



The Department

1 Key Messages

- What happens beyond our borders has a real impact on our lives here in Canada.
- Rapid globalization means that international issues and crises — political, humanitarian or economic — have major domestic implications.
- The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade is responsible for the conduct of all external relations on behalf of the Government of Canada. Even if our work is largely behind the scenes, our nation benefits in myriad ways from it.
- If you have a problem when travelling or living abroad, we can help. If you're in business, we support you by promoting Canadian exports and helping you take advantage of new opportunities abroad. And wherever you live, we are working on your behalf for peace, prosperity and the basic values shared by all Canadians.
- All our activities are focussed on you — improving your living standards, creating jobs and economic growth, promoting national and human security, strengthening national unity, providing assistance to those travelling or living abroad, and expanding international opportunities for Canadian youth, Aboriginal people and women.
- We also promote Canadian culture and studies abroad, as an expression of the values and interests that Canadians share, so that other countries can develop a better understanding of our approach to international issues.