

PUBLIC SECTOR COMPONENTS

By far the largest institution in the public component of the framework is the Department of External Affairs. In the next chapter, a detailed description of its multifarious activities is provided. Here, suffice it to outline its basic responsibilities in the field, each of which is of critical importance to the effective realization of a forceful cultural relations program abroad.

- First, responsibility for the development of the necessary infrastructure in Canada and abroad, such as cultural relations officers, agreements and memoranda of understanding, cultural centres, performance and display facilities, audio-visual equipment, resource libraries, information systems and research projects;
- Second, responsibility for coordination of the various public and private institutions and individuals involved in cultural relations between Canada and other countries;
- Third, responsibility for financial support and administration of the diverse programs involving Canada and other countries in conjunction with other Canadian public and private institutions; and
- Fourth, responsibility for articulation of Canada's external cultural policy and planning in conjunction with numerous public and private institutions.

As far as the general infrastructure is concerned to honour these responsibilities, the Department maintains a large headquarters in Ottawa; 109 diplomatic and consular missions abroad; and 10 permanent delegations to various international organizations, such as the United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. These posts and permanent delegations are distributed as follows: 18 in the United States; 17 in Asia and the Pacific; 44 in Europe; 22 in Africa and the Middle East; and 18 in Latin America and the Caribbean. These diplomatic and consular missions - Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates General - provide the general, administrative infrastructure through which a variety of specific cultural activities are channelled.

Within this general infrastructure, the Department has recently established a Bureau of International Cultural Relations to promote Canadian cultural relations abroad and to provide effective coordination at home. At present, there are cultural relations officers in London, England; Paris, France; New York and Washington, the United States; Brussels, Belgium; Bonn, the Federal Republic of Germany; Moscow, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; Rome, Italy; Tokyo, Japan; and Mexico City, Mexico. In addition, there are academic relations officers in London and Paris. At the same time, there are cultural centres in Paris, Brussels and London as well as display facilities in several diplomatic posts, including Washington, Chicago, Boston, Tokyo, Mexico City and New York. Finally, the Department administers a number of "mixed commissions" and liaison and advisory committees - such as the Consultative Committee on Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, the Arts Advisory Committee and the Academic Advisory Committee - which meet on a periodic basis to advise the Department on future developments and opportunities in the field.