

Requests from Investigative Bodies

The ATIP Office processed 138 requests for disclosure of information under Section 8(2)(e) of the *Privacy Act*. This is a 22.0% decrease in numbers over the last fiscal year.

Enhanced Access

Screening Program

In 2001-2002, this program involved the screening of approximately 350,000 pages of historical departmental records prior to transfer to the National Archives. This unique program allows the department to release records each year that facilitate research access to greater volumes of information concerning Canada's conduct of international relations.

Historical Section: Informal Access Program

This program provides an avenue for academics and serious researchers who seek access to records held by the department in order to carry out to their work. With the assistance of departmental divisions, access to records held by the Department is expedited outside the formal framework of the *Access to Information Act* while ensuring that sensitive information remains protected.

Informal Access

The ATIP Office responded to a number of requests for informal access to information. Informal requests are also addressed to divisions within the Department, the Media Relations Office, the main departmental library which is located on the main floor of the building for enhanced public access, or to missions abroad. Departmental officers are encouraged to consider responding to informal requests for information. An ATIP website is also maintained, where descriptions of requests are placed once processing has been finalized, to allow the public to see what has been previously released: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/department/privacy/menu-en.asp>

Reading Room

A reading room is available adjacent to the ATIP Office. Current departmental manuals and other documents are available to members of the public and requesters who wish to examine material being disclosed, rather than paying photocopying fees.