



# communiqué

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## CHANGES IN CANADIAN REPRESENTATION ABROAD

As part of an ongoing program to reduce costs the Government of Canada has decided to close a number of missions abroad and reduce staff at several other posts. These steps are being taken in response to the government's general commitment to public service restraint.

Three Canadian Embassies in Quito (Ecuador), Helsinki (Finland) and in Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates) will be closed as well as four Consulates-General in the following cities: Hamburg, Marseille, Perth and Philadelphia. In addition, the Embassy in Guatemala will be converted to a smaller office.

The Department will be making other announcements in the near future on initiatives to augment Canada's presence in Latin America.

The closings will take place over the coming months. A series of other reduction measures will affect Melbourne, Buffalo, Cleveland, Bucharest, Vienna and a number of other missions as well.

Special care will be taken to ensure fair and equitable treatment of Canadian and locally-engaged personnel affected and to do every thing possible to mitigate the impact on them of closures and reductions.

Services to Canadians abroad and bilateral relations will be maintained through accreditation from neighbouring missions. Where needed and practicable honorary consuls will be appointed.

The reductions will affect approximately fifty Canadians and one hundred locally engaged staff abroad. The financial savings will amount to approximately \$10 million per year.