bergbusch*

Shortly after joining the foreign service and before going on posting, I was assigned to the Minister’s office to work with the Hon. Howard Green, then Canada’s Secretary of State for External Affairs.

The story does not, however, start with Howard Green, but with two of his colleagues. At a Commonwealth Finance Minister’s Meeting in Accra in 1961, Donald Fleming and George Hees, respectively Ministers of Finance and Trade and Commerce, had won some temporary fame by leading the attack on Britain’s plan to join the European Common Market (EEC). Contrary to agreed practice, they had also given their texts, which were widely quoted, to the Canadian and British press. In doing so, they provided ample fodder for the right-wing critics of Harold MacMillan’s Conservative government in London. These tactics were strongly resented by MacMillan and his colleagues who expected better of their Commonwealth partners in those earlier and gentler days.

Howard Green as a recently appointed foreign minister (but the party’s most experienced parliamentarian) felt deep loyalty to ancient roots and to countries he had fought for in World War I – Britain in particular but also France and Belgium. He disapproved of Canada’s bare-knuckle tactics at Accra and thought there should be better ways of pursuing our policy and our own interests. Hence, there was growing tension in his office as the Commonwealth Prime Minister’s Meeting of September, 1962, loomed. Who would Diefenbaker choose to accompany him? Hees? Fleming? Or Green? In Diefenbaker’s usual style nothing was settled until the last minute – and it was Green who was named (with assurances to Hees that he would be called over “if needed”).

So the issue at hand when we flew over to London was Britain’s application to join the EEC. Britain’s application had unleashed an emotional debate in some quarters in Canada, more broadly within the Commonwealth, and particularly in the British press. Was Britain to abandon its Commonwealth partners and its historic past in favour of a dubious alliance with such friends as Adenauer’s Germany and de Gaulle’s France?

In Britain, the “League of Empire Loyalists,” a motley crowd funded by the jingoistic Canadian press baron, Lord Beaverbrook, was marching in the streets with banners evoking Britain’s glorious past. In Canada the debate was much calmer but there was concern about the possible loss of the British market to European competition especially under the protective rules of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

So the crowd of journalists who greeted us at the airport was eager to hear what Prime Minister Diefenbaker (already cast as a possible saviour by the Beaverbrook papers) had to say.

Fully briefed on the plane by the respected Clerk of the Privy Council, Bob Bryce, Mr. Diefenbaker, after voicing opening courtesies, brought out, in his prophetic style, the fateful words “there are alternatives” [to Britain’s entry to the Common Market]. Within hours the evening editions blazoned across their fronts “Diefenbaker has alternative plan”, a theme guardedly repeated in the serious morning papers.

We had no plan – just a readiness to join efforts to expand trade within the Commonwealth, and beyond it, within the framework of the GATT. That was the worthy alternative. However, in light of the headlines, three youthful Mandarins accompanying the Prime Minister

were asked to devise a defensible plan. For two days, Simon Reisman, Jake Warren and Gerry Stoner – all destined to be deputy ministers of key departments in the near future – laboured to put together a plausible “alternative”.

Meanwhile, Howard Green and all the members of the Prime Minister’s party were ensconced on one floor of Claridge’s Hotel – as guests of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. On the first morning an invitation to dinner arrived from The Hon Duncan Sandys, Churchill’s son-in-law and Minister at the Commonwealth and Colonial Office. When I handed it to Mr. Green, he looked at it carefully and said, “Well, maybe I should go” and I heartily agreed – attend a British dinner party, what could be better? Mr. Sandys had probably planned this to bring together a number of ministers attending the Commonwealth PM’s Meeting. So I called the RSVP number and accepted the invitation on Mr. Green’s behalf.

That evening Mr. Green set off arrayed in his best suit to attend the dinner party. Some hours later, returning to the hotel, I happened to meet the Minister as he came back from his dinner. “Well, Eric,” he said in his resounding, hollow voice, “you led me right into the lion’s den! That was no dinner party. I was the only guest and Duncan kept on at me about our ‘alternative plan.’ I finally had to tell him, ‘Look Duncan, it is a big state secret that only the Prime Minister knows, and I can’t tell you anything!’” It had not been an entirely jolly evening.

Happily, Mr. Green was not unduly vexed. The next morning he gave me a singular task. I was to help him ensure that no unreliable advice reached the Prime Minister’s ears – just his own. In Mr. Green’s view one possible malign influence was that

of his former boss (as head of the Conservative Party), George Drew. As Canada's High Commissioner to London, Drew had fallen in with the Beaverbrook crowd and had deluged the Prime Minister with secret messages of a singular kind.

So I was to keep watch and ward, and warn Mr. Green whenever Mr. Drew was about to turn up – so that he could hustle down the corridor to Diefenbaker's suite and counter his influence. That was hard at first, but I made a happy alliance with Marion Wagner, Dief's secretary. Drew, it turned out, was not her favourite person and she was quite ready to warn me whenever word came that the head of Canada House was on his way.

Meanwhile, the young mandarins were hard at work. After two days of repeated sessions with them, Mr. Green, reading their latest version, turned to the three of them abruptly, "What you are really saying is that we can't have an 'alternative plan'." They wearily agreed. Mr. Green deliberately got up with his papers and said, "Well, I had better tell the PM." And off he went to the corner suite where Olive and the Prime Minister held sway to deliver his own – and the officials' – judgement.

In the end, it did not make much difference. No-one really missed the 'alternative plan' that never turned up. And not long after all this,

General de Gaulle vetoed the British application to join the EEC, so all the efforts made at this and other conferences turned out to be in vain.

But the experience was not totally unrewarding on a personal level. Living in luxury at Claridge's on the FCO's tab made one somehow feel – that one had finally come home!

*Eric Bergbusch served as Howard Gree's Executive Assistant from 1961 to 1963. After various excitements, at home and abroad, he retired from the foreign service in 1995. He has never stayed at Claridge's again.*

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## On Photography

By Victor Rakmil

I inherited my love of photography from my father. He was a photographer in the Air Force Cadets in WWII, a newspaper photographer (he photographed Gouzenko for a Halifax paper), became a creative director in advertising and never lost sight of photography. Before joining the foreign service I worked in photo studios in France and Italy, as well as on TV commercials and as an assistant director on a film by Claude Chabrol. As a diplomat, photography was a weekend hobby; I was never comfortable carrying a camera during official travel or at functions. As retirement approached, my wife Belinda Grover and I took retirement courses, and the question continued to come up: "what will you do after your job ends?" For us it was simple.

The day after my wife and I retired, we went on a photographic walk with a professional photographer and several other people. It quickly became clear that not only would photography be good for our health in providing an excuse for long walks in nature reserves, but it also helped us connect with others who

shared our interests. We both started blogging, and I built a website; both my blog and website have been going strong for almost nine years. Handing out my business card to other photographers and interested people helped my blog get thousands of followers and made me a few friends along the way.



*Damselfly*

Come winter the opportunities for nature photography are limited, and my wife and I agreed we preferred to stick to the warmer months. We kept up our walking but turned our attention to doing indoor photography.

I have sold some photographs, more have been donated for charitable purposes. Many people have told me I should monetize my photography. I admit to being more interested in passing on the things I have learned than dealing with financial transactions. So my daily blog focuses on tips and ideas; I plan to do the same in this column.

The photography world is changing, and not just because the pandemic has created financial problems for camera makers and sellers. With the advent of smart phones, everyone is a photographer. Many people are satisfied using their phones and don't want to buy stand-alone, complicated and expensive cameras. You can get great images out of some phones, but there are reasons why more expensive cameras exist: quality and flexibility.

While there are still photographers who use film, most photographers have gone digital and process their own photographs (more costs, software, calibrated computer screens

and printers, and another steep leaning curve). Many people prefer shooting and would gladly avoid the computer processing. New artificial intelligence-based software is making processing better and easier.

Retirement has required as much dedication, constant learning and surprises, good and bad, as did my career in the foreign service. One of the many challenges of photography is how to engage your audience. Remembering settings and techniques as well as learning new ones is great exercise for the brain. Better yet, photography can be creative.

The pandemic has led to a lost summer of outdoor photography, so Belinda and I are working on indoor projects. My photography has never been restricted to nature. I have explored many other kinds of photography – from portraits to extreme macro to street photography. But I love a good walk in the woods with cameras in tow.

I would not be where I am now without all the photographers I have met in the field and in studios who passed along their tips and tricks. The learning curve has been half the fun.

I plan to write a regular column on photography in this newsletter. I know there are a considerable number of accomplished photographers among the foreign service. I hope my efforts start a discussion (I can be reached at [RakmilPhotography@gmail.com](mailto:RakmilPhotography@gmail.com)). There is always something new to learn in photography. My current project involves macro photography and stacking, a bit more esoteric and abstract than my usual approaches.

In my next article I will address some shooting techniques and things to think about using examples from my photography, and possibly some quick tips.

*Victor Rakmil and Belinda Grover now exhibit their work on their websites: see*

<https://rakmilphotography.wordpress.com>

<https://belindagroverphotography.com>



*Eastern Screech Owl*



*Leopard Frog*

# Passer au suivant : La pratique des relations internationales à l'Université Laval

Par Pierre Guimond

Alors que j'entrevois la fin de mon affectation à Paris et les opportunités qui pouvaient s'offrir à moi après 29 ans de service au ministère, j'en suis venu à la conclusion qu'il était temps de passer à autre chose. La seule perspective réellement considérée fut de rentrer à Québec et d'y retrouver famille, amis et ex-collègues qui s'y étaient déjà installés.

Par hasard, j'apprenais au même moment l'existence du programme «Échanges Canada» qui permet à des employés du ministère de faire le saut vers «l'après-mandat» par le recoupage des intérêts de l'employé, du ministère d'origine et de l'organisme d'accueil. Ce programme m'a donc permis de passer la dernière année de ma carrière en «affectation» à l'Institut des Hautes études internationales de l'Université Laval qui deviendra l'École supérieure d'études internationale de l'UL ([www.eti.ulaval.ca](http://www.eti.ulaval.ca)), dans la cellule diplomatio-militaire.

À mon arrivée, le directeur des HEI et moi avons constaté que malgré l'excellence du parcours académique de nos étudiants de maîtrise en relations internationales, celui-ci n'était pas suffisant pour faire en sorte que les meilleurs d'entre elles et d'entre eux puissent non seulement joindre les rangs des Affaires mondiales Canada (AMC), du ministère des Relations internationales et de la Francophonie du Québec (MRIF) ou des agences internationales (notre taux de placement est déjà très attrayant), mais aussi, et surtout d'y faire une brillante carrière, favorisant en cela un plus grand nombre de francophones aux plus hauts échelons de ces organisations.

Approche honnie des institutions académiques il y a peu, la formation en «compétences» complétant

celles en «connaissances», m'apparaissait en effet essentielle. Il s'agissait d'ajouter au «savoir», le «savoir-faire», et pourquoi pas le «savoir-être». Le plan était donc en place pour créer une École d'hiver sur la pratique des relations internationales.

Le cours, qui en sera à sa quatrième année en 2021, a pour objectif de présenter aux quelques 50 étudiants les compétences requises pour ceux que nous avons appelés les «travailleurs de l'international», soit les diplomates, les représentants d'organisations nationales ou internationales, privées ou publiques, ainsi que celles et ceux qui ont à interagir avec eux. Utilisant ce qu'on appelait autrefois la semaine «de relâche» en mars, il s'agit d'un cours intensif de 6 jours regroupant 45 heures de formation en classe et 90 heures de lectures et de travaux courts et longs, soit l'équivalent d'un cours crédité de deuxième cycle.

Les participants sont exposés au moyen de conférences, de débats sur des lectures obligatoires et de simulations, aux techniques et outils de travail dans un contexte international. S'y ajoutent les méthodes de négociations bilatérales et multipartites, le développement de réseaux d'influence, les défis et moyens de communication publique et de relations interculturelles efficaces, le leadership, la gestion stratégique, le contexte politique ainsi que les principes et valeurs de la fonction publique. Les conférenciers viennent d'AMC et de son bassin de jeunes retraités, du gouvernement du Québec, ainsi que des secteurs politiques, académiques et privés.

Conçu à l'origine dans le cadre du cursus des HEI/ESEI pour l'obtention de la maîtrise en relations internationales, ce cours a depuis

servi de base au développement d'un microprogramme en affaires diplomatiques et stratégiques à l'UL. Aux étudiants gradués se sont joints dès le départ des jeunes professionnels du MRIF, puis de jeunes diplomates de pays tiers francophones en poste aux Nations Unies à New York et, depuis l'an dernier, d'étudiants francophones de la Munk School de Toronto et de la NPSIA d'Ottawa.

Notre ambition de départ était aussi de faire en sorte que les étudiants ayant complété ce cours (et leur MA) pourraient quasi immédiatement se voir confier un poste junior au sein d'AMC, du MRIF ou d'autres organisations, par stage ou autrement. Plus discrètement, une deuxième ambition, ou plutôt un rêve, nous animait : serait-il possible qu'un jour ce cours en vienne à remplacer les longs et complexes processus de recrutement qui se terminent souvent par des entrevues de quelques dizaines de minutes ?

N'empêche que l'École d'hiver demeure axée sur un idéal de continuum où l'université pourrait fournir à la fonction publique des jeunes déjà bien formés tant en connaissances qu'en compétences, alors que l'Institut canadien du service extérieur et l'École de la fonction publique prendraient le relais pour se consacrer davantage à la formation sur des sujets plus pointus et délicats.

En somme, notre École d'hiver est devenue un projet de retraite pour certains et un projet de vie pour plusieurs.

*Pierre Guimond est diplomate en résidence, École supérieure d'études internationales, Université Laval*

# The “Two Michaels”: A Forgotten Anniversary Approaches

Par Gar Pardy



In less than a month it will be the two-year anniversary of the arbitrary imprisonment of Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor by China. In this time of sadness associated with the remembrance of the sacrifice of thousands of Canadians in various parts of the world over the past two centuries, we might pause and add Kovrig and Spavor to this honoured list.

It is not that they are totally forgotten. The government regularly offers what has become ritualistic expressions of its deep concern. The two men are “top of the agenda”, they are part of ongoing discussions with the Americans and “we have made sure that we have the international community with us.”

There are as well ritualistic expressions by experts that Canada must get “tough” in dealing with China. This toughness is never defined in any useful way and is akin to advising a grizzly-harassed hiker in northern B.C. to shout louder.

This has been the refrain of the government for the past twenty-three months.

What is missing from this escape from Canadian responsibility for its own citizens and passing it on to others is any indication of any specific action by Ottawa. This is delusional foreign

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*And the ritualistic passing of Canadian responsibility to possible action by other countries is pure fantasy and a reflection of the sad state of Canadian public policy.*

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policy at its most tragic, and many Canadians are being deluded.

This is a time when other countries are preoccupied and focussed with saving the lives of thousands of their own citizens from the ravages of an out-of-control raging virus. It is

ultimate fantasy for the Canadian government to continue to offer Canadians the idea that other countries have either the inclination or the ability to provide an answer to a Canadian problem.

In the playing out of the farce that represents American political life in the post-Trump era, there are even suggestions that Washington might provide an answer to this Canadian problem. There is little doubt but that President-elect Biden will offer appropriate soothing noises in the midst of his easing the dead hand of President Trump from the American governmental machine. But to expect the soothing American noises will do anything of consequence in resolving the Canadian problem with China just adds to the delusion that something of consequence is underway.

China has now successfully emerged from its own battle with the raging virus. There are no indications whatsoever it is going to back away from its hard-headed and tight-fisted approach to the world when that world is on its knees and struggling. Charity has never been a characteristic of China’s approach to the world – rather it will continue to see the world as a place where tributary is part of the natural order.

In this, the lives of two Canadians are on offer. The Canadian government cannot escape its fundamental responsibility for these lives. It must



look to its own actions in order to see Mr. Kovrig and Mr. Spavor returned safely to Canada as quickly as possibility.

The world knows this as does China. And the ritualistic passing of Canadian responsibility to possible action by other countries is pure fantasy and a reflection of the sad state of Canadian public policy.

Most governments in times of crisis involving the lives of their citizens in foreign countries are quite prepared to make the hard-nosed decisions. While these decisions are clothed with illusory rhetoric, fundamentally they take place in an environment where you lessen your own harm. In doing so, a specific problem is settled while other matters of public concern can return to the fore.

Even that great bastion of international “morality” understands and acts on this occasionally. In the past several weeks the Americans have negotiated and exchanged persons in its own prisons for the release of American citizens in Iran, Syria and Yemen, all countries in a state of war involving the United States. As well, in recent days, the government of Armenia was willing to accept an end to its inept efforts of support to its co-religionists in a neighbouring country by agreeing to a cease fire.

These developments were achieved through discussions and negotiations, not through bluster or the offloading of responsibility.

Governments must look after their own interests. The Canadian government more through obduracy than design has sought to avoid its responsibility for the lives and well being of Mr. Kovrig and Mr. Spavor. That abdication of responsibility must come to an end and direct actions initiated that will see them returned to Canada in exchange for the return of Mme Meng Wanzhou to China. This can be done in full accordance with the rule of Canadian laws.

*Gar Pardy is retired from the foreign service and comments on issues of foreign policy from Ottawa. His new book “China in a Changing World” is now available through Chapters/Indigo, Barnes and Noble, Amazon and Books on Beechwood in Ottawa.*

## Announcements/ Annonces

If you have ‘announceables’, let us know, at [edit.forum99@gmail.com](mailto:edit.forum99@gmail.com).

Si vous avez des ‘annonces’, faites-le nous savoir à [edit-forum99@gmail.com](mailto:edit-forum99@gmail.com).

## High Wire/ Sur la corde raide

By Paul Heinbecker

The National Film Board has released a remarkable documentary about Prime Minister Jean Chrétien’s momentous decision to resist pressure to participate in the catastrophic American invasion of Iraq in 2003. The decision was, according to the Toronto Star’s Chantal Hébert, a defining moment for the Prime Minister, and, according to M. Chrétien himself, the greatest affirmation of Canadian independence in the past 50-75 years.

From a series of interviews with me, the PM, Claude Laverdure, and others, Claude Guilmain, the film’s director and Denis McCready, the producer, assembled the inside story of how and why the decision was made. It focuses on the Canadian diplomatic efforts at the United

Nations to forge a compromise between the Americans and most of the rest of the UN’s members which, if successful, would have avoided the war, averted the untimely deaths of scores, perhaps hundreds, of thousands of Iraqis and preserved the fragile stability of the Middle East.

It is gratifying that the NFB would make such a film a couple of decades after the fact, and such a good one at that. I was happy to collaborate with them to record this important chapter in Canadian diplomatic history before it was buried in the sands of time.

The documentary can be obtained at the following website:

English: <https://www.nfb.ca/film/high-wire/>

français: <https://www.onf.ca/film/sur-la-corde-raide/>

## Ambassadors of Note/Ambassadeurs de marque

By Gary Smith

Throughout the decades, Canada’s foreign service personnel have done an admirable job in representing Canada and its values and in pursuing our national and international interests abroad. We have been less adroit

in ensuring the Canadian public, political parties and the media are aware of these achievements, the vital role of diplomacy and the benefit of having a professional foreign service.

With the objective of enhancing public understanding as well as marking the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of the Department of External Affairs in 1909, the Retired Heads of Mission Association (RHOMA) last year launched an initiative to highlight the careers of twenty “Ambassadors of Note”.

A further ten Ambassadors will be profiled this year. The research and writing of the profiles were done by two Canadian historians, Steve Marti and Brendan Kelly.

The profiles of these Ambassadors and the criteria for their selection can be found on the RHOMA web page: <https://rhoma-acmar.ca>.

For a reaction to the publication of Ambassadors of Note, see the following in the *Kingston Whig Standard* by Louis Delvoie:

<https://www.thewhig.com/opinion/columnists/ambassadors-of-note>.

<https://www.thewhig.com/opinion/columnists/queens-grad-burney-made-big-impression-in-canadian-foreign-service/>

## Books in Revue/ Critiques de livres

### Murder in the Family

By Jeff Blackstock

Penguin Random House, 2020.  
332 pages. ISBN 9780735236615

There is no happy ending to this book. It is an enticing murder mystery, written in a compelling style, about the search for evidence about a murder which occurred in the late 1950s in Buenos Aires. But this story is not fiction. The opening line reads, “I think that my father murdered my mother.”

The author is a retired Foreign Service officer who writes about how his father, George Blackstock, also a former Foreign Service officer, murdered his first wife, Jeff’s mother, while on posting as a Trade Commissioner to Buenos Aires. The book is unsettling because, in the course of collecting the evidence which concludes that his mother was murdered by his father, the author also suggests, compellingly, that the murder was followed by a coverup involving senior officials of the Department of Trade and Commerce, an important hospital in Montreal, the coroner’s office in Montreal, and the Montreal police and the RCMP.

The victim of the murder, Carol Blackstock, appears to have ceased to exist – literally. Files seem to have been scrubbed as repeated ‘no information’ responses to Access to Information requests suggest. A single medical doctor, uncomfortable with the coverup, kept copies of critical documents, making them available to Jeff Blackstock a quarter of a century later.

The beginning of the book is slow as the author sets the scene. Then, it becomes a fascinating and fast-paced murder investigation. Carol was 15 and George 17 when they married. She came from a modest middle-class family, and he came from establishment, ‘Old Toronto Money’ (liquor and banking). After graduating from Upper Canada

College and university, he joined the Foreign Service and was posted to Buenos Aires.

The posting was enjoyable, Carol was a vivacious outgoing woman and an asset to a diplomatic husband. Suddenly she became ill with intense vomiting and neurological difficulties in her extremities. She was in and out of hospital, recovering when in hospital, deteriorating when at home. Eventually arrangements were made for her return to Canada for treatment. But instead of going to Toronto, where her parents resided, she was taken to Montreal, where she died two days after her return.

No cause of death was apparent until one doctor suggested the symptoms were like heavy metal poisoning. An autopsy found massive arsenic poisoning, concluding that its last administration, roughly the volume of a candy bar, was done just before she reached the hospital.

Jeff and his siblings were unable to learn why their mother died. George gave various versions but claimed lack of knowledge to his children. There were other problems in the family, prompting Jeff and his sister to launch an investigation. Their maternal grandfather had done the same earlier, and after his death an autopsy report was found in his files. The hospital, coroner, Montreal police and RCMP had no existing records. Evidence of a Trade and Commerce ADM coming to Montreal to ‘discuss’ the case was discovered, in George’s own record, after he died. All other records were scrubbed. Carol Blackstock ceased to exist, and a Canadian government department may have covered up her murder.

This murder mystery is not a nice story. A Foreign Service officer murdered his wife and got away with it. A department of the federal government seemed to conspire to obstruct justice. Only incredible determination and much luck permitted the unravelling of a sad chapter in the history of the Foreign Service.

*Kurt F. Jensen, a retired Foreign Service officer, knew George Blackstock at the Canadian embassy in Stockholm.*

### The Good Fight: Marcel Cadieux and Canadian Diplomacy, Vancouver

By Brendan Kelly

UBC Press, 2019., 540 pages,  
hard-cover

Cette biographie de Marcel Cadieux présente une excellente description de la vie personnelle et professionnelle de l’un des premiers haut fonctionnaires francophones de la Fonction publique canadienne. Elle couvre les trente années qui suivirent la fin de la Deuxième guerre mondiale, “les Trente Glorieuses” comme on les désignent parfois.

Marcel Cadieux s’est toujours perçu comme un diplomate de carrière, soucieux de fournir des avis bien informés sur les questions internationales susceptibles d’affecter les intérêts globaux du Canada. Anti-communiste comme suite à ses premières années en Europe et son expérience au sein de la Commission internationale de contrôle du Vietnam, et pro-américain, il avait la mentalité typique d’un homme de cette époque.

C’était un ardent défenseur d’une certaine forme d’orthodoxie dans la façon de conseiller les gouvernements tout en valorisant l’expertise particulière que le Ministère des Affaires extérieures pouvait offrir au gouvernement canadien. Il a par ailleurs, joué un rôle fondamental pour assurer une représentation plus adéquate des francophones au sein de ce ministère.

Il fût l’un des principaux acteurs dans la problématique relation triangulaire entre Québec, Ottawa et Paris, années 60 et 70, cause de déception et de frustration chez lui. Elles expliquent en partie les difficultés qu’il connut avec les derniers gouvernements précédant l’arrivée de celui de Pierre Elliott Trudeau.

Brendan Kelly puise largement ses sources dans le Journal intime de Marcel Cadieux, dont la partie de ce livre consacrée à ses rapports

avec Paul Martin Sr. est particulièrement hilarante.

L'arrivée de Pierre Trudeau marqua un changement profond pour ce qui a trait à l'administration du pays, la promotion d'une nouvelle politique étrangère, le transfert des prises de décisions vers le bureau du Premier ministre, et la prise en main des relations fédérales-provinciales par le Premier ministre et les membres de son gouvernement.

Marcel Cadieux devint progressivement et bien malgré lui, un homme d'une autre génération qui vécut cette période de transition, en constatant qu'un nouveau processus décisionnel avec de nouveaux comités du Cabinet était désormais privilégié et représentait la nouvelle manière de prendre les décisions. Cette évolution impliquait également que ces haut fonctionnaires expérimentés virent leur pouvoir grandement réduit et circonscrit.

Marcel Cadieux fût nommé Ambassadeur à Washington sous Nixon ( et les affres du Watergate), auprès des Communautés économiques européennes à Bruxelles (la troisième option), et comme négociateur avec les États-Unis pour les questions de pêches et droit de la mer.

Il demeura pro-américain et anti-communiste, bien que l'arrivée de Pierre Trudeau comme Premier ministre avait commencé à balayer la

façon traditionnelle de penser la politique étrangère et de gérer la Fonction publique fédérale dans son ensemble.

Pour résumer, une excellente biographie consacrée à un haut fonctionnaire francophone d'une grande valeur, d'une grande intégrité professionnelle, et dont la contribution fût marquante au service du Canada et qui, à certains égards, demeure toujours d'actualité.

*Jean-Pierre Juneau s'est joint au MAECI en 1969 et pendant une carrière de plus de 40 ans a servi comme ambassadeur du Canada en Espagne, au Brésil, à l'UE, à l'OTAN ainsi qu'à Cuba.*

## Canada on the United Nations Security Council: A Small Power on a Large Stage

By Adam Chapnick

Vancouver: UBC Press, 2019

An historian at the Canadian Forces College in Toronto, Adam Chapnick has made a substantial contribution to the history of Canada's foreign policy with this niche book on our performance on the United Nations Security Council since the inception of the UN in 1945. Published prior to the 2020 election to the UNSC, it covers the two occasions when

Canada ran for a UNSC seat and was defeated, as well as the six times when we won office as a 'non-permanent' member of the Council. Based on exhaustive documentary research and interviews, it contains fascinating insights on the issues and the players over the past seventy-five years.

Chapnick's goal is to clarify for Canadians lots of myths and stories surrounding the UN. He covers successful election campaigns comprehensively. Any future foreign service officer will wish to review this book for its analyses of the 1988 and 1998 campaigns.

He also covers our performance as a member of the Council. Some of these two-year periods were productive. Some were not, despite the best efforts of Canadian diplomatic staff in New York. Time and circumstance determine whether any given period of the Council will be useful or bogged down in stalemate, as at present.

This book is a significant achievement that should be compulsory reading in GAC. My major quibble is its title, which argues that Canada is a 'small' country. Although our reach has always been difficult to capture in an easily-digestible phrase, the term 'small' is clearly wrong. If we are a 'middle power,' in the middle of what? If we are a 'principal nation,' who are the others, and how do we compare?

The book's major omission, on Canadian action in the UNSC as a non-member, is a significant blank spot. Paul Heinbecker was the last Canadian ambassador to represent Canada on the UNSC in the year 2000. After we stepped down as a member, Heinbecker used his experience and contacts to frame an initiative on Iraq in 2002-03, that came close to stopping the invasion of Iraq and the disastrous war that ensued.

Full of insights and surprises, this is a welcome addition to Canadian foreign policy.

*Daniel Livermore served at the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations in New York on his first posting from 1977 to 1980.*

## Scholarship Announcement

The Canadian Ambassadors Alumni Association (AmbCanada), formerly RHOMA, has, over the years, provided scholarships to students with an interest in pursuing studies in international affairs. This year, AmbCanada has partnered with Carleton University to offer a scholarship to an outstanding Indigenous graduate student in the Faculty of Public Affairs. Preference will be given to students pursuing studies at the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs. The Scholarship is valued at \$2,000.00, largely raised through the sales of AmbCanada's two books, "Declassified" and "Not Mentioned in Dispatches". AmbCanada invites you to make a contribution to the scholarship fund. Contributions can be made by clicking on the link below. The University will match donations made on Giving Tuesday, which will take place on December 1st this year. You will receive a charitable receipt, and donations received before 31 December 2020 will be eligible for a tax credit for 2020.

<https://futurefunder.carleton.ca/giving-fund/canadian-ambassadors-alumni-association-caaa-scholarship-for-indigenous-students-bourse-de-lassociation-des-anciens-ambassadeurs-du-canada-aaac-pour-les-etudiants-autochtones/>

### Ralph Guitard's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday

By John Kruithof



On Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Ralph Guitard celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Ralph is a former Communicator in what is now Global Affairs Canada. Originally rotational, he spent much of his career at Headquarters in the Comcentre Dupe Room, where he was a steadying influence on in- and outgoing CM colleagues, who are now delighted with his reaching this epic milestone. His birthday was also acknowledged with commemorative certificates from the Queen, the Governor General and other dignitaries. Attending the birthday event itself, however, was very much curtailed by COVID-19 restrictions. Rather than being able to shake his hands and pat him on the back, in the hope that some of his remarkable longevity might rub off on the well-wisher, friends had to keep their distance, congregating along the side of the street and applauding him from there. Congratulations to Ralph.



### Greg Donaghy (1961-2020)

Greg Donaghy, one of Canada's pre-eminent historians of foreign policy and former head of the Historical Section of Global Affairs Canada, died in Ottawa on 1 July, 2020, a week after suffering a heart attack. Born in London, England, in 1961, Greg arrived in Toronto as a youth with the rest of his family and quickly embraced the Canadian heritage when he strapped on his first pair of skates. A trip to Senegal with Canada World Youth ignited a lifelong passion for social justice, international relations and foreign policy. He received his BA from the University of Toronto (1986), MA from Carleton University (1989) and PhD from the University of Waterloo (1998).

Dr. Donaghy had a long and distinguished career as a federal government historian. A prolific writer, he published *Tolerant Allies: Canada and the United States, 1963-1968*, followed by *Grit: The Life and Politics of Paul Martin Sr*, a finalist for the 2015 Shaughnessy Cohen Prize. He was also a co-author of the third volume of the official history of the Department of External Affairs, and he edited, with Kim Nossal, a book on *External Affairs, Architects and Innovators: Building the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, 1909-2009*. In 2012, he was recognized for his accomplishments with the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal. He retired in the spring of 2019 as Head of the Historical Section, and almost immediately became the Director of the Bill Graham Centre for International Contemporary History at Trinity College, University of Toronto.

Following his death in Ottawa in July, 2020, the Canadian International Council announced plans to hold an event on the history of Canadian foreign policy in Greg Donaghy's memory. See: <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/theglobeandmail/obituary.aspx?n=greg-donaghy&pid=196444878>

### Sylvia Ostry (1927-2020)

Sylvia Sarah Knelman Ostry was born in Winnipeg in 1927, earned a B.A. from the University of Manitoba and pursued graduate studies in economics at McGill University and Cambridge University, from which she graduated with a doctorate in 1953. She returned to Canada in 1960 and joined the Canadian Department of Labour. Rising through the ranks of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics and the Economic Council of Canada, she was appointed head of Statistics Canada in 1973, becoming the first woman to become a deputy minister in the Canadian government.

Dr. Ostry moved from Statistics Canada to the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and then chaired the Economic Council of Canada. In 1979, she was appointed chief economist of the OECD in Paris. In 1983 she returned to Canada as deputy minister of International Trade. She soon became Canadian Ambassador for multilateral trade negotiations and the Prime Minister's "sherpa" for four G7 Summits, preparing the ground for the creation of the World Trade Organization in 1995.

After retiring from the Canadian public service in 1990, she was appointed chair of the National Council of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs. She received numerous awards over the course of her life, including the Order of Canada and the Order of Manitoba. She died in Toronto on 7 May, 2020. She was predeceased by her husband, Bernard Ostry in 2006. She provided substantial support to the Munk Centre at the University of Toronto, where a magnificent oil portrait of Dr. Ostry hangs in the main common room.

<https://canadianjewishrecord.ca/2020/05/21/sylvia-ostry-economist-civil-servant-dies-at-92/>

<http://www.billgladstone.ca/the-ostrys-legacy-of-accomplishment-in-public-life/>

<https://munkschool.utoronto.ca/feature/rememering-dr-sylvia-ostry-cc-om-frsc/>

## Allan Gotlieb (1928-2020)

Allan Gotlieb, Canadian ambassador to Washington in the 1980s, died in Toronto in May, 2020, at the age of 92. Born in Winnipeg, he received a B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley, a master's degree from Oxford University as a Rhodes scholar, and a law degree from Harvard, and then began a public service career in 1957 by joining the Department of External Affairs.

His rise through the ranks was rapid. After a posting in Geneva, and ten years after joining the Department, he was appointed assistant under-secretary of state for external affairs and legal adviser. He was subsequently appointed deputy minister of Manpower and Immigration in 1973, and in 1977 became under-secretary of state for external affairs. In 1981 he was



*Allan Gotlieb photo courtesy Toronto Public Library*

appointed ambassador to the United States, a position he held until 1989.

He was a skilful and respected figure in Washington and was a scholar of note, who wrote five books and numerous articles on political science and international law. He received the Order of Canada, and following his retirement from the public service in 1989 became chair of the Canada Council and was publisher of Saturday Night magazine. He served for thirteen years with the law firm of Bennett Jones as a senior adviser on government and public policy.

<https://thecic.org/death-of-a-visionary-allan-gotlieb/>

<https://policymagazine.ca/death-of-a-visionary-allan-gotlieb-1928-2020/>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/statement-on-the-passing-of-former-diplomat-allan-gotlieb.html>

<https://www.canada.ca/fr/affaires-mondiales/nouvelles/2020/04/declaration-sur-le-deces-de-lancien-diplomate-allan-gotlieb.html>

<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/article/visionary-diplomat-allan-gotlieb-was-shrewd-player-power-game>

<https://www.tvo.org/article/remembering-our-man-in-washington>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v\\_WM1w0Z2pk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v_WM1w0Z2pk)

### The best of COVID19 videos/les meilleurs videos

*Click on the links below.*

#### **Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, Beethoven's Ninth Symphony:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3eXT60rbBVk>

#### **InVoca, Coronavirus Rhapsody:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Eo9M4-BrJA>

#### **We are the World 2020**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4OGrDd0PhjU>

#### **Phoenix Chamber Choir: Longest Time :**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LpAKcQufacc>

#### **Queen + Adam Lambert, You are the Champions:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7LcLqIHZNkY>

#### **World Health Organization, I'm Standing with You:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=keWJmCzSMW0>

#### **Daniel Emmet, Nessun Dorma:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uL52AuF4QzY>

#### **Choir without Borders/ Chorale sans frontière, Don't Stop Believing:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DOJcEwg2r6U&feature=share&app=desktop>

#### **"The Prayer", Celine Dion, Andrea Bocelli, Lady Gaga, Lang Lang, etc.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SYJCYr1I-Sk>

#### **ArtistsCanada, "Lean on Me", Canadian Red Cross**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=athd5\\_CW\\_z0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=athd5_CW_z0)

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"Sorry, no admittance. The boss has standards."

«Excusez monsieur. Le patron dit que vous n'êtes pas bienvenu.  
Ici, nous avons des standards.»

## Vignettes from the Archives of the Department/ Vignettes des archives du ministère

### The Origins of External Affairs:

This vignette is about the origins of the Department of External Affairs, as it was first named, charged with the conduct of Canada's foreign relations. How did it begin? Who wanted a ministry? What prompted the Canadian government to pass legislation to create the Department in 1909? The document below is part of an official message, from Lord Grey, the Governor General of Canada, to Lord Elgin, the British Colonial Secretary, dated 23 March, 1908. It reported on some of the difficulties that British officials had encountered in dealing with the Canadian government when there was no foreign ministry charged with keeping track of international issues. It also proposed a solution to those difficulties, namely, the creation of a Canadian foreign ministry.

### From Lord Grey to Lord Elgin, 23 March, 1908:

"...There is no Department, no official through whose hands all matters dealing with external affairs must go. Consequently there is no record, no continuity, no method, no

consistency.... We have only three men in the Government Service who have any knowledge of details connected with Canada's foreign relations. One drinks at times, the other has a difficulty in expressing his thoughts, and conversation with him is as difficult as it is to extract an extra tight cork, and the third is the Under Secretary of State, [Joseph] Pope – a really first class official. Not a day should be lost in putting him in charge of a Department of External Affairs under Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and in a short time he would be able to train one or two young men who would take up his work after he has gone... Sir W. Laurier's work would be ever so much facilitated, and Canada would be prompt and satisfactory to deal with, instead of the swollen impossible cork, the extraction of which almost bursts a blood vessel."

*Source: Library and Archives Canada, Grey Papers, Vol. 14, No. 181; Janice Cavell, Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada, A history in documents, 1909-2009, p. 5; see also John Hilliker, Canada's Department of External Affairs, Vol. 1, The Early Years, 1909-1946, p. 32-33.*