
External Affairs at a Glance

The Department of External Affairs serves Canadians at home and abroad and ensures that Canada's voice is heard internationally. The department achieves these goals by

- promoting Canada's economic, political, security and other interests, both bilaterally and through international institutions;
- supporting the export marketing efforts of Canadian business through the Trade Commissioner Service, and by enhancing access for Canadian goods and services in world markets;
- providing development assistance and emergency relief in Third World countries in co-operation with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA);
- managing Canada's immigration and refugee programs on behalf of the Canadian Employment and Immigration Commission;
- helping Canadians travelling or living abroad, and providing emergency assistance in cases of distress;
- advising the government on international developments and on the international implications of domestic policies;
- supporting the interests internationally of 30 federal government departments and agencies, and of provincial governments;
- providing administrative support to federal departments with personnel abroad, notably the Department of National Defence, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and Revenue Canada.