

LEGAL AFFAIRS

The *Bureau of Legal and Consular Affairs* comprises three divisions -- *Legal Advisory, Legal Operations and Consular.*

Legal Advisory Division

A legal advisory service is provided to other Divisions of the Department on matters of international law relating to Canadian and foreign policy by the Legal Advisory Division. In the performance of this role, the Division maintains liaison with the Department of Justice, the Office of the Judge Advocate General and the Legal Offices of other government departments. It is concerned also with Canada's role in the development of international law and in connection with traditionally legal matters such as diplomatic relations and treaties. The Division consists of three sections: the Claims Section, concerned with the protection of property and interests abroad of Canadian citizens; the Economic and Treaty Section, advising on treaty interpretation, assisting in the preparation and interpretation of international agreements, making sure that treaties entered into by Canada are conducted in accordance with Canadian constitutional procedures, maintaining treaty records, registering treaties with the United Nations and advising on the legal aspects of Canada's international economic relations; and the Constitutional and Advisory Section, advising on the constitutional aspects of Canada's international relations with respect to the recognition of states and governments and on diplomatic and consular privileges and immunities.

Legal Operations Division

An operational arm of the Department for a number of international legal subjects is provided by the Legal Operations Division. In this capacity, the Division participates in United Nations activities on legal questions as well as other topics having legal implications and has particular responsibility for Canada's position on subjects being discussed by the Sixth (Legal) Committee of the United Nations General Assembly. It is also concerned with the development of international law in areas involving new problems such as outer space, the sea and seabed, and the environment. The Division consists of four sections: the Environmental Law Section deals with international legal problems relating to the prevention and control of activities causing extra-territorial pollution, and the preparation of Canada's position at conferences on international environmental problems; the Law of the Sea Section is responsible for territorial waters, fishing-zones and the continental shelf, the peaceful uses of the seabed, and preparation for the Canadian position at law of the sea conferences; the United Nations and Legal Planning Section is concerned with United Nations legal and human rights items, the law of outer space, air law (including the evolution of a legal regime to safeguard international civil aviation) and the planning of Canadian policy on legal and quasi-legal issues; and the Private International Law Section assists in the conduct of international civil practice and procedures, the production, service and transfer of documents in legal proceedings abroad and the arrangement for judicial and legal services to and from Canada and other countries, including the authentication of documents and matters pertaining to nationality and citizenship.