

INTRODUCTION

The mission of External Affairs and International Trade Canada is to make known, to promote and to defend world-wide, the interests of Canada and the values held in common by Canadians. The Department's goal is also to assist Canadians in better understanding the outside world, and to serve Canadians in Canada and abroad.

Just over 4,200 Canadians, half of whom are deployed in 105 missions on the five continents, work on a daily basis to achieve these objectives under the most diverse and sometimes the most adverse conditions. This report sets forth the highlights of their achievements in the past year.