

Embassies: These offices each, led by a head of mission (HOM), are located in the capitals of foreign countries. The full range of services is generally offered, including consular services.

High Commissions: These offices fulfil the same functions as embassies, but are located in the capital cities of Commonwealth countries.

Embassies / High Commissions (Program Offices): These offices are located in capital cities. They are program specific (for example: DFAIT's Commercial Program, CIDA's Development Aid) with a reporting requirement to a hub mission. The hub mission, which must be located in another country, would be an Embassy or a High Commission as well.

Offices of the Embassy / High Commission: These are diplomatic entities located in a number of non-capital cities in a country where there is a Canadian Embassy or High Commission. Canada has offices that are designated as "Office of the Canadian Embassy" or "Office of the High Commission," depending on the nature of the supervising mission. Generally, these are established for specific work, for example in support of Canada's foreign aid program. They usually include a Canada-based officer and may provide limited consular services.

Representative Offices: These are non-diplomatic offices located in the main city of a non-recognized political entity and provide a limited range of consular services.

Multilateral or Permanent Missions:

These are diplomatic offices located at the headquarters city of major international organizations. They do not provide consular services to Canadians except for the Permanent Mission of Canada in Geneva.

Consulates General: These are offices located in major but not capital cities. The HOM is accredited with a limited territory within a state. Consulates General outside the USA (except Hong Kong) report to the HOM at the Embassy or High Commission, and the US Consulates General report directly to Ottawa. They generally offer the full range of services, including consular services.

Consulates: These are offices similar to Consulates General. The Senior Program Officer is accredited with a limited territory within a state and reports to the HOM at the Consulate General or the Embassy or High Commission, the US Consulates report to their Consulate General. They, in some instances, do not offer the full range of services. However, they do offer consular services.

Consular Agencies: These are dedicated consular offices located in non-capital cities in a country where there is a Canadian Embassy / High Commission. The Consul General at the Embassy / High Commission is the head of these posts. The senior program officer / consular agent is a locally engaged staff and must have Canadian citizenship (not dual), and be granted status in the host country.