

The more senior positions of High Commissioner, Minister and Ambassador are filled by appointment. Appointees are normally "career men" who have come up through the Civil Service, but in some cases distinguished citizens are appointed directly from private life.

Since shortly after the second world war, women have been admitted to the Canadian diplomatic service on the same basis as men. As of August 1, 1958, there were 28 women officers in the Department.

As Canada's interests multiply in the international field, the work of the Department continues to grow. To meet these increased responsibilities, the Department had in Ottawa and abroad in May 1958 a total of 388 officers and 977 clerical and stenographic personnel. In addition, missions abroad employed a total of 596 locally-engaged employees, 493 as office staff and 103 in other capacities.

Administrative Staff

Appointments of clerks and stenographers to the rotational administrative staff of the Department are made through the Civil Service Commission on the basis of results obtained in competitive examinations conducted periodically by the Commission. Members of the rotational staff are appointed initially to positions in Ottawa; after a period of satisfactory service, they normally become available for a foreign posting. All are prepared in the Department on the understanding that they are prepared to serve in Ottawa or at any post abroad as required. A tour of duty of a foreign post varies from two to three and one-half years depending on the climate and living conditions at the post concerned.

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