

4. The administration of all matters relating to the foreign consular service in Canada shall be transferred to the Department of External Affairs.

5. The Secretary of State shall annually lay before Parliament, within ten days after the meeting thereof, a report of the proceedings, transactions and affairs of the department during the year then next preceding.

6. This Act shall come into force on a day to be fixed by proclamation of the Governor in Council.¹

3. *Order in Council*

P.C. 1242

June 1, 1909

The Committee of the Privy Council, who have had under consideration the question of the constitution of the Department of External Affairs, are of opinion that it would further the purposes for which the Department was established, if all Despatches, at present communicated by your Excellency to the Privy Council, or direct to individual Ministers, should be, in the first instance, referred to the Prime Minister, and also to the Secretary of State as head of the Department of External Affairs, which Department shall then distribute them among the several Departments to which they relate, for the necessary consideration and action, and the Committee recommend accordingly.

The Committee further advise that in the case of such of the Despatches so referred as call for communication with the Secretary of State for the Colonies, or with His Majesty's representatives abroad, or with the Government of any British possession, in respect of any matter forming the subject of diplomatic negotiations in which Canada is interested; or of any private claim on the part of any Canadian subject of His Majesty against any Government, whether foreign or otherwise, external to the Dominion, the Department or Departments to which such Despatch was referred, shall furnish the Department of External Affairs with all available information bearing upon the matter to which it relates, and the Secretary of State, having informed himself by this means, shall thereupon make a report in the premises to the Governor in Council.

The Committee submit the foregoing recommendations for Your Excellency's approval.

4. *Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs to heads of other Departments*

Ottawa, June 30, 1909

I am directed by the First Minister to enclose to you, for your information and guidance, copy of a Minute of the Privy Council, approved by the Governor General on the 1st June, 1909, defining the functions of the new Department of External Affairs.

¹ The Act became effective on June 1, 1909, following an Order in Council, P.C. 1227, of that date, published in *The Canada Gazette* the same day.