the development, review and administration of policy on foreign service terms and conditions of service, as well as on travel and removal; the management and administration of pay and compensation services and policy governing accommodation abroad; leave and attendance; retirement program and superannuation; employee participation in hospital and medical insurance plans; staff relations; the health and safety of employees abroad; personnel welfare counselling; the development and implementation of systems and procedures consequent upon statutory provisions, central agency directives and collective bargaining agreements; the administration of locally-engaged employees abroad; the making of travel and removal arrangements for departmental as well as for foreign operations personnel of the Departments of Industry, Trade and Commerce, and Manpower and Immigration; the development and administration of special voting procedures for all public servants abroad.

Posts abroad

Canada's diplomatic missions and consular offices form an integral part of the Department. Heads of diplomatic and consular posts report to the Secretary of State for External Affairs and receive their instructions from him.

The diplomatic staff of an embassy consists of the ambassador, assisted by one or more foreign service officers, who may also be assigned consular duties to the extent required by the volume of consular work. Where separate consular offices exist, they operate under the general supervision of the head of the diplomatic mission in the country, while receiving instructions in matters of detail from the appropriate division in the Department.

Part of the work of a post is to distribute information about Canada. In a few places this is done by full-time information officers; elsewhere it is undertaken by other officers. Where there are no diplomatic or consular representatives, trade commissioners or other Canadian Government officials stationed in the country do this work.

In some cases officers of other departments of the Canadian Government -- commercial, immigration, military, naval, air or others -- are attached to missions. Though responsible to their departmental heads in Ottawa, they also work under the general supervision and direction of the head of the mission.

The work of a mission is:

(a) to conduct negotiations with the government to which it is accredited;