

## CO-ORDINATION AT HOME AND ABROAD

The *Bureau of Co-ordination* elaborates and co-ordinates policy regarding the participation of the provinces in Canada's international affairs, and Canada's role in the institutions and activities of the Commonwealth and La Francophonie. It consists of three divisions: *Federal-Provincial Co-ordination*, *Commonwealth Institutions* and *Francophone Institutions*.

## Federal-Provincial Co-ordination Division

The Federal-Provincial Co-ordination Division deals with those aspects of Canada's international relations that involve the interests of the provinces as well as the country as a whole. The Division's primary responsibility is to maintain close liaison with the provinces concerning such matters and to facilitate their international activities in such a way as fully to meet provincial objectives while remaining consistent with a unified Canadian foreign policy.

The Federal-Provincial Co-ordination Division was established as a separate entity in September 1967 as a result of expanding provincial interests abroad and of the Federal Government's desire to develop more effective procedures to ensure that these interests could be facilitated. The federal position was outlined in the 1968 White Paper *Federalism and International Relations*, in which it was emphasized that the Government was anxious to ensure that Canada's foreign relations would serve the best interests of all the provinces as well as of the two major linguistic communities in Canada.

Federal assistance to the provinces in this regard, therefore, is provided pursuant to a number of government policies that include the continued promotion of national unity through an adequate projection internationally of Canada's bilingual character, the preservation of Canada's international personality and the desirability of giving appropriate recognition to legitimate provincial interests beyond provincial borders. As the White Paper recognized, however, it would be no easy task to work out the necessary co-ordinating procedures within a system of government in which provinces were wholly or partially responsible inside Canada for a wide range of subjects that were also matters of international interest but in which the Federal Government bore ultimate responsibility for the conduct of international relations. Within the Department of External Affairs, the task of devising and implementing such procedures rests with the Federal-Provincial Co-ordination Division.

The Division carries out a liaison function at both provincial and federal levels of government. Within the Department, it co-ordinates the activities of other divisions and of Canadian posts abroad when these touch on areas of provincial interest. The Division also works closely with other federal departments and agencies to ensure that full account is taken of provincial interests abroad.

At the provincial level, the Federal-Provincial Co-ordination Division is in regular contact with officials of the provinces on day-to-day questions of