

Mackay recommended a raise in status to the Minister November 4, 1954, and shortly thereafter, the consulate in New Orleans was raised to a Consulate-General in January 1955. External Affairs took over the administration of the post from Trade and Commerce on April 1, 1956, by appointing their officer, William G. Stark, the Consul General.

The developing pressures in favour of a Canadian consulate in Los Angeles provide a complicated but illustrative and typical example of the process of decision making by which consular openings were authorized. The first proposals for an office in Los Angeles were made in R.M. Macdonnell's abortive consular program in 1944. Later, M.J. Coldwell, CCF, MP, suggested to the Minister of Trade and Commerce in 1945 that many California residents of Canadian origin thought the Trade post ought to be made a consulate.¹²³ L.B. Pearson, Canadian Ambassador in Washington, added his voice to this request in 1946.¹²⁴ Furthermore, the amount of consular work performed by the Trade Commissioner made Los Angeles a prime choice when Leslie Chance made his 1947 tour to determine consular locations. Indeed, the impending withdrawal of the Trade Commissioner from Los Angeles led External Affairs to propose the establishment of a consulate before Chance filed his final report. Hume Wrong, the Canadian Ambassador in Washington, vigorously protested this suggestion, and the need for a post in Los Angeles was analysed along with the other centres visited by Chance in 1947.

In his report, Chance had concluded that a Consulate in Southern California ought to be one of the first offices opened after the Consulates General at Chicago and San Francisco. The jump in the priority of Detroit, however, pushed Los Angeles further down the list of preferred offices. Reasons for Chance's pronouncement in favour of a Los Angeles office were: