

What Does External Affairs Do for Canadians?

Through offices around the world, diplomatic contact with 164 countries, and participation in all major multi-lateral institutions, External Affairs is Canada's eyes and ears on the world. The department promotes and protects Canada's political and economic interests through activities in seven main areas:

- Political Relations
- Trade, Investment and Tourism
- Communications and Culture
- Immigration
- Aid
- Passport and Consular Services
- Support to Other Government Departments and Provinces

All programs contribute to the achievement of Canada's international objectives. Increasingly, these programs are being carried out in a climate of restraint, which will see a Foreign Service smaller in 1990 than it was in 1975.

Political Relations

Sovereignty and Independence

- carries out an active, global foreign policy that reflects Canadian values and advances Canada's national interests and objectives;
- promotes international understanding and recognition of Canada's distinctive national character and sovereignty.

Peace and Security

- ensures that Canada plays a full role in collective security arrangements with Canada's NATO and NORAD allies;
- works for improved relations among states in the context of international institutions, such as the United Nations, and supports multilateral negotiations and discussions on security and arms control.

Economic Prosperity

- co-ordinates Canadian participation in the Economic Summit, and pursues Canadian interests in international organizations such as the OECD;
- advances Canada's investment, trade and other economic objectives, taking particular advantage of visits abroad of the prime minister and other government ministers;
- organizes programs for visits to Canada of foreign heads of government and ministers, ensuring that these visits give maximum benefit to Canadian international and economic objectives.