

**1. ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DEPARTMENT**

External Affairs and International Trade Canada protects and promotes Canadian interests abroad and conducts Canada's external relations. It does so by:

- conducting all diplomatic and consular relations on behalf of Canada;
- coordinating the pursuit of Canada's political, economic, trade, security, cultural and other interests through bilateral relations and multilateral institutions including participation in world expositions;
- assisting Canadian businesses in expanding their sales and securing their access to export markets and in promoting the flow of foreign investment and technology into Canada;
- helping distressed Canadians travelling or living abroad and ensuring that they are treated fairly under the laws of foreign countries;
- delivering Canada's Immigration and Refugee programs abroad on behalf of the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission (CEIC);
- delivering Canada's Official Development Assistance program abroad in cooperation with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA);
- advising the government on international developments likely to affect Canada's interests;
- ensuring that domestic policy developments of other government departments and levels of government are consistent with Canada's international obligations and foreign affairs interests; and
- managing the foreign service including Canada's missions and delegations abroad as well as providing administrative support for other departments with personnel abroad.