

Outside Canada, the task of the division is to co-ordinate information activities and to conduct, through Canadian posts, operations aimed at disseminating general and specific information about Canada and its policies. Through the Interdepartmental Committee on Information Abroad, it maintains contact and co-operates with other departments engaged in the distribution of Canadian information abroad. In Canada, the Information Division makes available current and background information on government policy regarding international affairs and on the activities of the Department as a whole.

The Cultural Affairs Division is responsible for the conduct of cultural relations between Canada and other countries so far as these contacts proceed through intergovernmental channels. It also maintains liaison with other interested agencies, both official and private, with a view to making Canada better known abroad through cultural and educational activities. It has specific responsibility for the governmental aspects of Canada's membership in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and provides departmental liaison with the Canadian National Commission for UNESCO. It is also charged, as occasions require, with responsibilities arising out of Canada's commitments under international agreements affecting the free flow between nations of cultural and intellectual property. It provides liaison with competent national organizations on educational matters deriving from Canada's relations with other countries and its membership in such other international organizations as the Commonwealth Education Liaison Committee. The division's duties include primary responsibility for negotiating cultural agreements with other countries and developing cultural programmes with them (including such activities as scholarship programmes, exchange of professors, tours by performing arts groups and art exhibitions). On occasion, it arranges for Canadian participation in cultural events outside Canada, such as festivals of the arts and handicrafts, international exhibitions and competitions, and to this end maintains close co-operation with Canadian agencies in the sphere of the arts. It helps keep Canadian cultural organizations informed of cultural activity outside the country and provides general assistance to Canadian artists going abroad. It handles the book-presentation programme that arranges donations of Canadian books to libraries abroad.

The Office of Economic Affairs consists of the Aid and Development, Commercial Policy, and Transport, Communications and Energy Divisions.

The Aid and Development Division provides a focus for Departmental consultation on aid policy questions with the Canadian International Development Agency (the new name recently adopted by the External Aid Office) and with other Government Departments and Agencies which have an interest in particular aspects of development assistance activities. The Division is responsible for both bilateral and multilateral assistance programmes and provides Departmental representation at relevant interdepartmental consultations on aid questions (including the Committee on Export Finance) and helps to staff Canadian delegations to International aid conferences such as the Colombo Plan Consultative Committee, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and the United Nations Development Programme.