

were looking to migrate to Canada. However, this did not mean that the consulate in Montréal was out of work. According to Mr. Rauanheimo's successor, Mr. Aaro Jalkanen, the consulate had more than 10,000 customers in 1932.

In the late 1930s the situation changed further. The consulate had to deal less and less with immigrant issues, as newcomers were few and people from the earlier wave of migration had already settled down in Canada. This left the consulate with more time and resources to analyze Canada's economic and political situation, and report back to Finland. Soon it became clear to the consulate general that Canada offered very limited export markets for Finland, as both countries produced similar goods. Another important task was to disseminate information about Finland in Canada. By 1940 Finland had opened seven honorary consulates in Canada.

During the Winter War in 1939–1940, the consulate focused on helping Finland in different ways. Both Finnish immigrants and Canadians felt the urge to help Finland. The consulate general and Finland's seven honorary consulates across Canada were busy organizing passports and other necessary documents for Finnish-Canadian volunteers, and seeking clarifications from the Canadian government of its position on Canadian citizens who wished to fight for Finland. Furthermore, Canada's support to Finland during the Winter War was significant. The consulates were transferring both funds and goods collected in Canada by several Finland Aid organizations and the newly established Canadian Relief Fund chaired by the Senate Leader of the Conservative Party and former Prime Minister of Canada, Arthur Meighen.

In 1941 the Continuation War between Finland and the Soviet Union broke out, which led Finland to cooperate with Germany, in order to maintain her independence. This meant that the relations between Finland and Canada cooled down. In August 1941 Finland's consulates

in Canada were ordered closed and the Consul General at the time, Mr. Kuusamo, returned to Finland.

Shortly after the surrender of Germany in 1945, Finland and Canada began to normalize their diplomatic relations. The Paris Peace Treaty was ratified by the Parliament of Canada on September 19, 1947, and Finland's enemy status was officially rescinded. Diplomatic relations between Canada and Finland were resumed on November 21, 1947. This was followed by the appointment on December 1, 1947 of Mr. Urho Toivola as head of the newly opened Finnish Legation in Ottawa. In 1960 the legation was transformed to an Embassy, and Mr. Artturi Lehtinen was appointed Ambassador.

Since the 1920s cooperation between Canada and Finland has expanded from merely dealing with consular affairs to working together in several fields. The relations between Finland and Canada are now well established and cooperation between the two countries continues to be extensive. Contacts between the two countries have blossomed in joint United Nations missions abroad; athletic, artistic, scientific or student exchanges; increased trade; and formal cultural, economic, social, and political agreements. These are northern countries with a lot in common and a great deal to offer each other, especially in terms of trade.

In 2017 Finland will be celebrating its 100 years of independence and Canada will be turning 150. The Embassy of Finland in Ottawa is working not only to maintain but also to widen and deepen the Finnish-Canadian cooperation. In particular, the Embassy activities focus on political and trade relations. Together with its honorary consuls across Canada, the Embassy also continues to provide consular services to Finnish citizens. Furthermore, the Embassy maintains ties with the large community of Finnish-Canadians and other friends of Finland in Canada.

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