

## 2. COMPONENT DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Organization

The management of Canadian policy with respect to the activities of the United Nations system of organizations is vested in the Bureau of United Nations Affairs (UNP). This function includes coordination of provincial activities where appropriate and liaison with relevant non-governmental organizations in Canada.

Headed by a Director-General (presently Mr. Paul A. Lapointe), the Bureau comprises two operational divisions:

- (a) The United Nations Political and Institutional Affairs Division (UNO) has the task of assessing, on a continuing basis, the political implications of developments in the Security Council, the General Assembly or other United Nations organs, and of developing and coordinating Canadian policy toward U.N. related issues and initiatives. As well, it examines and coordinates Canadian policy and activity regarding the institutional development of the United Nations system. Finally, on behalf of Canada, it coordinates personnel management, financial and budgetary matters throughout the United Nations family of organizations;
- (b) the United Nations Social and Humanitarian Affairs Division (UNS) has as its field of responsibility the coordination of Canadian policy and activities concerning social affairs (status of women), refugee and emergency relief and human rights.

The Bureau reports to Senior Management through a number of channels: Assistant Under-Secretary J. Gignac for social questions, Assistant Under-Secretary A. Couvrette for political ones and eventually to the Under-Secretary through Deputy Under-Secretary K. Goldschlag.

The establishment of the Bureau goes back to 1971 when the Department of External Affairs underwent a major reorganization designed to "encourage the closest possible relations between the discharge of operational responsibilities and the continual development of the policy framework in which operations must be conducted" (Annual Report of the Department for 1971, page 1).