

## INTRODUCTORY NOTE

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This book, *The Reference Book*, outlines Canada's major bilateral and multilateral relations, and describes the Department and its programs.

It is the second of two books. The first is *The Issues Book*, which covers the main challenges that Ministers will be exposed to during their first year in office.

The books are intended to give a quick overview; topics have been organized around main themes outlined in the table of contents. In the case of each issue requiring decisions, Ministers will be approached with detailed memoranda, and oral briefings as desired.

The acronyms SGA for Secretary of State for External Affairs, MINT for Minister for International Trade, and EATC for External Affairs and International Trade Canada are used throughout both books.

A full list of abbreviations and acronyms is included at the back of each book for easy reference.

Unless otherwise specified, all dollar figures refer to Canadian dollars.