

LEGAL AFFAIRS

Major Agreements

Transfer of Offenders Treaty

Treaty of Extradition

Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters

MOU on Cooperation in Combatting Narcotrafficking and Drug Dependency

Major Interlocutors

Canada:

DFAIT

Department of Justice

Solicitor General (incl. RCMP)

Mexico:

SRE

Dept. of the Attorney General (PGR)

Extent and Mechanisms of Cooperation

The International Assistance Group of the Department of Justice is the central authority in Canada for extradition and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters. As such, it coordinates extradition requests and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters with Mexico's PGR and Foreign Ministry, and requests between Canada and Mexico pursuant to extradition and mutual legal assistance treaties.

There is also some bilateral contact on indigenous issues, through the Department of Justice's Native Law Section, notably in the course of the negotiation of international instruments (e.g. the Convention on Bio-diversity) insofar as they may impact on indigenous people.

At the Solicitor General (including RCMP), the principal division that has contact with Mexico is the Law Enforcement Group of the Policing and Law Enforcement Directorate. The Group is responsible for managing issues related to Canada's Drug Strategy and it is also charged with facilitating the implementation of the Canada-Mexico MOU on Drug Cooperation. Although there have thus far been three meetings to review activities under the MOU, this has not been a key factor in cooperative efforts; there has been much more intense cooperation within the framework of CICAD (OAS), where both countries have been asked by the CICAD membership to analyse the drug situation in the hemisphere and propose priorities for the organisation.

The respective Solicitors General of Canada and Mexico met for the first time in the framework of the April 1995 JMC.

The mandate of the RCMP liaison officer in Mexico City is to establish a relationship at all levels with the Mexican Law Enforcement community so as to obtain quick and efficient responses on police and justice matters between Canada and Mexico.