



news release

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EXPANSION OF CONSULAR SERVICES IN MIAMI

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced the expansion of consular services at the Canadian Consulate in Miami to better serve Canadians travelling or resident in Florida.

"The increasing number of Canadians visiting Florida has resulted in a growing demand for services. The Consulate will meet these needs and provide a fuller range of services, particularly to Canadians in distress, at no additional cost to taxpayers," Mr. Ouellet said.

The expanded Consulate will include the existing trade program along with consular, immigration, tourist, police liaison and customs programs. This expansion has been accomplished through redeployment of the Department's existing resources in the United States.

Consular services in Florida were previously the responsibility of the Consulate General in Atlanta, which handles approximately 2400 consular cases annually, 80 percent of them pertaining to Florida. An estimated 2.5 million Canadians visit Florida each year.

Expansion of services in Florida is one of a number of initiatives to assist Canadian travellers. These include the "Bon Voyage, But..." video travel series, the installation of a special number, 1-800-267-6788, to answer travel queries, and the Consular Awareness Program, which offers Canadians practical advice on preparing for safe travel abroad. These initiatives are designed to inform Canadians about the services offered by Canada's missions abroad, ranging from response to routine enquiries to answering appeals for help.

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