

In the last decade,
Canada signed or ratified
165 multilateral and
266 bilateral treaties,
and joined 12 major new
international/regional
organizations or processes.

WHO WE ARE ...

Whether we are based in Ottawa or thousands of kilometres away, the more than 7000 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 that 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.