

Restructuring external operations

In 1971, the support services of various departments operating programs abroad were incorporated within the Department of External Affairs. Efforts were then begun to ensure that heads of Canadian posts abroad would regard themselves as representatives of the whole government and would seek to manage all Canadian government activities in their area as a coherent whole.

In April 1981, the responsibility for immigration programs abroad was transferred to the Department of External Affairs, together with the foreign service staff of the Canadian Employment and Immigration Commission; these programs include the recruitment of immigrants, the admission of refugees and the entry into Canada of tourists, students and temporary workers. Similarly, the field staff of CIDA was brought into the Department.

In January 1982 the government effected a major reorganization of its economic and external affairs departments. The international trade policy and trade promotions functions of the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce were transferred to External Affairs. This change, together with those noted in the paragraph above, had the effect of creating a new Department of External Affairs, with a new mandate although retaining the earlier name. At the same time the remaining components of the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce were merged with the Department of Regional Economic Expansion to form a new Department of Regional Industrial Expansion dealing exclusively with domestic trade matters. In September 1983 a second phase of the new organization was implemented to integrate more closely the political, economic and trade, functions of the Department.

The aims of the reorganization were:

- to ensure policy and program coherence in the conduct of Canada's entire range of relations with the outside world;
- to give policy-making in the trade and economic area a higher priority in the formulation of Canadian foreign policy;
- to ensure that the conduct of foreign relations serves Canadian trade and economic objectives; and
- to improve the services provided to exporters in highly competitive world markets.

Widened political basis

The act of Parliament which established the Department of External Affairs in 1909 placed it under the Secretary of State, with an Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs serving as the permanent deputy head of the Department. In 1912, amending legislation placed the Department