

2. THE CONSULAR PROGRAM

2.1 Mandate and Objective

The legal authorities for the Consular program are contained in the Department of External Affairs Act (1983), the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations which came into force for Canada in 1974, and specific authorities and instructions in the Canadian Citizenship Act (1977), the Immigration Act (1976), the Diplomatic and Consular Privileges and Immunities Act (1977), and the Canadian Passport Order (PC 1981-1472) of June, 1981.

The objective for the program is to protect the rights and interests of Canadians travelling or living abroad, and to provide them with passport and other government services.

2.2 The Demand for Services

Table 2.1 presents a summary of relevant travel and related statistics showing the numbers of Canadians both travelling and living abroad as well as other consular related data.