

3.2. Acceptances

The Office of Protocol of the Department of External Affairs issues three kinds of acceptances to diplomatic and consular personnel taking up functions in Canada; namely, diplomatic acceptances, consular acceptances, and official acceptances. It is on the basis of the acceptances that the status of diplomatic and consular personnel is established.

A diplomatic acceptance is issued only to diplomatic officers and their dependents.

A consular acceptance is issued only to consular officers and their dependents.

An official acceptance is issued only to members of the administrative and technical and service staff and their dependents, and to foreign domestic servants and their dependents.

3.3. Definition of Dependents

Dependents are defined by the Office of Protocol of the Department of External Affairs as follows:

- (1) the spouse;
- (2) the parents of either spouse over sixty years of age, or under sixty years of age if incapable of, or not intending to seek, gainful employment;
- (3) the unmarried sons or daughters under 21 years of age who live with their parents;
- (4) the unmarried sons or daughters under 25 years of age who live with their parents and attend on a full-time basis an educational institution in the same locality as the parents' residence;
- (5) the unmarried sons or daughters of any age who are physically disabled.

Requests to consider as dependents any persons who do not conform to the definitions above will not normally be accepted. However, in exceptional cases requests to consider such persons may be accepted provided that such requests are submitted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Canadian diplomatic mission abroad before the arrival of such persons in Canada. Although the Office of Protocol has no objection to other family members of diplomatic and consular personnel living with them for the duration of their assignment in Canada, such persons must meet normal immigration requirements and can not be considered for acceptance as dependents. Moreover, they do not enjoy any privileges, benefits, and immunities.