

Canada's international activity that are of interest to both the provincial and federal governments.

In addition, the division provides a number of services to the provinces. It places the Department's network of posts abroad and its extensive telecommunications facilities at the disposal of provincial officials. It arranges and co-ordinates the constantly-increasing number of visits of provincial officials abroad and of foreign officials to the provinces. It facilitates contacts between the provinces and foreign governments within the framework of normal international practice. It seeks to ensure that provincial officials are represented on Canadian delegations to international conferences dealing with matters of interest to the provinces. It consults with the provinces on a regular basis concerning Canadian accession to international agreements touching on areas of internal provincial jurisdiction. And it continues to develop procedures that will make it possible to distribute to the provinces on a regular basis miscellaneous information and documentation relating to the international aspects of provincial interests.

The *Commonwealth Institutions Division* has general responsibility for co-ordinating the implementation of Government policies in relation to the Commonwealth and for the Government's involvement in the consultative and co-operative activities of the association. This involves facilitating Canadian participation in the Commonwealth heads of government meetings and both the regular and *ad hoc* Commonwealth meetings at the ministerial and official levels. With respect to Commonwealth functional co-operation, the division, in conjunction with other government departments and agencies, advises on Canada's participation in the numerous Commonwealth governmental co-operative programs. In carrying out these functions, the division serves as the focal point in Canada for communications with the Commonwealth Secretariat, the body charged with providing the central organization for joint consultation and co-operation in many fields. In addition to these duties, the division has an advisory and liaison role concerning Canadian involvement with the almost 300 governmental and non-governmental institutions, associations and organizations that operate on a Commonwealth basis. In discharging these responsibilities, the division works towards the maintenance and growth of the increasingly valuable co-operative and consultative arrangements that are characteristic of the Commonwealth's role today.

The *Francophone Institutions Division* supervises Canada's multilateral relations with the countries, institutions and private international associations belonging to La Francophonie, a cultural community that involves more than 30 countries throughout the world.