The wide ranging responsibilities of the Canadian foreign service, with members serving in Ottawa and at almost 120 posts outside Canada include:

- representation of Canada and Canadian interests in the countries with which Canada has diplomatic relations and in the many international organizations to which Canada belongs;
- the promotion of Canada's economic and trade relations with other countries;
- the conduct abroad of Canada's international development, immigration and tourism programs;
- the dissemination abroad of information on Canada and Canadian affairs and the fostering of cultural relations with other countries;
- the timely provision to the Government of information, analysis and advice on international developments and issues of relevance to Canadian interests;
- the negotiation and monitoring of international agreements to which Canada is party; and
- the provision of consular services to Canadians travelling and residing abroad.

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The full text of the Government's response and copies of a discussion paper, outlining in detail the factors considered by the Government in determining its response, are available on request from Domestic Information Division, Public Affairs Branch, Department of External Affairs (telephone 593-7064).