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Diplomatic Despatch: Canadian and Norwegian Foreign Ministers' Tandem (Unclassified but Interesting)

By Ian Ferguson



Photo courtesy of the Global Centre for Pluralism, Ottawa.

Anniken Huitfeldt, Foreign Minister of Norway, left, with Melanie Joly, Canada's Foreign Minister, right, with the Global Centre for Pluralism's Secretary General Meredith Preston McGhie, centre.

On March 10, 2023 the Global Centre for Pluralism hosted the Foreign Ministers of Canada and Norway for an exchange of views on advancing peace and multilateralism. This was, surprisingly, the first bilateral visit by a Norwegian Foreign Minister in 10 years. Diplomatic Missions and civil society were well represented at this fully subscribed event. The discussion was ably moderated by the Global Centre for Pluralism's Secretary General

Meredith Preston McGhie. Norway struck this observer as a valuable multilateral and regional partner, one who is flexible, like-minded, capable of leading international initiatives, willing to take risks, able to invest serious development resources, and one not bound by the EU's at times lengthy decision-making.

In opening remarks, the Honourable Mélanie Joly noted that she and her Norwegian counterpart were both appointed towards the end of 2021.

Given events in Europe, they now see one another every few weeks. For Canada, Norway was an important partner as countries address the perfect storm of challenges related to collective security, climate change, and rising inequality. For the first time in 17 years violent conflicts have risen globally.

The Honourable Anniken Huitfeldt, Foreign Minister of Norway, remarked that soon after her appointment in October of 2021, NATO ministers were briefed on Russian preparations for war in Ukraine. The Minister recalled that NATO had extended its political cooperation in the aftermath of the 1956 Suez Crisis on the recommendation of ministers, who became known as The Three Wise Men, including Lester B. Pearson, and Halvard Lange, Foreign Minister of Norway. Political dialogue within NATO was now more important than ever.

On the issue of more effective multilateralism, both ministers noted the importance of engaging partners such as Indigenous groups,

FORUM

Daniel Livermore
Gérald Cossette
Co-editors / rédacteurs en chef

Jan Soetermans
Graphic Designer / Graphiste

Editorial Board / Comité de rédaction

Guy Archambault
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Kurt Jensen
Vicken Koundakjian
Habib Massoud
Olivier Nicoloff
Lillian Thomsen
Shelley Whiting

Email: edit.forum99@gmail.com

Web: www.forumdiplocan.ca

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Arctic security must take account of the views of those living there. They have conveyed the need for more investment in food security and mental health support.

civil society, academics, media, and business. Indigenous representatives had, for example, been invited to meet the two Ministers to discuss the Arctic Council where Norway was in line to take over the Presidency (from Russia) in May. Minister Huitfeldt stated that while it cannot be business as usual on the Council, people-to-people contacts between Indigenous groups remained ongoing and valuable. Minister Joly noted that Arctic security must take account of the views of those living there. They have conveyed the need for more investment in food security and mental health support. The NATO Secretary General when visiting Cambridge Bay, Nunavut in August 2022, had highlighted that northern security was in the hands of Indigenous people.

On Russia, Norway had been working for the past 30 years to create space for academic, media and cultural groups who were now being targeted and attacked. This work had been promoted by Thorvald Stoltenberg, former Norwegian Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, and father of the current NATO Secretary General. This essential work should continue, as so-called “strong men” (who are not really strong), seek to reinforce their ties to each other. Minister Joly stated that it was necessary to broaden the coalition of countries who believe in the UN Charter, building upon the 141 member states who recently voted

to condemn Russian aggression at the UN General Assembly. As Russia’s political, economic and military isolation grows, countries still require diplomatic eyes on the ground to observe, engage and report. Minister Huitfeldt stressed that Norway generally favoured engagement even with people with whom we disagree. The current isolation of Russia was unprecedented. In another exceptional move, Norway had ended a 60-year embargo on arms exports to countries engaged in armed conflict in order to support Ukraine.

While concerned countries cannot “push peace” if the parties are unwilling, they can facilitate dialogue. Norway, for example, had recently allowed a Taliban delegation to visit and meet Afghan women in order to encourage more education for women. While the Minister did not meet the delegation personally, some progress had been made with those attending, though subsequently blocked by the Governor of Kandahar. Norway was, however, willing to “push” for women to have a seat at peace talks. Patience and acknowledgement of a high risk of failure were required e.g. implementing the peace agreement ending 30 years of civil war in Colombia. Minister Joly added that if peace remained a long term goal some helpful stability might be obtained in the interim.

With the UN Security Council stymied on Ukraine, Minister Joly said Canada was pursuing other avenues of accountability. On her recent visit to Kyiv, she had met the President and Prosecutor General. The latter had more than 60,000 war crimes files already. Canada was also helping the ICC, the ICJ and the proposed Special Tribunal for Ukraine on the Crime of Aggression. Canada was pressing for changes to the Afghan “Criminal Code to allow women to work for NGOs, and we remained engaged in Ethiopia and Cameroon”.

In response to a question from the Danish Ambassador, Minister Joly cited the recent agreement on Hans Island as an example of diplomatic patience. Some 21 Canadian Foreign Ministers had been seized with the file over the decades, and she found it was finally “fixed” on her arrival. The value of engagement was why Canada was opening new diplomatic missions in Armenia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Estonia, Rwanda and at the African Union.

The Norwegian Minister stated that diplomacy was “not only about getting the applause at home”. Sometimes it was more effective to raise issues privately and only talk publicly in more diplomatic terms. Countries in Africa and the Global South had raised concerns about the diversion of global humanitarian resources to Ukraine, and the need to be firm and consistent about illegal occupation everywhere. Minister Joly said that she always raised human rights because they are important and universal. Governments cannot hide behind domestic legislation e.g. as China has done with regard to the Uyghurs. She had urged the Chinese Foreign Minister to speak to Ukraine if it wants to play a diplomatic role.

In response to a question of whether regionalism was on the rise, Minister Joly cited the Indo-Pacific region, where Canada will invest, in particular with North Pacific partners such as Japan and Korea, and pursue tough conversations with China. The G7 for their part were seized with issues highlighted by the Global South, e.g. reform of the IFIs, debt relief, action on climate change. While diasporas have important links to their home countries and can play a helpful role, they were not always in agreement. The Norwegian Minister noted that a funding package would go shortly to the Norwegian Parliament which addressed not only Ukraine but also the needs of others. She further noted that regionalization was showing some promise in areas

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such as the Middle East and Ethiopia (African Union).

The South African High Commissioner Mr Rieaz Shaik observed that his country would “unfortunately” probably not be counted among the like-minded given its abstention on the General Assembly resolution on Ukraine. He noted the risks of countries only meeting those they considered like-minded in a form of echo-chamber rather than embracing the vast majority of the world’s people. He thanked Norway for its help in the creation of South Sudan. He also cited Canada’s help with democracy in South Africa and stated that he had always looked to Canada as a voice of reason. He himself had been a soldier fighting until a “great man had convinced him to do otherwise.” Minister Joly agreed about the need to engage widely; and that the rules should apply to large and small states alike. She had discussed IFI reform with her South African counterpart. She drew attention to the presence of the Right Honourable Joe Clark in the audience and thanked him for his diplomacy on South Africa.

Comment: The format of this panel allowed access to a variety of Canadian and foreign guests, and was nicely balanced between

the formal remarks and the Q and A session. I found the event both informative and refreshing. Instead of responding with sound bites to media queries, Ministers were allowed to state their views in an orderly way and to go into detail. Minister Joly came across as an engaged G7 minister who believes in pro-active diplomacy, working with her own diplomats and her colleagues. It was also encouraging to see Canadian politicians again attending events at the underused facilities at the Global Centre for Pluralism. The discussion reminded us that Norway has produced more than its share of formidable diplomats who have provided inestimable services to the international community. ■

A Forum board member, Ian Ferguson worked at External Affairs, then DFAIT, from 1972 to 2007, with several assignments related to Africa and the United Nations and the occasional foray into Latin America and the Middle East. Since retirement he has earned an M.A. in Art History at Carleton History and been a docent at the National Gallery of Canada.

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Le Sommet de la Francophonie de Moncton en 1999

Par *Jacline Lanthier*

Du 3 au 5 septembre 1999, le VIII^e Sommet de la francophonie se tient à Moncton, au Nouveau-Brunswick. Cinquante-deux chefs d'état et de gouvernement y participent. Les gouvernements du Canada et du Nouveau-Brunswick choisissent Moncton en hommage aux Acadiens. Il s'agit alors du deuxième Sommet de la Francophonie à se tenir au Canada. Selon la pratique suivie jusqu'alors, ces rencontres internationales se tiennent dans de grandes villes, généralement capitales des gouvernements hôtes et les activités officielles et périphériques s'y déroulent à proximité des salles de délibérations.

Le secrétariat d'organisation (SO) du Sommet de Moncton se rapporte à un comité d'organisation qui comprend des représentants des gouvernements du Canada, du Nouveau-Brunswick et du Québec. L'Agence intergouvernementale de la Francophonie (devenue l'Organisation internationale de la Francophonie en 2005) supervise la préparation des réunions des

instances de la Francophonie à partir d'un canevas de sommet. Ce canevas, qui régit l'organisation de sommets, sera considérablement étoffé après Moncton et bonifié de ses nombreuses « premières ».

Pour la première fois de la jeune histoire des sommets, la thématique abordée est la « Jeunesse ». C'est aussi la première fois qu'un Secrétaire général de la Francophonie participe activement aux instances d'un sommet. Afin de canaliser l'enthousiasme débordant des Acadiens et leur désir d'être associé au Sommet, le premier « Village de la Francophonie » est installé à Dieppe. On y offre des spectacles, du théâtre, des expositions artisanales : c'est un lieu de rencontres très apprécié tant des visiteurs que de la population locale. Le Sommet de Moncton innove également en proposant un site Internet.

En rupture avec la pratique habituelle, beaucoup d'activités officielles se tiennent loin des salles de délibérations. Le dîner offert par le Nouveau-Brunswick aux

chefs d'état et de gouvernement à Bouctouche, au Pays de la Sagouine (à environ une heure de Moncton), en est une illustration. Normalement, les chefs d'état et de gouvernement voyageraient en limousine mais on estime important de leur permettre d'avoir un moment de collégialité en petit nombre, tout en réduisant le temps de transit. A cette fin, des autocars de luxe sont employés pour recevoir une vingtaine de personnes. Quelques minutes avant le départ des autocars pour Bouctouche, le Premier ministre Chrétien cherche le Président français. Je l'informe que la sécurité du Président ne lui conseille pas de faire le trajet en autocar! Le Premier ministre se dirige promptement vers la limousine du Président, ouvre la porte et lui dit : « Jacques qu'est-ce que tu fais là? Viens-t'en avec nous autres dans le bus! ». Le président sort de sa voiture et rejoint le groupe. La rumeur veut que ces deux amis aient chanté de vieilles chansons françaises, entraînant leurs collègues pendant tout le trajet jusqu'à Bouctouche.



Le secrétariat du Sommet avec le premier ministre du Nouveau-Brunswick, Bernard Lord et le ministre canadien de la Francophonie, Ronald Duhamel.

Selon nos sources, notre Premier ministre et ses collègues sont enchantés de cette nouvelle approche.

La première polémique de taille à laquelle je fais face est la présence du drapeau acadien au Sommet. Dès mon arrivée à Moncton, en janvier 1999, on m'avise que les médias locaux et la Société nationale de l'Acadie (SNA) fustigent le gouvernement fédéral parce que le drapeau de l'Acadie ne fait pas partie du « groupe des drapeaux officiels du Sommet », qui inclut les drapeaux du Canada, du Nouveau Brunswick, du Québec et de la Francophonie. Je ne peux m'expliquer cette absence surtout que le Premier ministre du Canada, un ancien député du coin, avait validé la tenue de l'évènement en Acadie. Pour moi, c'est impossible ! Pour mes collègues Éric Pelletier (Directeur des Communications) et Jean Pierre McLaughlin (Secrétaire corporatif du SO) c'est aussi inacceptable. Il faut trouver un moyen discret de régler cette polémique au risque de perdre toute crédibilité auprès de la population acadienne. Chacun de nous a son « vis-à-vis » à Ottawa qui s'occupe du Sommet. Pendant que nous tentons de trouver une solution à cette situation désastreuse, un collègue me dit que le problème vient en fait d'une personne de haut niveau très impliquée dans le Sommet (dont le nom restera secret), et qui refuse mordicus d'ajouter le drapeau de l'Acadie. Qu'à cela ne tienne, nous n'allons pas lâcher prise. Finalement Ottawa, Fredericton et Québec acceptent que le drapeau acadien s'ajoute aux drapeaux officiels. Nous l'avons échappé belle!

En postulant pour le poste de Directrice des évènements officiels et chef adjoint au Protocole au MAECI, je n'avais jamais anticipé me retrouver à temps plein en Acadie, à titre de Directrice du Protocole au SO du Sommet de Moncton. Pourtant, en septembre 1998, à mon arrivée au Protocole du

MAECI, un collègue directeur par intérim qui suivait le développement du Sommet me demande : « tu pars quand pour Moncton »? J'en suis alors à mon premier sommet et j'ai la chance d'avoir Vaughan Martin, nouvellement retraité du Protocole, à titre de mentor. Ce Sommet est pour moi le déclencheur, je deviens irrémédiablement accro à l'organisation d'évènements protocolaires, quels qu'ils soient.

Après avoir passé les étapes de sélection de mon poste au niveau de EX01, je m'inquiète de ne pas avoir encore fait « l'entrevue » requise. Mon nouveau patron me confirme que je serai convoquée même si je suis à Moncton. Alors que je suis complètement absorbée par les préparations du Sommet et que je réside à plein temps à Shediac, en août 1999, à quelques semaines du Sommet, je dois revenir à Ottawa pour cette entrevue. Je ne me souviens de rien. Je dois avoir l'air d'un zombie. Je suis crevée, le travail est de plus en plus intense à Moncton avec l'arrivée de certaines délégations qui viennent préparer l'arrivée de leur chef de délégation. A mon retour à Moncton, je reprends le roulement du Sommet et ce n'est qu'à la fin septembre 1999 que je serai officiellement confirmée EX01.

Un second défi de taille à relever à Moncton est le manque d'hébergement aux normes d'un sommet international. L'hôtel Beauséjour, un hôtel sous la bannière Fairmont devenu un Delta pendant les préparations du Sommet, et le plus récent Château Moncton, sont les plus en demande, étant situés près de la Place du Sommet. Lors des pré-visites des pays et gouvernements participants, toutes les délégations espèrent résider au Beauséjour ou, à tout le moins, au Château Moncton. De toute évidence nous aurons des choix difficiles à faire.

Le Directeur général du SO, notre regretté collègue Fernand Landry, a déjà élaboré un plan d'assignation

des hôtels mais il tarde à me le transmettre. En quête du meilleur choix d'hébergement, la France a fait part de son intérêt de faire rapidement une pré-visite. Fernand me confie alors qu'il se propose de loger le Président français au Château Moncton, et non pas à l'Hôtel Beauséjour. Je ne veux pas déplaire à mon nouveau patron mais je doute fort que son vœu puisse se réaliser. Selon moi, la France insistera pour être au cœur de l'action, soit au Beauséjour. A sa demande, Vaughan et moi visitons la suite principale du Château Moncton. À notre grande stupéfaction, un bain tourbillon « trône » au salon de la suite. Je suis sidérée! Vaughan s'assoit : il est blême. Je crains que son cœur ne lâche ! Ou bien Fernand pense que je vais pouvoir facilement cacher cette monstruosité, ou il s'agit d'un test pour déterminer si je lui dirai ce que j'en pense vraiment. À ce jour, je ne sais toujours pas pourquoi il ne m'a pas parlé du fameux bain tourbillon. De retour au SO, nous nous précipitons au bureau de Fernand et nous insistons sur le fait qu'il y a très peu de chances pour que le Chef du Protocole de la France, Monsieur De Grasset, n'accepte que SON président réside au Château Moncton dans la suite au bain tourbillon! Fernand insiste et ajoute : « Jacline, la délégation française arrive en pré-visite dans 4 jours. On (lire tu) va leur organiser une pré-visite exceptionnelle et tu vas faire préparer un gros souper de homards avec du bon vin pour les éblouir ». Je prends une grande inspiration et je lui dis en toute sincérité : « Fernand, je vais donner mon 110 % pour la pré-visite de la France et pour le souper ensuite, et j'espère que ton plan va fonctionner. Mais, à mon avis, des tonnes de homards et des gallons du meilleur vin blanc ne suffiront pas à les convaincre d'aller au Château Moncton. Avec tout le respect que je te dois, selon moi « ton chien est mort » ; il faut se préparer à un plan B, au cas où. ». La délégation française est

effectivement ravie de la pré-visite et du souper! Les installations des salles de délibérations sont parfaites, ils sont rassurés, et les Acadiens les ont conquis. Pour un moment, je pense que Fernand a gagné son pari. Le lendemain matin, nous sommes revenus à la case départ. Le Président français est installé au Beauséjour. Nous n'en serons pas à notre dernière négociation avec la France!

A la demande du DG du SO, les différentes directions organisent des rencontres de formation du personnel qui travaille au service à la clientèle des hôtels, des restaurants et même des magasins. Il n'est pas question de changer la culture locale mais bien de les sensibiliser à la façon de transiger avec les participants du Sommet. Nous les initiions à la manière d'aborder les chefs d'état et de gouvernement. Pour faciliter les échanges entre les visiteurs et les Acadiens, nous les encourageons à utiliser le « vous » plutôt que le « tu » qui, sans constituer un manque de respect, est une traduction littérale du « you ».

Le sommet suivant celui-ci se tiendra au Liban. Tradition oblige, la direction du Sommet de Moncton invite l'ambassadeur responsable du prochain sommet à venir en observer la préparation. Avec ses collègues, il suit les activités de préparation des différentes directions, et certains restent même pendant le déroulement des assises. J'accueille l'ambassadeur à l'aéroport et, dans la voiture qui nous conduit à Moncton, je m'empresse de lui expliquer le défi que peut poser l'utilisation du « tu » pour les visiteurs internationaux, et surtout, comment cela pourrait être perçu. Très aimable, il me dit bien comprendre la situation. Mon collègue Olivier Nicoloff est dans le véhicule avec la délégation à qui il explique également l'usage du « tu » en Acadie. Nous sommes rassurés : notre premier « client » semble très à l'aise face à ces explications.

Nous arrivons au chic restaurant Le Château à Pape et prenons place dans la salle à manger. L'ambassadeur est assis devant moi et Olivier est

à ma droite avec la délégation. Le serveur est très accueillant, il nous confie combien les Acadiens sont emballés de recevoir le Sommet de la Francophonie chez eux. Il se déplace autour de la table pour noter nos choix de repas. Arrivé derrière l'ambassadeur qui a reculé sa chaise vers le mur, le serveur ne peut plus circuler. Avec un grand sourire et très gentiment il s'adresse à l'ambassadeur et dit : « tu te tasserai tu un peu, cher ? » Et doucement, il pousse la chaise de l'ambassadeur vers l'avant. Je regarde l'ambassadeur dans les yeux cherchant à déchiffrer son état d'esprit et, bon joueur, il choisit de sourire. Ouf! Je me penche vers Olivier, qui est écarlate; il vient d'avoir son baptême de feu en Acadie.

Le Protocole ne s'implique pas dans la sécurité des sites, cela relève de la Gendarmerie Royale du Canada. Mais comme de graves tensions, pour ne pas dire des conflits, sévissent entre certains pays d'Afrique, mon collègue Jean Philion, officier supérieur de la GRC et Directeur de la Sécurité du SO, en est très préoccupé. Il me rencontre. L'idée d'avoir des délégués de ces pays qui se côtoieront pendant quelques jours en Acadie n'a rien de rassurant. Avec mes collègues du Protocole, nous établissons une liste de pays qu'il faut à tout prix loger dans des hôtels différents. Notre direction est responsable de recruter et d'assigner les agents de liaison; j'en profite pour faire une suggestion. Pouvons-nous recruter des agents retraités de la GRC comme agents de liaison pour les chefs d'état et de gouvernement des pays en situation de conflit? Si c'est possible, nous pourrions en parler avec nos collègues du SO. Jean consulte ses collègues à Ottawa.

Je me doute bien que je m'engage sur un terrain glissant avec mes nouveaux collègues du MAECI : la pratique veut que lors d'un événement d'envergure comme celui que nous préparons, le personnel des directions du MAECI représentant les pays invités soit affecté comme

agent de liaison auprès des chefs d'état et de gouvernement. C'est une bonne expérience et une excellente préparation aux éventuelles affectations à venir. Bref, une pratique à ne pas chambouler.

Je mets le doigt entre l'arbre et l'écorce, me disent mes nouveaux collègues, avec raison. Mais comment ne pas tenir compte des tensions entre ces pays en guerre ouverte, alors que leurs représentants se retrouvent ensemble, dans une si petite communauté? Jean reçoit l'approbation d'Ottawa : nous devons maintenant en saisir nos collègues du SO. Conscient de la délicate situation et des problèmes potentiels de sécurité, le SO accepte notre proposition. Les agents de liaison (ex-GRC) feront partie des agents de liaisons du Protocole. Ils maintiendront aussi un lien direct avec leurs collègues de la GRC du Sommet et de la Ville de Moncton. Ces agents de liaison, formés à prévoir ce genre de conflits, seront les agents de liaison des chefs de délégations des pays à risque. Quant au personnel du MAECI, il sera alors affecté à la délégation.

Somme toute, le Sommet s'est très bien déroulé, malgré quelques disgracieux incidents, heureusement rapidement contrôlés, entre les pays participants. La grande visite venue en Acadie ne s'en est pas rendu compte. Nous avons fermé boutique et quitté l'Acadie à regret.

Il convient de rendre hommage aux Acadiens. Leur accueil, pendant les mois de préparation autant que pendant les assises du Sommet, a fait toute la différence. D'autant plus que le soleil était également au rendez-vous pendant toute la durée du Sommet. Les participants ne tarissaient pas d'éloges sur l'accueil chaleureux qu'ils ont reçu en Acadie. Les Acadiens peuvent être fiers du succès de leur Sommet de la Francophonie de 1999. ■

Jacline Lanthier a été cheffe-adjoint du Protocole du MAECI

Maximizing Canadian Foreign Expertise

By Paul LaRose-Edwards

How can the Canadian government make better use of its former Foreign Service personnel, and do so at little or no cost? I had always assumed that, at a minimum, GAC had an informal roster of its former employees. Such a roster would enable it to call on known experts for a variety of purposes, like formulating responses to international crises or the training and mentoring of new Foreign Service recruits. To my surprise, not only does this mechanism not exist, but GAC does not encourage its retiring experts to register with outside rosters that can be accessed by GAC when needed.

It appears that this lacuna is not new. In a recent CIPS Policy Report entitled *Competitive Expertise and Future Diplomacy*, Ulric Shannon quoted a 1983 internal External Affairs study calling for a “mechanism to mine the accumulated expertise of retired officers” and he lamented that forty years later it still does not have such a mechanism. Interestingly, GAC in effect had created part of the solution almost three decades ago. In the mid-90’s a similar question had arisen about the limited ability of what was then called Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada to enable the UN to draw on the accumulated foreign expertise of Canadians writ large, including former Foreign Service officers.

In 1994/5, the Government of Canada was reacting to the Rwanda crisis. The United Nations contacted Canada to provide the names and resumés of Canadian experts to staff a UN mission to Rwanda. The UN believed that Canada had thousands of relevant, well-qualified ex-DFAIT, ex-NGO, or ex-UN experts, who

could work in French and could be hired quickly for emergency service in Rwanda and neighbouring countries. The UN was not looking for free personnel; the UN had its own funds to hire staff. Unfortunately, at the time, other than ad hoc personal connections and word-of-mouth recruitment, the Canadian government had no way to identify, much less showcase, Canadian expertise. The good news coming out of that situation was that a couple of determined departmental folks decided to be ready the next time the UN wanted to hire Canadians with international expertise.

DFAIT started with a commissioned study in 1995, which underlined the need to be able to draw on Canadian foreign expertise, especially to staff UN and other international organizations in times of emergency or crisis. A year later, DFAIT then operationalized the results of the study with a simple concept: create a roster of Canadian ‘international’

experts, thus enabling the UN and others to tap into that roster. The implementation was just as simple: provide modest funding to set up and operationalize a roster outside of DFAIT. It worked like a charm. It kicked off in 1996 and by the end of 1999 the purpose-built CANADEM roster had over 1,000 Canadians. Today, that roster is international in scope, containing the names of more than 60,000 experts, half of them Canadian.

But has CANADEM’s roster proved useful? One example involved UNSECORD; a component of the UN Secretariat tasked with the oversight of UN field security. Leading up to 2003, UNSECORD had failed to adapt and grow with the expansion of UN field operations and had a series of failures. Then on 19 August 2003, despite growing security concerns in Iraq and efforts to address them, a suicide truck-bomb devastated UN Headquarters in Baghdad killing 22, including the



The graphic is a rectangular box with a light blue background and a dark blue border. In the top left corner, there is a red maple leaf logo next to the text 'CANADEM' and 'INTERNATIONAL CIVILIAN RESPONSE CORPS' in smaller text below it. The main text is centered and reads: 'Vous êtes retraité d'AMC. Le monde a encore besoin de vos compétences!' followed by a horizontal line and 'You may be retired from GAC but the world still wants your skills!'. To the right of this text is a large red maple leaf logo with the word 'Wants' in small text above 'YOU!' in large, bold letters. At the bottom center, there is a rounded rectangular button containing the text 'Enregistrez-vous gratuitement avec CANADEM' and the URL 'CANADEM.ca/register-with-canadem'.

head of the UN mission, and injuring more than 150.

The UN brought in Sir David Vanasse from the UK, tasking him to rapidly reform and rename what would become UNDSS (UN Department of Safety and Security). One of his first actions was to ask UN member states to send him the CVs of relevant experts, as he had the funds to hire quickly about 50 experts to drive his reform efforts. DFAIT asked CANADEM to respond. Within days, CANADEM put forward over 40 candidates, and the UN hired 17. So large was the Canadian component that some countries complained that over 30% of UNDSS new-hires were Canadian. Summoned to a General Assembly committee, Sir David Vanasse strongly defended his action, and once again thanked Canada for quickly putting forward so many prime candidates.

In another example, by 2005, after years of CANADEM showcasing Canadian experts, the number of Canadians hired by the UN for its various peace operations reached an all-time high. The 2005 Annual Review of UN Global Peace Operations showed that, in absolute numbers of UN hires for UN peace operations, Canada and the US tied for the lead at 6% each. Every other country had fewer nationals among the UN's international civilian staff. Hiring those Canadians cost the Canadian government nothing. In most cases CANADEM rostered and showcased candidates, while the UN hired and paid them.

CANADEM's work has continued, and its connections to other UN agencies has expanded. On its own and now without GAC funding, CANADEM rosters former Canadian foreign service officers and other international experts through a free and relatively painless process. Preferably, GAC would inform retiring Foreign Service officers about CANADEM, but

to date CANADEM has had to rely largely on word-of-mouth recommendations. There is no current, systematic GAC plan to keep track of retiring and retired Foreign Service personnel who often remain interested in being of service, sometimes paid, other times as a volunteer. For CANADEM, adding more Canadian Foreign Service officers to its roster is a win-win situation. The Canadian expert wins when he or she accepts an offer from an international agency. CANADEM wins by having more capable, experienced experts, with a full range of language competencies and other talents on its roster, and available for service. Global Affairs Canada could well make use of this roster, too, as a way of tracking retirees who may want to continue working in some capacity.

Unfortunately, many retiring GAC diplomats are not aware of the

potential utility of registering with CANADEM. All that is needed is a simple GAC mechanism that informs 'international' experts retiring from Global Affairs and even other government departments about CANADEM's roster and validates the idea of registering. That encouragement could be something as simple as an information note as retirees leave the Department. It might even be a more formal communication of encouragement by the Deputy Minister.

CANADEM exists to serve. Its roster exists to be put to use. But the roster can only draw on those Canadians who register. By registering, former Foreign Service officers would have more access to the UN and other possible positions abroad and in Canada. As retirees register, Global Affairs Canada could have greater access to their accumulated expertise. It's a small added step, and it's time for GAC to take it.

If you the reader are not already registered with CANADEM, I encourage you to do so at CANADEM.ca/register-with-CANADEM. If you know other 'international' experts of any nationality that are not registered, please encourage them to do likewise. Most importantly, if you agree that a cost-free, simple mechanism would be useful to track retired Foreign Service personnel, send this article to your GAC contacts. ■

Paul LaRose-Edwards, the founding Executive Director of CANADEM in 1996, has been active in Canadian and International NGO and UN circles for more than four decades.

Highest Representation of Nationalities Among International Civilian Staff (as of June 2005) UN Field Missions

COUNTRY	STAFF	%
United States	328	6%
Canada	287	6%
Kenya	212	4%
United Kingdom	207	4%
France	185	4%
Philippines	182	4%
India	140	3%
Ghana	124	2%
Ethiopia	111	2%
Australia	100	2%
Nigeria	89	2%
Pakistan	80	2%
Germany	79	2%
Croatia	77	2%
Fiji	71	1%
Lebanon	68	1%
Italy	66	1%

Report of the first Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Foreign Service Alumni Forum (CFSAF) 27 April 2023

By Habib Massoud, Secretary

The first Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Canadian Foreign Service Alumni Forum (CFSAF) took place on 27 April 2023 at the Heart and Crown Pub on Clarence Street in Ottawa. Approximately 40 members participated in the AGM in person, and an additional unknown number joined virtually by Zoom from other parts of Canada.

The first item of business was the adoption of the bylaws of the organization, which recognized the Forum as an unincorporated, not-for-profit organization. A suggestion was made from the floor that the organization should also be recognized, *inter alia*, as a “social” one, and that periodic social gatherings of the membership should take place outside of the annual meeting.

The AGM next elected the following individuals to its Board of Directors (see below). The new Co-Presidents noted that additional Members may also be invited to join the Board in the future, particularly members from other locations within Canada or abroad.

CFSAF’s financial statement and its budget forecast were then presented, as prepared by Treasurer Shelley Whiting, with an explanation that we are looking for new sponsors and advertisers to increase our revenue stream.

The co-Presidents briefed the meeting on a number of on-going initiatives. These included work on an archives project, under the direction of Kurt Jensen, and a museums project, which will seek to pave the way for a

museum of Canadian diplomacy. The co-Presidents also reviewed the “coat of arms project”, a separate project under the direction of Bob Peck and Liz Heatherington. They then reported on trilateral cooperation to date among foreign service associations in Canada, the US and UK, which has resulted in the Transatlantic Dialogue series on Zoom.

The meeting then concluded with a presentation by the guest speaker, Hélène Laverdière, our former Foreign Service colleague and former Member of Parliament for Laurier-Sainte-Marie who spoke about her Foreign Service career and her time as an NDP member of the federal Parliament. We hope to post a video of her presentation. ■

Compte rendu de la première assemblée générale annuelle de la Forum des anciens du service extérieur canadien (FASEC) 27 avril 2023

Par Habib Massoud, secrétaire

La première Assemblée Générale annuelle (AGA) du Forum des anciens du service extérieur canadien (FASEC) s’est tenue le 27 avril 2023 au Heart and Crown Pub sur la rue Clarence à Ottawa. Une quarantaine de membres ont participé à l’assemblée en personne, et quelques autres à travers le Canada se sont joints via Zoom.

Le premier point à l’ordre du jour était l’adoption des statuts de l’organisation, qui reconnaissent le Forum comme une organisation sans personnalité juridique, et à but non lucratif. L’assemblée a suggéré que l’organisation soit également reconnue, entre autres, comme une organisation « sociale », et que des rassemblements sociaux périodiques des membres aient lieu en dehors de l’assemblée annuelle.

L’AGA a ensuite élu les personnes

suivantes à son conseil d’administration (voir ci-dessous). Les nouveaux coprésidents ont noté que d’autres membres pourraient également être invités à se joindre au conseil à l’avenir, en particulier des membres provenant d’autres endroits au Canada ou à l’étranger.

Les états financiers du FASEC et ses prévisions budgétaires ont ensuite été présentés, tels que préparés par la trésorière Shelley Whiting. Cette dernière a indiqué que nous recherchons de nouveaux sponsors et annonceurs pour augmenter notre source de revenus.

Les coprésidents ont informé la réunion d’un certain nombre d’initiatives en cours. Celles-ci incluent des travaux sur un projet d’archives, sous la direction de Kurt Jensen, et un projet de collaboration avec

des musées, qui cherchera à ouvrir la voie à un musée de la diplomatie canadienne. Les coprésidents ont également passé en revue le « projet d’armoiries », un projet distinct sous la direction de Bob Peck et Liz Heatherington. Ils ont ensuite rendu compte de la coopération trilatérale à ce jour entre les associations du service extérieur au Canada, aux États-Unis et au Royaume-Uni, qui a abouti à la série Dialogue transatlantique sur Zoom.

La réunion s’est ensuite conclue par une présentation de la conférencière invitée, Hélène Laverdière, notre ancienne collègue du Service extérieur et ancienne députée de Laurier-Sainte-Marie qui a parlé de sa carrière au Service extérieur et de son passage en tant que députée néo-démocrate au Parlement fédéral. Nous espérons publier une vidéo de sa présentation. ■

Executive elected by the membership/Exécutif élu par les membres:

Co-presidents/co-présidents

Daniel Livermore

Gérald Cossette

Directors/directeurs

Ottawa/Gatineau :

Ian Ferguson

Kurt Jensen

Vicken Koundakjian

Habib Massoud -

Secretarysecrétaire

Olivier Nicoloff

Lillian Thomsen

Other locations/autres centres:

Guy Archambault (Montréal)

Shelley Whiting (Edmonton) –

Treasurer/ trésorière

Comment confondre la poste cubaine

Alors qu'il était en poste à l'ambassade du Canada à La Havane, Jean-Paul Hubert a reçu la lettre suivante. Le « Correo cubano » a su la livrer. Mais ses services ont dû se demander qui était ce nouveau membre de l'ambassade !



Foto de l'auteur, Jean-Paul Hubert

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Un prologue et un épilogue

Par Stewart Henderson

New Delhi, printemps 1983

J'étais occupé à rédiger le procès-verbal de la réunion matinale du Comité de gestion de la mission (CGM), - il semble que le plus jeune agent politique d'une mission ait été pris pour le secrétaire du CGM - quand on m'a appelé pour que je me présente à la section consulaire, où j'exerçais d'ailleurs l'essentiel de mes fonctions. Une dispute avait cours, semblait-il, devant l'entrée principale de l'enceinte du Haut-commissariat. Les personnes concernées étaient des citoyens canadiens qui exigeaient de parler à un agent consulaire canadien.

Une fois arrivé à la guérite, je trouvais notre garde gorkha debout derrière son bureau, et un sikh de forte carrure penché au-dessus de lui et qui exigeait qu'on le laisse entrer. Debout dans un coin de la pièce, une jeune fille d'environ 13 ou 14 ans regardait par terre avec un air sérieux.

Je me suis présenté comme le consul, et j'ai demandé en quoi je pouvais être utile. L'homme sikh a expliqué qu'il devait renouveler le passeport de sa fille et qu'il avait les photos et les documents requis, mais que le garde ne le laissait pas entrer. Quand j'ai demandé au garde, le sergent Chet, les raisons de son refus, il a pointé ce que j'ai pris pour une épée à la ceinture de l'homme et dit qu'il ne pouvait laisser une personne armée pénétrer dans l'enceinte. À cela, le sikh, qui s'est identifié comme étant Talwinder Singh Parmar, a répondu que sa religion lui commandait de porter son kirpan en tout temps.

S'ensuivit une tentative alambiquée de combler un très grand écart de compréhension et de jugement

de la situation. Après une longue discussion, j'ai pris le parti de dire que M. Parmar et sa fille - tous deux citoyens canadiens - avaient entièrement le droit de demander une aide consulaire, mais que la Loi sur la citoyenneté ne couvrait pas les situations relatives au kirpan (celui-ci était aussi gros qu'une épée) et à l'accès à l'édifice. J'ai proposé à M. Parmar de laisser son kirpan au garde et de me rendre avec eux à la section consulaire où je pourrais m'occuper immédiatement du renouvellement du passeport, puis de revenir tous ensemble à la guérite afin de récupérer le kirpan.

Après quelques minutes de réflexion, M. Parmar a accepté, mais il y avait toujours un problème : il ne pouvait, en toute conscience, retirer le kirpan de son corps, pas plus qu'il ne pouvait laisser un garde gorkha le toucher. Contrarié pendant quelques instants, je lui ai ensuite demandé si, en tant que consul canadien en Inde, j'étais autorisé à lui retirer son kirpan et à le déposer dans un endroit protégé (une étagère élevée). Le cas échéant, je me suis informé si, une fois de retour à la guérite, je pouvais récupérer le kirpan pour le lui présenter avec les hommages du Haut-commissariat. Le marché fut conclu, le passeport fut renouvelé et le retour à la guérite, de même que la présentation du kirpan se sont remarquablement et heureusement bien passés. Je n'ai jamais revu Talwinder Singh Parmar par la suite.

Aéroport de Narita, Tokyo, automne 1985

L'une de mes fonctions à l'Ambassade de Tokyo était d'agir à titre d'intermédiaire avec la police japonaise. Et ce jour-là, j'étais assis dans une petite salle de réunion pour examiner les photos de l'autopsie de

deux préposés à la manutention des bagages, tués par l'explosion d'une bombe dans un conteneur à bagages transféré d'un vol de Canadian Pacific Airlines à un avion d'Air India.

Au cours des années qui ont suivi, j'ai collaboré avec les autorités policières japonaises et canadiennes et d'autres autorités judiciaires pour faire avancer l'enquête canadienne sur le vol 182 d'Air India en participant à la vérification et à la transmission d'éléments de preuve. Ces derniers suggéraient que les militants sikhs ciblaient deux vols d'Air India et que la bombe destinée au second vol avait explosé prématurément dans la salle des bagages de l'aéroport de Tokyo pendant son transfert.

On a démontré ultérieurement que l'une des personnes responsables des attentats était Talwinder Singh Parmar, tué quelques années plus tard dans un échange de tirs avec la police indienne. Dès 1983, j'avais appris que Parmar était une « personne d'intérêt » pour les autorités canadiennes, quoiqu'aucune information à ce sujet n'avait jamais été transmise aux services consulaires. Aussi peu probable que le cours de l'histoire ait été différent, une pensée persiste voulant que si seulement... ■

Stewart Henderson a rejoint le ministère des Affaires extérieures en 1980 et a été affecté à New Delhi, Tokyo, Manila, La Haye, Bruxelles/BREEC et Bagdad. Il a également passé deux ans à gérer la sécurité, la défense, la justice et les affaires intérieures pour le Pacte de stabilité pour l'Europe du Sud-Est.

Reading the “Lesson”

By Liz Heatherington

In January 2009, the European Heads of Mission Meeting was held in Rome, Italy. Since Scott was Canadian ambassador to the Baltic countries (Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia), where he served from 2008 to 2012, he would be going. What a fine trip, I thought. A visit to Rome is always great, and an opportunity to see my favourite places, especially the Vatican Museums. And it was good that our friend and former colleague, Anne Leahy, would be there as Canadian Ambassador to the Holy See (we had served in Moscow together during our posting 1979-81).

And it lived up to expectations! I was able to explore many historic sites, and we also had the pleasure of seeing our colleagues at the Canadian Embassy in Rome, as well as Anne’s residence. That Sunday, Anne arranged an invitation to attend Mass at St Peter’s through her colleague, Father Pierre Paul, OMV from Trois-Rivières, Quebec.

Father Pierre Paul was the Choir master of the Cappella Giulia (Julia), the 500 year-old choir that sings in St Peter’s Basilica at all masses and liturgical celebrations not presided by the Holy Father. At the time he was also the Ecclesiastical Advisor to the Canadian Embassy to the Holy See. It was lovely being out in the gardens behind St Peter’s and then being able to have a fine view of Bernini’s Baldacchino, as we walked inside.

As an Art History student, I had studied Bernini’s amazing “canopy” (Baldacchino), that covers the Church Altar, and below that, the tomb of St Peter. That day the mass would be said at the Altar of the Chair of St Peter’s- that is, the area behind the main altar. The Chair or Throne of St Peter (heavily renewed) is centered around an amber translucent alabaster window (not stained glass),



I am grateful to Anne Leahy, as she managed to take a photo. Otherwise it might have been a dream. The picture was especially nice for my Mother to see, and she had it framed....and it sat on her desk. It’s a bit blurry, but it’s also a happy souvenir.

which portrays the Holy Spirit as a dove. The warmth of the light through this special stone is unique and beautiful.

All of a sudden Father Pierre Paul came up to our group and said quickly “I must have someone read the Lesson in English” Our conversation paused very quickly. Nothing was said for about 20 seconds or so, and my friends kept looking at me (some may have known that I was a warden at our local Anglican Church in Ottawa).

So, I said “Yes, I could read...” He immediately gave me the text and said “You have one minute to look” My heart sank... it was not a straightforward lesson... with issues about morality and various sins, and other serious words. The good thing is that when one reads the lesson, it’s at the beginning of the service, so I did not have too long to wait.

The first lesson was read in Italian, so I could see how the server escorted the reader. My turn came, and I followed him as he ushered me to the lectern which has so much history attached to it... and I was standing right beside a pillar of the Baldacchino!

The Bible itself (in Italian) was beautiful- worn, gold-rimmed pages, but the words were clear to see . On top of it was a smaller Bible in English. I had to concentrate, and during my Preamble... “The Lesson is taken from John...” I looked out to ‘engage the audience’. Although there was light from behind, the room was completely black to me, except for a few cell phones... It was a little daunting as I thought there would be a few faces to focus on.

At any rate I began the words, trying to remember far-off instruction from rectors at home at St Bartholomew’s —“to read with meaning... not too fast.. and with good pronunciation.”

And then I was finished.

What a relief.

The young server ushered me back to my row, and I managed to sit down quietly.

It was a special moment to read at one of the world’s great historic sites and holy places.

...And it would have been unlikely if I had not been present as the spouse of a Foreign service Officer ■

Elizabeth Raymont Heatherington is the spouse of Scott Heatherington.

Photo: Anne Leahy

On the Web

Many new sources are emerging for research in international affairs and diplomatic history. A growing number of these sources are online, in the form of interviews made available as transcripts.

British Diplomatic Oral History Programme

FORUM readers may find of interest a searchable catalogue of interviews of British diplomats, organized and maintained by the British Diplomatic Oral History Programme (BDOHP). The programme was established in 1995, with the cooperation of the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and has been maintained at the Churchill Archives Centre in Cambridge. It contains a wealth of interesting material on critical events in British diplomatic history.

See: <https://www.chu.cam.ac.uk/archives/collections/bdohp/>.

US Diplomatic Oral History Collection

A large collection of interviews with US diplomats has been assembled by the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training (ADST) (<https://adst.org/>), consisting now of more than 1700 searchable interview transcripts. They have been obtained via an interview program initiated by the ADST in 1986, and they are now available online through the Library of Congress digital collections. See: <https://loc.gov/collections/foreign-affairs-oral-history/about-this-collection/>.

US Spouse Oral History Collection

The Associates of the American Foreign Service Worldwide

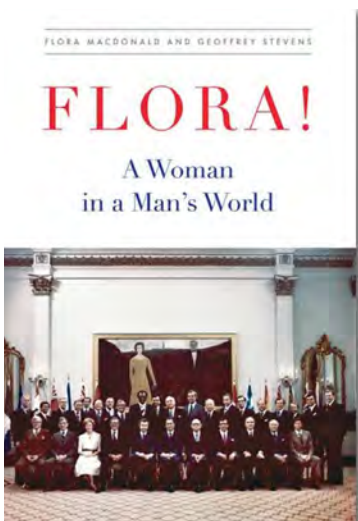
(AAFSW), an organization connecting the American diplomatic community at home and abroad, has a collection of about 150 spousal oral histories that recount the changes in spousal or “wife” roles in the US foreign service. The collection is explained on the AAFSW website (<https://www.aafsw.org/activities/oral-history-project/>) and is available on the ADST website. See: <https://adst.org/>.

The Canadian Foreign Service Alumni Forum is interested in promoting an oral history program for the Canadian foreign service. If you are willing to assist in this project, let us know at edit.forum99@gmail.com. ■

Books in Revue/ Critiques de livres

Flora! A Woman in a Man's World

Flora MacDonald and Geoffrey Stevens, Montreal and Kingston, McGill-Queen's University Press, 2021



Reviewed by Lillian Thomsen

If there is one word which comes to mind after reading the memoirs of Flora MacDonald, it is irrepensible. MacDonald, who died on July 26, 2015, at the age of 89, seems to have had more lives than the proverbial cat. By 2005 she had visited 100 countries, many as part of her unceasing volunteer work and determination to make the world a better place.

It all started in Cape Breton as a lively child who enjoyed a close relationship with her father. As was the case for most women born in the 1920's, university was not on the horizon. Instead she went to secretarial school and worked for the Bank of Nova Scotia from the age of seventeen to twenty-six. Transferred by the Bank to Halifax, Peterborough, and Toronto, she acquired a life-long love of travel. As a 26-year-old, she quit her job and headed for Europe, where she worked at Selfridges and toured extensively.

Four years later, in 1956, the political bug bit her hard, as she followed Adlai Stevenson on the campaign trail in his unsuccessful run for the White House. In October of the same year, she began her own political career by campaigning for Leonard Jones, a Conservative candidate in the Nova Scotia provincial election. When Robert Stanfield was elected provincial premier, her urge to become more engaged in politics became stronger, to the point where she failed to show up for her scheduled interview to become a foreign service secretary with the Department of External Affairs. Instead she walked into the nearby national headquarters of the Conservative Party and was promptly hired. As she said many years later: “I sometimes wonder how my life would have unfolded if I had gone ahead with my original plan to join the diplomatic service. Might I have ended up as the head

of mission somewhere, rather than as Minister of External Affairs?”

For the next nine years she essentially ran the national office, but was never given the rank her work merited. Many of the ensuing chapters cover the period of John Diefenbaker’s tenure as leader of the party and as prime minister. Suffice it to say, she didn’t like him, and the feeling was reciprocated. She was fired in 1966. In the days following her dismissal, she would write some 2,000 letters to people she knew before accepting a job as the executive assistant in the political studies department of Queen’s University.

From Kingston she remained engaged in politics by becoming involved in the leadership review campaign launched by Dalton Camp. She served as President of the Elizabeth Fry Society, worked with Walter Gordon’s Committee for an Independent Canada, and spent a year with the National Defence College. It was perhaps only logical that all this activity would culminate in her election as the Member of Parliament for Kingston and the Islands in 1972, thereby becoming the only woman in the Tory caucus.

Barely four years later, she ran against Joe Clark for the leadership of the Conservative Party, losing badly after placing sixth on the first ballot. She took this hard, but three years later, when Clark won the federal election on May 22, 1979, she was named Secretary of State for External Affairs. The book does not cover her tenure as Foreign Minister in great detail, but it is clear that the rescue of the Vietnamese boat people occupied a central place in her time in office, as Canada took in some 60,000 persons, in part through a unique and ground-breaking citizen sponsorship programme.

With the defeat of Clark’s government in 1980, it was back to

the back benches for MacDonald until Brian Mulroney came to power. It is clear from her account that they had what could best be characterized as a “correct” relationship. She found him to be an unbridled self-promoter, but one who “got things done”, namely NAFTA and the GST. She served in his Cabinet as minister for employment, where she was proudest of the adoption of the Employment Equity Act of 1985, and then served as minister for communications before losing her seat in 1988.

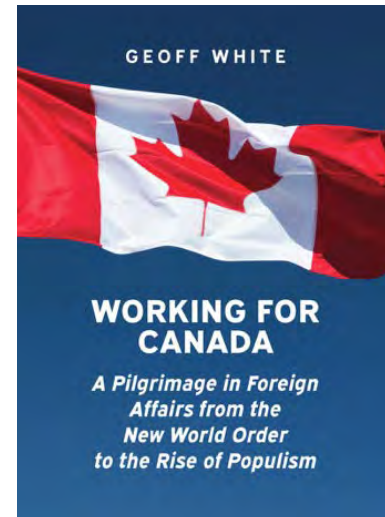
Life after politics continued at a near manic pace. There was an Oxfam mission to Namibia, serving as chair of the IDRC, election monitoring in South Africa, work on the Kimberley Process on diamonds, and serving as chair of the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute from 1992 to 2004. But Afghanistan was clearly her great passion. The book begins and ends with Afghanistan, a country which she visited on ten separate occasions, working to support health and education for women.

This is a slim book of some 250 pages. Geoffrey Stevens helped ensure its completion but never overshadows her voice. There is quite a bit of foreign material, but not very much policy. What comes through loud and clear, however, is a passion for life and a dedication to public service. She had a wide and loyal circle of friends, including many from the foreign service, and seemingly endless reserves of energy. And she was very much a woman ahead of her time. ■

Lillian Thomsen was a foreign service officer in the political/economic stream and served in Warsaw, at the Permanent Mission to the UN in New York, in Moscow, as Canada’s first Consul General in St. Petersburg, and London. She is currently a Senior Fellow at the University of Ottawa’s Graduate School of Public and International Affairs.

Working for Canada: A Pilgrimage in Foreign Affairs from the New World Order to the Rise of Populism

Geoff White, Calgary: University of Calgary Press, 2022.



Reviewed by Gaston Barban

Many readers of FORUM have surely thought of writing a memoir of their diplomatic careers and days in the Department. The daunting effort of recounting a lifetime has dissuaded more than a few. There is the challenge of blending reminiscences with some coherent, unifying theme and avoiding a mere chronological recounting of assignments and postings. Not a simple literary task. Maybe a job more suited to a journalist?

Well, yes, in *Working for Canada: A Pilgrimage in Foreign Affairs from the New World Order to the Rise of Populism*, we follow former journalist Geoff White’s clear and highly readable prose as he recalls his transition from Ottawa correspondent for the *Calgary Herald* to the public service and recounts his years in “The Department”, 1990-2018. His career journey is a ‘pilgrimage’ during which his varied assignments provided him personal enlightenment, as well as a great appreciation for Canada’s place in

the world. He moves the reader along an arc of contemporary history that begins shortly after the ‘Fall of the Wall’ and the dimly remembered New World Order, to recent times with the Rise of Populism and the arrival of Donald Trump. Most of all, White gives an inside look at the work, at the job of diplomacy both in Ottawa and abroad.

Ironically, but perhaps fittingly, the ex-journalist begins at the then-named Department of External Affairs and International Trade “working for the other side”, in the communications branch, writing news releases and communications strategies to help explain government policies to the media and public. Within a month of his arrival, he was on the team managing communications for Canada’s participation in the First Gulf War as part of the USA-led Operation Desert Storm. As White does for each of his assignments, he describes the intricacy of the work and here gives readers get a firsthand look at the somewhat obscure inner workings of Government communications. He also contextualizes his assignment against the march of time and his career pilgrimage.

For the Gulf War, he ruefully recounts how this initial assignment was an inauspicious beginning to the promise of the New World Order and, with hindsight, a harbinger of Canada’s involvement in other conflicts in the years to follow, for example, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Libya and the Middle East.

The corollary of the triumph of liberal democracy after 1989 was that the centrally planned economies of the Soviet bloc states were discredited. Economic liberalism and market economies would hold sway. And so it is that after the expulsion of Saddam Hussein’s armies from Kuwait, White moves to working on communications planning for the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and gets a

ring-side seat of the day-to-day negotiations for which was arguably Canada’s most important trade deal. He gives glimpses of ministerial-level negotiations and inside accounts of the internal haggling in the lead-up to the final agreement.

White’s work in communications included foreign policy during the tenure of Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy. He recounts how Canada’s military involvement in Kosovo played out in the decade, featuring controversial concepts such as the Human Security Agenda and Responsibility to Protect (R2P). Again, with the book’s arc of history in mind, White’s retelling demonstrates how the pendulum has swung between idealism and realism in international politics since those years not so long ago

After communications, White’s career takes him to trade services policy, and, in stark contrast to the free trade and economic liberalism embodied in his work on NAFTA, he shifts to what may be best called “managed trade”: first air transport negotiations, then softwood lumber.

To his credit, White provides comprehensible descriptions of these complex and, some would say, arcane areas of Departmental work. He describes air transport as a “specialized world”, falling outside bilateral or multilateral trade, with rules of its own. He explains how airlines get landing and transit rights and where they are allowed to pick up passengers. He illustrates this with descriptions of real events. There is an evocative depiction of negotiations with Russian officials in chilly Moscow, and another that reveals how the tragedy of 9/11 scuttled well-advanced negotiations on a Montreal-Beirut air connection.

Softwood lumber also was (and still is) an example of managed trade and, with its surge taxes, stumpage fees, moving averages, quotas and export permits, it was for White a world of

“aggravating complexity ... dominated by mathematical calculation”. Notwithstanding the important role of the Softwood Lumber Agreement to the Canadian economy, White calls into question the value of this “vestige ... of the mercantilist past” and, returning to the historical arc of his career, he has one wondering whether the apparent revival of protectionism of recent years may bring on more.

“Fearless advice, loyal implementation” is often cited as a motto of effective public service. It implies that sometimes you will be called upon to implement something you do not particularly agree with. After his time in trade services, White becomes director, public diplomacy and international cultural relations. While he was aware that the Harper government’s Strategic Review budget cuts were underway, he did not know that his new job included shutting down, quietly, the \$4.7 million Promart arts promotion program. As a supporter of the arts and of the role they can play in the soft power promotion of Canada’s image abroad, the task of eliminating Promart was at best counter-intuitive and certainly one of his more difficult as an executive.

All pilgrimages come with tests, and how White deals with this managerial and moral challenge makes for good reading and serves to illustrate what it takes to be a loyal public servant in a democracy. Spoiler alert: in an interesting twist – White calls it “poetic justice” – readers also get to follow how the Promart issue plays out in public, especially the negative fallout in Quebec from this “trashing of the arts” and its effect on the 2008 federal election.

In addition to his departmental travel, White’s diplomatic career included two postings: Counsellor (Political) Pretoria (2009-13), and Senior Trade Commissioner, Santiago (2014-17). In *Working for Canada*, with the flair of a foreign

correspondent, he paints colourful postcards and provides vivid accounts of scenes and experiences. For example, there is a captivating depiction of the sounds and spectacle of the welcoming ceremony for Canada's Governor General in Cape Town, with majestic Table Mountain serving as a monumental backdrop, and a harrowing recounting of the dining room of the Whites' 13th floor apartment heaving and swaying during an 8.3 magnitude earthquake in Santiago!

Of course, there are descriptions and analyses of country politics as he expertly covers selected issues in Canada's relations with each. In the chapters on South Africa, the reader follows the slow decline in health of the heroic Nelson Mandela and the early signs of the corruption of the presidency of Jacob Zuma and the African National Congress party. He balances his text with examples of the terrible legacy of apartheid along with an admiration for South Africa's robust civil society, including its legal system and the media. He also covers emerging differences between Canada and South Africa on a variety of foreign policy issues, including climate change, Libya, and Israel. Finally, he gives readers a rare look at Madagascar, recounting how, in his role as Canada's senior representative in that country, he worked to assist the investment and operations of the large Canadian mine, Ambatovy, in its serious financial and regulatory conflicts with the Malagasy government.

Pilgrimages often end with a return to the beginning. Chile is a country with a robust economic relationship anchored in a free-trade agreement with Canada dating from 1997. Given his early days in trade, the Santiago assignment allows White to close a career circle. He shows how valuable this trading relationship has been for both countries and, more generally, how important international trade is for Canada.

With examples, he also underscores the importance of the day-to-day work of trade commissioners who promote Canadian goods and services and, ultimately, increase the wealth and prosperity of Canada.

During his "pilgrimage", whether it was in communications, trade or foreign policy, at home and abroad, Geoff White learned what it meant to serve Canadians. Working for Canada may seem a prosaic title. But it is apt for a highly readable reflection of what it means to work in Canada's foreign and trade ministry, and to represent Canada in the world. It has made me think: the next time someone asks me what I did in my career, I may simply reply, "I worked for Canada!" ■

Gaston Barban had a 38-year career in 'The Department' with jobs in passport, communications, and information management & technology. Abroad, he served in Rome, Canberra and was HOM in Pretoria prior to his retirement in 2016.

Guerre

Louis-Ferdinand Céline,
Gallimard, Paris, 2022, 183 pp.



Par Gérald Cossette

Ce livre est posthume. Il est composé des feuilles que l'auteur avait laissé non publiées à son retour de la première guerre

mondiale. Récemment, un groupe d'admirateurs ont mis ces feuilles ensemble pour en faire un manuscrit qui se lit comme un roman. D'ailleurs plusieurs se demandent si ce labour n'avait pas pour but ultime la publication d'un ouvrage de fiction, qui serait né de l'expérience militaire de Céline plutôt qu'une transcription de son expérience sur les champs de batailles européens durant la première grande guerre.

À la lecture de l'ouvrage, il y a lieu de se poser des questions. Le premier chapitre est écrit de façon incohérente et pourrait laisser croire que c'est l'oeuvre d'un soldat affecté par ce qu'il a vécu et vu. Les chapitres suivants font état des soins qu'il reçoit à l'hôpital et de ses sorties 'en ville' qu'ils doivent, lui et son compagnon d'arme, raconter à leurs confrères dès leur retour à l'hospice, lieu de leur convalescence.

Lors des premiers chapitre, l'auteur fait usage de l'argot français qui rend la lecture parfois difficile. Ce n'est pas les références à la vie sexuelle des blessés de guerre qui manquent. Céline ne ménage en rien son lecteur ou sa lectrice avec ses descriptions qui frisent parfois la pornographie (les cœurs tendres et les prudes s'abstenir).

Dès les chapitre trois et quatre, le style change et devient, comme le dit Céline lui-même, dans son bouquin, de la littérature. Cette distinction dans le style d'écriture a fait dire à certains de ses détracteurs que cette partie de l'ouvrage ne représente en rien ce que l'auteur a vécu au front, mais constitue une histoire inventée de toute pièce qui s'amarre bien à ce qu'on put subir les soldats en repos. La décoration militaire de Céline, la réaction de ses parents envers le comportement allemand, sa visite à la maison Harnache, la relation amoureuse de son ami Cascade avec Angèle, toutes les épisodes de sa vie à l'hospice ressemblent plus à des inventions qu'à la réalité.

Elles font contraste dans la forme d'écriture et dans leur cohérence avec ce qui est écrit dans les premiers chapitres.

Le seul élément constant de tout le récit est ce bourdonnement qui habite sa tête, fruit d'une blessure qu'il aurait subie lors de combats violents. Dans son avant-propos, François Gilbault dira que l'on retrouve ce bourdonnement dans d'autres écrits de l'auteur, ce qui fait croire à son existence véritable.

Le titre du livre est un peu menteur. Sur fond de guerre, Céline nous transporte dans son univers de relations brisées, de trahisons, de sexe à prix modique, de gens de la 'haute société'. À l'exception du premier chapitre, l'histoire pourrait se produire à des milles des dégueulasseries des combats de la grande guerre. Certains livres académiques sur cet événement tragique ont plus de suspense que ce roman qui se veut ne pas en être un. ■

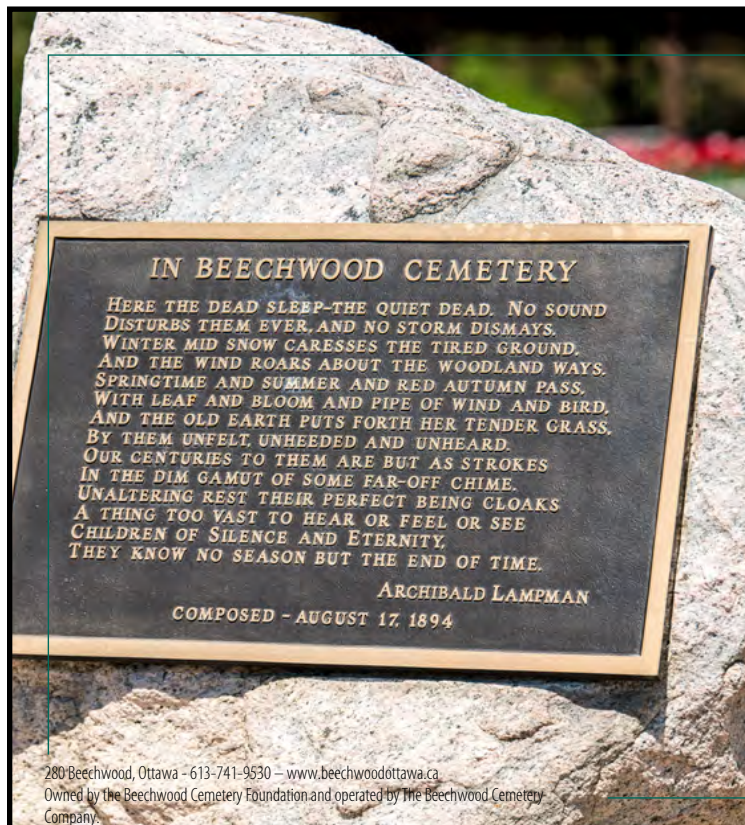
Lors de son dernier passage au MAECI, Gérald Cossette était sous-ministre délégué.

Beechwood! SPEND an hour or two in a unique park!

Those of you in the Ottawa/Gatineau area are invited to join Liz Heatherington in a tour of Beechwood Cemetery at a particularly beautiful time of year. Beechwood is truly a park of historic significance, with a stunning horticultural tradition. Special tours for the foreign service have been arranged for the following dates:

**Thursday, June 22, at 10:00 AM, and
Sunday, July 16, at 10:00 AM.**

You can ask Liz Heatherington, our Volunteer Tour Guide at Beechwood, about the "Coat of Arms Project" now under way, and get first-hand information on the many memorials and the details of its horticultural displays. Book the tour with Liz Heatherington at: elizmaryh@gmail.com.



The Canadian Foreign Service has played a vital role in the promotion and protection of Canada's national interests around the globe.

Beechwood is proud to acknowledge the contribution of Foreign Service by providing a significant saving on many of Beechwood services.



Please visit Beechwood's Foreign Service and Canadian Foreign Service Alumni Forum page for more details.

CFSAF



Notes on our last issue, February, 2023:

First, from Don Mackay (retired in Washington) on his link to the Everest expedition:

Dear Editor(s):

Bravo to Stewart Henderson and his story on the Canadian Mount Everest expedition. That successful climb by Laurie Skreslet and others allowed me, as far as I know, to become the only FS officer to - in one night - wake up two Governors General and the sitting Prime Minister. In 1982, I was a just-joined FS-1D and my first assignment in the Pearson Building was as desk officer for Nepal. The plan, following a successful summit, was for the climbing team to make a series of radio calls, patched into the phone network, courtesy of TeleGlobe Canada, from Base Camp back to Canada. My job was to sit by all night in Fort Pearson and to wait for the phone to ring and then initiate a series of planned calls. The honorary patron of the climb was former Governor General (1967 to 1974) Roland Mitchener. Somewhere around 2am the call from Everest came in and I patched it to Mr. Mitchener's home. A few minutes later a second call from Everest came in and I patched it to the sitting Governor General, Ed Schreyer. The third call came in probably 5 minutes later and that got patched directly to the bedside phone of Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau. Two lessons come from this: even in 1982, technology could work if one had a purpose, and secondly, one can still have a 30 plus-year career in the foreign service after waking up two Governors General and a Prime Minister in a single night.

Second, from Stewart Henderson, the author of "Consular Tales from the Raj:"

When transcribing from old notes for the article on Everest, I mistakenly named Pat Morrow, and not Blair Griffiths, as the climber who was

killed during the expedition. I also note that I gave Telesat Canada credit for managing the earth station in Kathmandu. Closer reading of those same faded notes tells me that it was actually TeleGlobe Canada who did all the heavy lifting. Old eyes....

Third, from Jack Adams, author of "A Lament for Nicaragua" in the last issue:

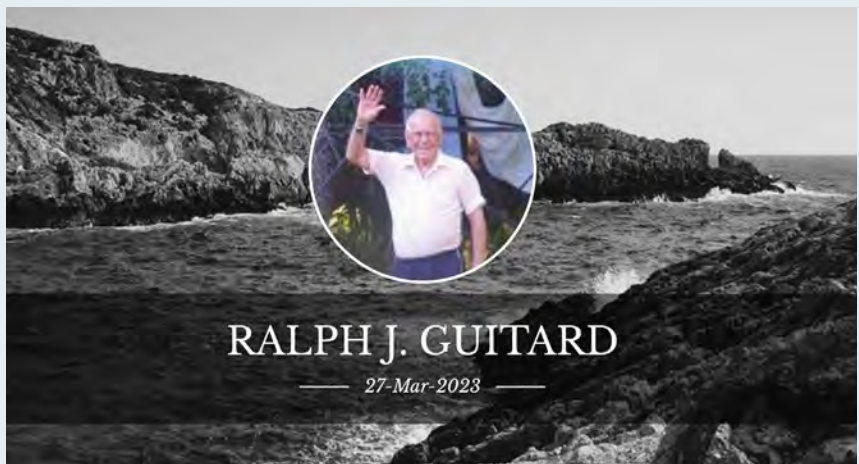
An update on Nicaragua:

- On 9 February, the Ortega/Murillo dictatorship expelled the 222 political prisoners they held in jail, sending them, as a group to the US.
 - Monsignor Rolando Alvarez, Bishop of Matagalpa, refused to be expelled from the country with the others.
 - On 10 February in retaliation, Bishop Alvarez was sentenced to 26 years, 4 months in jail for "conspiring against the national sovereignty." He is now in a maximum-security cell.
 - On 15 February an additional 94 native-born Nicaraguans were stripped of their nationality. Some of these were still living
- This action of stripping nationals of their citizenship violates at least six international agreements previously signed by the Nicaraguan government.

in the country; others resided outside. None had been in jail. Like the political prisoners expelled, they came from all walks of life. Examples are world renowned authors such as Sergio Ramirez, and Gioconda Belli, Dra. Vilma Nunez de Escorcia, Human Rights activist and founder of CENIDH, a Nicaraguan Human Rights NGO, and journalist Carlos Fernando Chamorro, publisher of Confidential, an independent weekly newspaper and TV broadcaster. He and his staff fled to Costa Rica where they now continue to publish. Dra Vilma Nunez is well known to us who were working in the country at the time. She was a key member of our team in the successful ending of a thirty-three-day hostage-taking drama of a Canadian mining technologist, snatched in a remote area of Nicaragua.

Passages: Ralph J. Guitard, 1920-2023

In our first issue of November, 2020, we noted the celebration of Ralph's 100th birthday. With considerable sadness, we now report his passing, on March 27, 2023, in Ottawa. As noted in his obituary, his humour will not be forgotten, a "true Acadian and Canadian."



Features

On photography

By Victor Rakmil

What I like best about photography is the opportunity to be creative, to make something that is unique. Creating your own personal style takes time and effort. Over time you get an “eye” for what works, and you can see the final product coming together as you shoot.

Flowers provide ample opportunity to develop your own “eye”, and they are found everywhere; in neighbourhoods, parks and gardens. The only caveat when walking through a neighbourhood is to keep your feet on the sidewalk (though some homeowners have invited me onto their property).



Photos: Victor Rakmil



Regardless of camera type or lens; light and shadow, perspective, and background are the elements of composition that bring photographs to life. They are the elements you have to work with. Aperture, shutter speed, ISO are how you get to manipulate them.

Light - with outdoor flowers, some lighting is dictated by nature and by the architecture around you. You want your audience to know what your subject is. That can mean making the flower the brightest thing in your shot by using spot metering, existing shadow to downplay soil or background. In post production, vignettes (darkening the edges), highlight front lighting and other techniques can enhance the existing natural light without making it look artificial. You could also use a reflector like a piece of aluminum to reflect light onto your subject. I like details in my flowers so they need to be bright and sharp. The various seasons have their own colour and light palette. In winter, unless you want blue snow, underexpose by two or three F stops.

Perspective - When I see something I want to shoot, I am rarely located in the best position to take the shot. I can move to the side and take advantage of shadows and light or kneel down for a better shot. The options are greater than you might think. It's all a matter of taste or style; it can take time to get a feel for perspective before it comes naturally. At some flower festivals, like the Ottawa Tulip Festival, you can see people on their stomach and/or using a step stool trying to get a perspective they like.

In the film days, the expense and the number of shots to a roll dictated some limits for most of us. Today, with digital cameras, you would be remiss if you did not take several shots of a given subject, so you have choice when you sit down behind your computer to edit.

Shooting down into a flower is frowned on by some, but like all admonitions and rules, they often deserve to be ignored. It's your imagination and eye that decide the composition. One caveat: some photography clubs have strict rules for their shows and contests, like stock photography and photojournalism do.



Background - A narrow depth of field can help isolate your subject and focus the eye of the viewer. This can help to ensure your audience knows what your subject is. The colour or nature of the background to your photography shouldn't distract, for example, stark contrasting colours or complimentary colours, dirt or no dirt etc. Visualize your final edit.

You may need to be careful about shutter speed. Flowers blow in the wind. But you could equally decide that a slower shutter speed showing motion compliments your composition, making for something almost abstract. Reflections in windows and water can also be impressive. Flowers attract insects; they may or may not be to your taste. Bees are drawn to nectar, and ants love peonies. This can give a sense of size, a notion of action or add a more exotic element. Getting a photograph of a hummingbird or a bee with its proboscis in a flower takes effort, high shutter speed and patience, but it's doable.

I am as much a fan of colour photography as of black and white photography. These days it's not hard to turn a photograph black and white in editing software. Black and white takes the shape of the flower, the light and shadow, and makes those elements the main statement.

When you start thinking about making a photograph, rather than snapping a shot, getting impressive photographs becomes easier.

If you have any questions feel free to contact me via the Forum, happy to help. ■



Survivor Resources

By Kurt Jensen

You are probably not going to enjoy reading this article. However, we're all of a 'certain' age! You may therefore have guessed that this article is suggesting that you take the first steps 'to get your affairs in order' – and provides a possible tool to assist you. This is actually something important on which to reflect, unpleasant as it may seem.

Through the good offices of the National Association of Federal Retirees (NAFR) we have obtained a detailed booklet entitled *You and Your Survivors: A Workbook*, which the association prepared in cooperation with Arbor Memorial. This latest iteration is from 2020 but contains a wealth of useful information. This information should be reviewed at regular intervals. It is an extensive document which seeks to answer all questions, and guides the reader in recording necessary information to assist those you leave behind.

The Future of Diplomacy L'avenir de la diplomatie canadienne

A new report on the Canadian foreign service was issued on June 8 by the Government. It will undoubtedly trigger much debate on how to achieve its objectives and ideas.

Un nouveau rapport sur le service extérieur canadien a été publié le 8 juin par le gouvernement. Il suscitera sans aucun doute de nombreux débats sur la manière d'atteindre ses objectifs et ses idées.

The websites for the NAFR, in either official language can be found at:

www.federalretirees.ca

www.retraitesfederaux.ca

The booklet can be found on the NAFR website or reached directly as below, in pdf format:

English: <https://www.federalretirees.ca/en/publications/you-and-your-survivors>

French: <https://www.retraitesfederaux.ca/fr/publications/vous-vos-survivants>

The booklet is largely an information resource to help you and your survivors. However, "Documenting Your Estate" is an important section as a separate entity. It records all critical information necessary to be able to access your estate, as necessary. This section is a fluid portion of the booklet, which bears updating on a continuing basis (such as credit card details).

Many readers may already have a document recording all these critical details and location of vital documents. I did for many years. My personal system failed when the computer hard drive on which I kept the data suddenly expired from old

age, and updating the data essentially meant starting over. I recently sought a more current version of the booklet and was provided the electronic version as listed above.

One can print out a hard copy of the booklet and fill in the necessary details and print replacement pages whenever updates occur. From the Word document I have also prepared a shorter version of the critical transitory material. It is also in Word format and can be readily adapted to individual situations. For example, the booklet contains a section for recording data relating to pets (vet clinics, names, etc.) and military service and former spouses, all of which is only relevant to some of us.

Any readers of FORUM can easily access the NAFR booklet through the link above. The Word format version of the booklet and the section necessitating periodic updating, however, are only available to our formal CFSAF/FASEC membership, and can be obtained with a request to edit.forum99@gmail.com. A section requiring periodic updating can also easily be further modified to meet individual needs. ■

Kurt F. Jensen is a retired foreign service officer of a 'certain' age.

Want to read past issues of FORUM?

FORUM is available on our website. Click on any of the nine issues we've issued since February, 2020 at <https://forumdiplocan.ca/forum>, or click on the following:

FORUM | forumdiplocan.ca

Vous voulez lire les anciens numéros de FORUM ?

FORUM est disponible sur notre site Web. Cliquez sur l'un des neuf numéros que nous avons publiés depuis février 2020 sur <https://forumdiplocan.ca/forum>, ou cliquez sur ce qui suit :

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How to join the Canadian Foreign Service Alumni Forum

The Canadian Foreign Service Alumni Forum (CFSAF) is a non-governmental organization consisting primarily of retired, or about-to- retire members of the Canadian foreign service, from several departments and various occupational groups. CFSAF's bulletin, FORUM, is published three times per year. Individuals wanting to subscribe to FORUM can send an email to: edit.forum99@gmail.com. We do not send FORUM to persons who have not requested it; similarly, if individuals wish to "unsubscribe" from FORUM, they should send an email to edit.forum99@gmail.com with a one-word message: "unsubscribe".

There are three different types of membership in CFSAF. First, there is an "annual membership." The fee is \$25 per year, and CFSAF will bill annually, roughly at the beginning of each calendar year. Second, there is a preferred option, to join as "life members," at a cost of \$200. This fee is paid only once. After that time, there is no hassle again about paying bills.

Third, our top level of membership is "benefactor". This is a life membership for which a member chooses to pay \$250 or more in support of the organization. It is a one-time payment, although benefactors sometimes

offer additional financial support in subsequent years. If benefactors concur, it is our intention to publish their names as a tangible sign of our gratitude for advancing CFSAF's work.

There are two different ways of paying for membership in CFSAF. The first and most convenient way is by electronic transfer. Payers can send their payments, for the appropriate amount, to the following email address: finance.forum99@gmail.com. This account has an auto-deposit feature. There is no need for a security question and answer.

Please accompany this payment with an email with your name and email address. We ask this because we have received a number of financial transfers with no email addresses. We know who you are, but we don't know how to contact you!

The second method of paying is by cheque and mail. Send your cheque to the following address (again, please ensure to include your name and email address):

CFSAF/FASEC

c/o 11547 13th Ave NW
Edmonton, Alberta T6J 7A8

In all cases, members will receive a receipt for payment. Since CFSAF is not an incorporated charitable organization, members will not be able to claim the fees as a charitable deduction.

Comment se joindre au Forum des anciens du service extérieur canadien

Le Forum des anciens du service extérieur canadien (FASEC) est une organisation non gouvernementale composée principalement de membres retraités ou sur le point de prendre leur retraite du service extérieur canadien, de plusieurs ministères et de divers groupes professionnels. Le bulletin du FASEC, FORUM, est publié trois fois par an. Les particuliers peuvent s'inscrire à FORUM en envoyant un courriel à : edit.forum99@gmail.com. Nous n'envoyons pas FORUM aux personnes qui ne l'ont pas demandé ; de même, si des personnes souhaitent se « désinscrire » de FORUM, elles peuvent envoyer un courriel à edit.forum99@gmail.com avec un message disant : « se désinscrire ».

Il existe trois différents types d'adhésion au FASEC. Premièrement, il y a une «adhésion annuelle». Les frais sont de 25 \$ par année, et FASEC facturera annuellement, environ au début de chaque année civile. Deuxièmement, il existe une option privilégiée, celle d'adhérer en tant que « membre à vie », au coût de 200 \$. Ce frais n'est payé qu'une seule fois. Passé ce délai, on n'a plus à se soucier du paiement des factures.

Troisièmement, notre plus haut niveau d'adhésion est "bienfaiteur". Il s'agit d'une adhésion à vie pour laquelle un membre choisit de payer 250 \$ ou plus pour soutenir l'organisation. Il s'agit d'un paiement unique,

mais le membre "bienfaiteur" est libre de faire des dons supplémentaires ultérieurement. Si le bienfaiteur est d'accord, nous publierons son nom. Comme un signe tangible de notre gratitude pour l'avancement du travail du FASEC.

Il existe deux manières différentes de payer l'adhésion au FASEC. Le premier moyen, et le plus pratique, est le virement électronique. Les payeurs peuvent envoyer leurs paiements, pour le montant approprié, à l'adresse courriel suivante : finance.forum99@gmail.com. Ce compte possède la fonction auto-dépôt. Il n'est donc pas nécessaire de fournir une question et une réponse de sécurité.

Il est important que vous envoyiez un courriel avec votre nom et votre adresse courriel. Nous vous le demandons car nous avons reçu un certain nombre de transferts financiers sans une adresse courriel. Nous savons qui vous êtes, mais nous n'avons pas une adresse courriel pour vous contacter!

La deuxième méthode de paiement est par chèque et courrier. Poster votre chèque à l'adresse suivante (avec votre nom et votre adresse courriel):

FASEC /CFSAF

a/s 11547 13th Ave NW
Edmonton, Alberta T6J 7A8

Dans tous les cas, les membres recevront un reçu de paiement. Étant donné que FASEC n'est pas un organisme de bienfaisance enregistré, ces frais d'adhésion ne donnent pas droit à un crédit d'impôts pour don.

FORUM

Letters to the editors/ Correspondence aux rédacteurs:

We want to hear from our readers. Send your letters or emails to the editors, focused on the content of this bulletin, at: edit.forum99@gmail.com.

Nous invitons nos lecteurs à envoyer des lettres aux éditeurs concernant le contenu de ce bulletin à : edit.forum99@gmail.com.

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For any other matters relating to this issue or the association, please contact us at the same email address.

FORUM est publié trois fois par année par le Forum des anciens du service extérieur canadien (FASEC). Il s'agit d'une nouvelle association non gouvernementale à but non lucratif regroupant tous les membres retraités (ou sur le point de prendre leur retraite) du service extérieur canadien. FORUM ne vend ni ne distribue les adresses courriel de ses abonnés. Si les destinataires ne souhaitent pas recevoir d'autres numéros de FORUM, ils doivent nous envoyer un courriel avec le mot « se désabonner » à edit.forum99@gmail.com.

Pour toute autre question relative à ce numéro de FORUM ou à l'association, veuillez nous contacter à la même adresse courriel.

News, comments, announcements or suggestions? Let us know at edit.forum99@gmail.com.

Nouvelles, commentaires, annonces, suggestions ? Contactez-nous à edit.forum99@gmail.com.