

TRANSFORMING FOREIGN AFFAIRS

attract international students and provide our students with more opportunities to gain international educational experience.

BETTER SERVICE FOR CANADIANS

As Canadians play a growing role internationally, including in unstable regions, there is a growing need for them to have reliable access to services, including fast and efficient consular support.

The Canadian passport commands consideration and respect. To maintain and enhance this reputation, and to ensure that foreign governments acknowledge and abide by internationally recognized standards of treatment of this valuable document, the Government will continue to invest in its passport system. New security features will keep the Canadian passport among the most secure and advanced in the world.

It is important that Canadians understand they have the primary responsibility to ensure that they take all necessary precautions when travelling abroad. The Consular Affairs Bureau has recently revised its travel

information policies and practices, using state-of-the-art electronic communication systems to ensure that prospective travellers have the most relevant and timely information, presented in a manner consistent with the terminologies and sources of other countries and travel organizations. We will create a Consular Consultative Board, made up of non-governmental participants, to discuss information and issues that have an impact on consular services. Foreign Affairs is committed to ensuring that Canadians travel with the confidence that the Government will be there to assist them with adequate and timely consular service in emergency situations, and to act in their interests in dealing with foreign authorities to the maximum extent possible under bilateral agreements and international law.

Finally, in the midst of the information age, it is also important that Canadians have ample access to information on ways in which the Government can directly support them as they travel, do business or learn abroad. Foreign Affairs is continually taking steps to improve the 24/7 service that has been in place for some time to make it easier for travellers to communicate their problems from anywhere in the world and receive advice on the spot.