



The Department

3 What We Do

Our Mandate

- ☐ Our primary role is to manage Canada's official day-to-day relations with the governments and people of other countries. This includes the work we do within the many international organizations that bring nations together to work on common interests.
- ☐ Our legal mandate, as set out in the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Act, is to:
 - conduct all diplomatic and consular relations on behalf of Canada;
 - conduct all official communication between the Government of Canada and the government of any other country, and between the government and any international organization;
 - conduct and manage international negotiations as they relate to Canada;
 - coordinate Canada's economic relations;
 - foster the expansion of Canada's international trade;
 - coordinate the direction given by the government to the heads of Canada's diplomatic and consular missions and to manage these missions;
 - administer the foreign service of Canada;
 - foster the development of international law and its application in Canada's external relations.
- ☐ The Minister of Foreign Affairs is also responsible for the Export and Import Permits Act, which authorizes the government to control and monitor the transborder flow of specified goods, and for the Special Economic Measures Act, which authorizes the government to apply economic sanctions in response to a serious threat to international peace and security.