

## INTRODUCTION

Canada is obliged under federal and international law to grant certain immunities to diplomatic and consular personnel that have significant implications for law enforcement officers. Immunities may be defined as protections from law enforcement processes and are founded on principles of international conduct dating from antiquity. Currently, there are about 8,900 persons in Canada whose status entitles them to immunities; they are members of diplomatic missions, consular posts, and international organizations. While diplomatic personnel are necessarily based in Ottawa, the national capital, consular personnel and members of international organizations are freely based in major cities across Canada. This Guide is intended to help law enforcement officers to understand how to handle offences by diplomatic and consular personnel within the limitations of their immunities.