

Functions of the Department

The main functions of the Department of External Affairs are:

- (a) the supervision of relations between Canada and other countries and of Canadian participation in international organizations; the protection of Canadian interests abroad;
- (b) the collation and weighing of information regarding developments likely to affect Canada's international relations;
- (c) correspondence with other governments and their representatives in Canada;
- (d) the negotiation and conclusion of treaties and other international agreements;
- (e) the representation of Canada in foreign capitals and at international conferences.

Departmental Organization in Ottawa (See attached chart)

The headquarters of the Department in Ottawa is the East Block of the Parliament Buildings.

The staff is headed by an Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs with a Deputy and four Assistant Under-Secretaries. These are assisted by two groups of officers of various ranks classified by the Civil Service Commission as Foreign Service Officers and External Affairs Officers. Officers at diplomatic posts are formally designated according to their rank, from senior to junior, as ambassadors, ministers, counsellors and first, second and third secretaries. Those serving at consular posts are called consuls general, consuls and vice-consuls.

With the rapid expansion of Canadian representation abroad, the work of the Department in Ottawa has increased correspondingly. It is at present carried on in 23 divisions, organized largely on a functional basis, a Liaison Services Section and an Inspection Service. The Deputy and Assistant Under-Secretaries are each responsible for supervising the work of a group of divisions.

There are six geographical divisions: African and Middle Eastern, Commonwealth, European, Far Eastern, Latin American and U.S.A. Their primary task is to provide the advice on which Canada's general political relations with other countries are based. In addition, they are consulted on the political aspects of matters that are primarily legal, economic, consular, etc., and they have a general responsibility for co-ordinating the various aspects of Canadian policy with respect to the countries and areas under their jurisdiction.

The United Nations Division deals with matters relating to the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies. It is responsible for providing advice on matters relating to Canadian participation in and policies toward these organizations and for co-ordinating the work of other divisions of the Department and other departments of government in this connection.

The Information Division has two main responsibilities: (1) to convey to the people of other countries a knowledge and understanding of Canada and the Canadian people and (2) to provide information on Canada's external policy and on the work of the Department of External Affairs. To these ends it produces and distributes a variety of publications such as Statements and Speeches, Reference Papers,