

Background: "Applied" Name of a Department

The "legal" title of a department is the name that appears in the enabling legislation (Act), proclamation, Order-in-Council, or other instrument used by the government to bring a department or branch of government into existence. As there will be no change in the enabling legislation in this case, the "legal" title of the department will remain "The Department of External Affairs." This legal title will continue to be used by the department for all contracts, federal-provincial agreements and any documents executed in connection with legal proceedings or which may subsequently be used in legal proceedings (e.g. affidavits).

With the approval of Treasury Board and in accordance with the Federal Identity Program (FIP), departments may adopt an "applied" title in addition to their legal title. "Applied" titles are used to express the nature or functions of a department or organization to the public and may be used consistently in all communications where no requirement for use of the legal title exists. In accordance with FIP regulations, the new applied title of the Department of External Affairs will be "External Affairs and International Trade Canada."