

Part B – The Department’s Role

Every day employees of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade work toward bringing Canada to the world and the world to Canada. We have one of the most complex — and perhaps rewarding — mandates within the Canadian government. Whether based in Ottawa, or thousands of kilometres away, it’s our job to promote and defend the interests of Canadians.

The Lester B. Pearson Building in Ottawa is the Headquarters for the Department, but the scope and influence of Canada’s foreign policy goes far beyond this building.

Foreign Policy

The Department advises the federal government on international trends and issues that are likely to affect Canada’s interests. This information helps shape the government’s political, economic, cultural and trade priorities.

Diplomatic Relations

Those priorities are pursued through diplomatic relations with more than a hundred countries: at Canadian missions around the world and with foreign representatives in Ottawa.

Consular Activities

Canadian embassies, high commissions and consulates can be familiar territory in unfamiliar places. The Department provides a range of services to Canadians who are travelling or living abroad. These may include passports, information or assistance in the event of an emergency. Every year our consular services help some two million Canadians.

Trade

Trade is vital to Canadian prosperity. Three million jobs depend on it. And for every billion dollars in exports, 12,000 new jobs are created. We help Canadian businesses promote and sell their goods and services in foreign markets. And we encourage the flow of investment and new technology to Canada.