

efficient and cost-effective manner. In general, operating agencies will be units that can be held accountable independently within the parent department, and which can be subjected to market discipline or agreed-upon performance standards with a clear, stable mandate.

The Passport Office will be one of these new agencies, operating under a specific, tailor-made agreement between the agency, External Affairs

and International Trade Canada and the Treasury Board. This agreement or operating framework will cover the results and performance improvements expected of the Passport Office and any special administrative flexibilities necessary to achieve these results. The Passport Office will continue to operate on a self-financing basis without recourse to appropriations funded by the taxpayer.

The Department offers a variety of services to assist litigants in legal proceedings that have both a Canadian and a foreign element. These services are offered under a framework of treaties, conventions and arrangements between Canada and other countries. The Department publishes a booklet entitled *International Judicial Cooperation*, which describes these services in detail.

Canada has treaties on legal proceedings in civil and commercial matters with 19 countries. These treaties create channels for the service of legal documents and the taking of evidence

in civil cases, either in Canada at the request of foreign litigants, or abroad at the request of Canadians.

In 1988, Canada became a party to the Hague Convention of 15 November 1965 on Service Abroad of Judicial and Extrajudicial Documents in Civil or Commercial Matters. This creates a simplified channel for service of documents in the 24 other countries party to the Convention. The Convention came into force in Canada on May 1, 1989. In addition, the Convention on the International Bills of Exchange and International Promissory Notes was signed by Canada on December 9, 1989.

D. PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW