

An increase in flights between various countries and Canada has led to increases in the numbers of Canadians going abroad, and will lead to further increases as more flights are initiated. This will increase the number of both clients and potential clients. An increase from 0 to 10 flights per week between Canada and one host country led to a substantial increase in demand for consular services at the mission in that country. An Asian mission remarked that the holding of large-scale VIP conventions recently in the host country, as well as an increase in package deals for tourists and business people are resulting in an increase in visitors there.

One mission noted that an increasing number of students from the host country studying in Canada as well as more immigrants from that country to Canada would eventually increase the consular workload due to increased travel, and eventually mixed marriages and other consular matters.

Another mission in the USA said there were no significant changes except for continuous growth in the volume of work. However two US missions noted an increase in the number of Canadians living and working in their areas.

An increase in the number of tours to one East European country has led to a substantial increase in the number of Canadians travelling and requiring assistance at that mission. The establishment of an Air Canada office there has also been a factor. Another European country noted that increasing political and economic stability has greatly contributed to growth in the tourist industry there, a trend they predicted would continue. One can only assume that the continuing liberalization of Eastern European countries will lead to increased travel there, including first time travel to countries where access was particularly limited. Those travelling to such areas will include business people, holidayers, and Canadians whose ancestry is Eastern European. This could have a major impact on demands for dual citizenship.

3.3 Perceptions of the Travel Industry

A limited survey of various travel and related organisations was conducted as part of this evaluation. A listing of those contacted as part of the evaluation can be found in Appendix B.

In summary, the overall perceptions of those working in the private sector is that Canada's Consular Services Program is of excellent quality, and that the services delivered merit high marks. Nonetheless certain concerns were expressed by those interviewed.