

increasingly decentralized and as such DFAIT does not have monopoly over information, nor is DFAIT the only leader in foreign affairs and trade.

Continual Change

A further driver of this risk is an inherent structural condition DFAIT faces: as the government's leadership sets new goals and priorities, DFAIT's existing goals and priorities are effected (e.g. Enhanced Representation Initiative, Public Diplomacy). Due to the current environment of minority governments and political uncertainty, DFAIT has experienced (and may continue to experience) shifts in government policies and priorities in relatively short timeframes. In such an environment, there is a need to ensure the relevance of messaging to the current governing body, which has been highlighted in Risk 9: Program Delivery / Transformation.

Current Risk Mitigation

DFAIT presently has the following mitigating actions in place to address this risk:

- DFAIT services are being reoriented to meet the changing needs of the global marketplace (particularly in Trade) and foreign affairs (Functional and Geographic reorientation)
- Incremental resources have been sought for government-wide initiatives, to meet new and emerging challenges
- A policy committee is in place
- Whole of government country strategies
- Business and strategic planning
- Policy planning talks with other foreign ministries
- Implementation of new programs such as START

Potential Impacts

If this risk were to materialize and DFAIT fails to adapt to the changing global environment, the Department's relevance on the national and international stages will be diminished. Another potential consequence is that DFAIT's policies and priorities will not adequately reflect Canadian values and interests.