

The establishment of a Canadian consulate in Seattle on October 1, 1953, within a week of the opening of the Los Angeles post was accompanied by many of the same pressures. A Consulate General in the Pacific Northwest had been actively considered by Leslie Chance on his 1947 tour. He reported that although a large amount of routine work was not performed by the British Consul, and despite the unimportance of trade considerations, there was a need for a Canadian office to disseminate information. Chance noted particularly the pride of Seattle and the pressure exerted by local businessmen for the selection of their city. Since greater representation than the existing immigration office was required, he recommended a consular office.¹³² The unsatisfactory experience with Detroit, however, made External Affairs reluctant to establish another consulate near the border, and Chance likewise became less enthusiastic in his advocacy of a Seattle post.¹³³

All the same, agitation on the part of Seattle increased in 1950 and continued through 1952. The San Francisco Consul General reported increasing pressure for a consulate from the Seattle Board of Trade.¹³⁴ In addition, the British consular officials in Seattle told the Canadians that since closure of the Immigration Office in 1951, they handled the inquiries directed to their office, and it caused some difficulty as this Canadian work totalled 40% of the duties of the British Office.¹³⁵ Various officials in the Department, including Hector Allard and Hume Wrong, also lobbied to have a consulate in Seattle made the first priority for any office opened in the West.¹³⁶

Finally, a memorandum accepted by Under-Secretary Wilgress and submitted to the Minister on October 7, 1952, authorized new offices in both Los Angeles and Seattle. After reading this recommendation, L.B. Pearson deferred raising the question of Seattle in the Cabinet, even though he had gained approval for the Los Angeles post. The Department finally