

National Report

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Who is Jennifer Welsh, and why is she writing Canada's foreign policy? Why is an expatriate Canadian academic working in England writing what might be Canada's most important foreign policy shift in years? And why have Paul Martin's closest advisers found that the views in Welsh's book on world affairs coincide better with the Prime Minister's than do those of Canada's diplomats? The "who" part is easy. Welsh is a lecturer in international relations at Oxford University who won a Rhodes Scholarship in 1987, the first woman from Saskatchewan to do so. She was a policy planner in the foreign affairs department in the early '90s, a consultant in the mid-'90s, and has taught international relations at Oxford since 1999. In 1995, Welsh campaigned for the No side in the Quebec referendum. And while she works abroad, her background suffuses her view

of Canada's role in the world. Born in Regina in 1965, she did her undergraduate work at the University of Saskatchewan, and observes in her book that her roots offer a perspective on how the partnership called Canada emerged, and its foundations.

"The rough outlines of my heritage are straightforward," she writes. "A Métis father, whose parents came from the Qu'Appelle Valley and whose grandfather was one of the last buffalo hunters

on the Saskatchewan plains, and a mother of German-speaking Romanian stock, whose parents immigrated to the Prairies just before the First World War." Welsh proudly traces her Métis roots to the legendary Hudson's Bay factor George Simpson; her great-great-great grandmother, Margaret, became one of his

"country wives" and accompanied him on his journey by canoe and snowshoe from Hudson's Bay to the Pacific in 1828. Those experiences shape the views in her recent book *At Home in the World: Canada's Global Vision for the 21st Century*. The book is optimistic ("I see a renewed and confident Canada that skilfully manages its relationship with the United States but also contributes constructively to the resolution of global problems"), upbeat ("Pro-active self-confidence should be our mantra for the future") and anecdotal ("I remember clearly the first time I held a eu-

A new face for foreign policy

Not satisfied with drafts by senior civil servants, Prime Minister Paul Martin decided that a Rhodes scholar from the Prairies should write Canada's first foreign policy update in 10 years, *Graham Fraser reports from Ottawa*



Saskatchewan-born Jennifer Welsh has been a lecturer in international relations at Oxford University.

ro"). That's the "who;" the "why" part is harder.

Welsh can't talk about the international policy statement, still incomplete, but speculates she was asked to work on it because her book struck a chord.

"I think that people felt that there was a way of talking about our foreign policy that sounded fresh and resonated, and that, obviously, the government wanted an aspect of

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More military money helps overcome 'demotion'

Bill Graham says he loved being foreign affairs minister But now he's relishing his role in crucial defence portfolio

BRUCE CAMPION-SMITH
OTTAWA BUREAU

OTTAWA—At the time, it was called a slap in the face, a demotion.

Despite a strong showing as minister of foreign affairs, Bill Graham found himself bumped last summer from the globe-spanning world of diplomacy to

defence, a department with big ambitions but hobbled by chronic underfunding.

"I certainly didn't seek to leave foreign affairs. I loved being minister of foreign affairs," Graham says.

But he adds that he was consoled by Prime Minister Paul Martin's pledge of more cash for

the armed forces.

"He did say it to me... that the fundamental thing that we're going to have to do here is reinvest in the military. That is a huge and important task. It is the primary tool of our foreign policy," he says.

"He wanted me to be the defence minister to help achieve

that. Perhaps that softened the blow somewhat."

Within days of taking the helm, Graham announced action on an issue that had become an embarrassment: a replacement for the aging Sea King helicopters. The groundwork had been long laid for the announcement but in light of what was to come, the move was symbolic. After years of budget cuts and political inattention, new days were coming for the armed forces.

Eight months later, Graham's "demotion" is looking pretty good.

With a new top general promising big changes, a budget that promised big bucks and a pending defence review that will lay out higher-profile roles for the military at home and abroad, Graham is riding what some are calling the renaissance of the armed forces.

Along the way, he's had to stickhandle the day-to-day chal-

lenges that go with defence.

The fatal fire onboard the submarine HMCS Chicoutimi in October renewed questions about military underfunding.

Over the holidays, Graham was Ottawa's front man during the tsunami crisis, covering for cabinet colleagues away on vacation. Ironically, one of them, Pierre Pettigrew, who replaced Graham in the foreign affairs

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