

2. PROGRAM COMPONENT DESCRIPTION

2.1 Organization

In a conceptual sense, the Consular Services program is intended to provide services, protection and assistance to Canadian travellers and residents abroad, and to protect Canadian interests abroad. It is the joint responsibility of a headquarters unit, the Bureau of Consular Services, and 111 posts abroad.

The Bureau provides the overall functional management and direction for the program. It develops and updates policy, procedures and guidelines for the posts, originates new programs as required, provides direction to posts on specific cases, analyzes the need for and appoints honorary consuls, liaises with other Bureaux and other government departments, negotiates bilateral and multilateral consular agreements, trains consular staff, and carries out the consular awareness program. It is organized into two functional divisions, Consular Policy and Consular Operations.

The current Director General of the Bureau of Consular Services is Mr. J.F.X. Houde. Mr. J. Gignac, an Assistant Under-Secretary, maintains a continuing interest on behalf of the Under-Secretary and supervises specific consular projects as may be necessary, e.g., emergency evacuations. Line responsibility falls to Deputy Under-Secretary M. de Goumois.

The major portion of the "delivery" of the program is carried out by the posts abroad, each operating within a specific consular jurisdiction. Indeed, one of the major functions of the posts is the provision of consular services, on a responsive basis, to the Canadian public either travelling or living in foreign countries. These services may be broadly categorized as either government services equivalent to those available in Canada (e.g., issuance of passports, notarization of documents, etc.), or as emergency assistance provided to Canadians faced with acute unanticipated problems abroad (e.g., illness or death, imprisonments, shortage of funds, etc.).

2.2 Resources

Person-year resources devoted to the Consular Services program for the last three years are estimated as follows: