

5. How will the Department be able to exercise its coordinating responsibility in respect of the programs that are affected?

In the case of immigration, a unit will be created in EAITC for the purpose of consulting with EIC on refugee and migration issues that have foreign policy implications. In the case of the cultural and academic programs, the Department will be represented in the Canada Council's decision-making process. For the other programs, liaison with the lead department will be conducted as required on an ad hoc basis.

6. Is this not just another resource reduction exercise?

This initiative is not driven by resource considerations but rather by policy considerations. The primary goal is to strengthen and clarify accountability by tightening the linkage between policy formulation and program delivery.

7. First you returned the aid program to CIDA. Now the immigration program is being transferred to EIC. Is it just a matter of time before the trade program is transferred to ISTC?

These moves are the culmination of a decade-long effort to create a seamless relationship in the pursuit of Canada's international political and economic interests both at home and abroad. Policy and program delivery operate in concert, and lines of accountability are clear. That is the consistent principle behind the latest changes and also behind the previous decision that the trade program belongs at EAITC. The fundamental importance of trade and economic issues in bilateral and multilateral relations has been embraced fully by all officers in both the trade and political streams, and is reflected in every aspect of the department's structure and organization. For these reasons, the trade program will very definitely remain with EAITC.

8. Will any employees lose their job?

All employees affected by these program transfers will receive job offers at an equivalent group and level. If they choose not to accept these offers, they will be eligible for the cash-out under the Workforce Adjustment (WFA) policy.