



WHO WE ARE ...

In a world that seems to be getting smaller every day, Canada's relations with other countries are becoming more and more important. What happens beyond our borders has a real impact on the lives of Canadians. Millions of Canadians travel overseas for business or pleasure. And even if you rarely leave home, you cannot help but be aware of Canada's important role in the community of nations.

Whether we are based in Ottawa or thousands of kilometres away, the more than 7 000 people who work for the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) strive to bring Canada to the world and the world to Canada. Our primary role is to manage Canada's day-to-day relations with the governments and peoples of other nations, both bilaterally and within the many international organizations in which Canada participates. Under the direction of our Ministers, we develop and implement the policies that determine how our country approaches its role in the world, and are ready to respond quickly and effectively when a crisis occurs.

If you're travelling or living abroad, we're the people who can help you if you have a problem. If you're in business, we promote Canadian exports and help you take advantage of new opportunities. And no matter where in Canada you live or what you do, we work on your behalf for peace, prosperity and the basic values Canadians share.

Most people think of us as diplomats, and many of us are. But we are also secretaries, clerks, computer professionals, historians, economists, administrators, librarians, trade specialists, policy analysts, editors – the list goes on and on. We are young and not so young, male and female, from small towns and big cities and places in between. We are as diverse as Canada itself and have one thing in common: a commitment to serving Canadians and Canadian interests around the world.

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