

B. Legislation Implementing International Agreements

Since 1909 the Secretary of State for External Affairs has been assigned responsibility for a series of acts passed by Parliament to implement treaties, conventions or international agreements entered into by Canada. They form the bulk of the slim body of Canadian legislation explicitly relating to external affairs. These acts have in some cases created a new entity reporting to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, separate from the Department.

Five of the acts relate to Canada-United States border matters:

- The International Boundary Waters Treaty Act of 1914 (implementing the Treaty of 1909 and creating the Canadian section of the International Joint Commission).
- The Rainy Lake Watershed Emergency Control Act, 1939 (implementing a Canada-U.S.A. convention of 1938 and conferring certain powers on the I.J.C.).
- The Roosevelt Campobello International Park Commission Act of 1964 (creating an international park commission).
- The Fort-Falls Bridge Authority Act, 1971, and an amending Act of 1975. (creating an international bridge authority).

Two other acts administered by the Secretary of State for External Affairs provide for implementation of Second World War peace treaties:

- The Treaties of Peace (Italy, Roumania, Hungary and Finland) Act, 1948.
- The Treaty of Peace (Japan) Act, 1952.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs is the minister responsible for the United Nations Act which empowers the Governor in Council to take measures to implement decisions of the United Nations Security Council. He is charged under the Food and Agriculture Organization Act with making an annual report to Parliament on the FAO, and he administers the Geneva Conventions Act which incorporates the 1949 Geneva Conventions into Canadian law.

There are three acts administered by the Secretary of State for External Affairs which deal with diplomatic privileges and immunities:

- The Diplomatic Immunities (Commonwealth Countries) Act, 1963. (assimilating Commonwealth representatives to foreign diplomats)
- The Privileges and Immunities (International Organizations) Act, 1965. (implementing a United Nations convention)