

Preface

Responsibilities

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade has the primary responsibility for the promotion and protection of Canada's interests abroad and the conduct of Canada's relations with other countries. Its main functions are: to ensure the effective representation of Canada in other countries and in international organizations through close contact, communication and negotiation with other governments and organizations; to evaluate information about political, economic and other developments likely to affect Canada's interests; to give advice to the government, often in consultation with other departments, on the formulation and implementation of policies and programs with international dimensions; to ensure the co-ordination of the external aspects and application of national policies for export trade promotion, defence and security, development assistance, and cultural and scientific exchanges; to reflect to peoples abroad the bilingual and multi-cultural character of Canadian society; and to provide protection and assistance to Canadian citizens abroad.