



Citizenship and  
Immigration Canada

Citoyenneté et  
Immigration Canada

**Citizenship & Immigration  
Canada (CIC)**

**Hazardous Material Incident**

**Incident impliquant des matières  
dangereuses survenu à Citoyenneté  
et Immigration Canada (CIC)**



On January 30, 2001, CIC employees opened an envelope addressed to the Minister. The envelope contained a plastic bag partially filled with a substance. As a result, The RCMP, Health Canada, the Ottawa Police Service and the Ottawa Fire Services were contacted, which resulted in the dispatch of the Hazardous Material (HAZMAT) team to the scene. After a preliminary examination, the envelope was flown by Canadian Forces aircraft to the National Microbiology Laboratory at the Canada Science Centre for Human and Animal Health in Winnipeg.

Three days later the content of the envelope was identified as non-hazardous. The Business Resumption and Informatics Disaster Recovery Plans were put into operation, so that uninterrupted information technology (IT) services were maintained. The incident was front line news across Canada during the three days that it lasted.



Mr. Guy Bélisle is the Director Administration & Security at CIC and was the Business Resumption manager responsible to deal with this event. He will provide insight and useful lessons learned from a client perspective. Mr Bélisle has been in the civil service for the last 30 years, has worked overseas and was the CIC Y2K departmental manager.