Embassies: Led by heads of missions (HOMs), these are located in capital cities and typically provide the full range of services, including consular services.

High Commissions: Located in the capital cities of Commonwealth countries, these fulfill the same function as embassies.

Embassy/High Commission of Canada (Program) Offices: Program-specific offices (e.g. DFATD's Trade Program, CIDA's Development Aid[8]) located in capital cities, and reporting to missions located in other countries.

Offices of the Embassy or High Commission: Diplomatic entities located in non-capital cities in countries with either a Canadian Embassy or High Commission, they are typically established for specific work (e.g. to support DFATD's Trade Program), usually include Canada-based staff and may provide limited consular services.

Representative Offices: Non-diplomatic offices located in the main cities of non-recognized political entities and providing a limited range of consular services.

Multilateral or Permanent Missions: Diplomatic offices located in the same city as the headquarters of a major international organization; they do not provide consular services to Canadians (except for the Permanent Mission of Canada in Geneva).

Consulates General: Located in major non-capital cities and led by an HOM accredited for a limited territory within a state. They generally provide the full range of services, including consular services.

Consulates: Similar to Consulates General; led by a Senior Program Officer accredited for a limited territory within a state. They do not provide the full range of services, although they do provide consular services.

Consular Agencies: Located in non-capital cities in a country with a Canadian Embassy or High Commission and led by a Consul General at the Embassy or High Commission. The senior program officer or consular agent is locally engaged and must have Canadian (not dual) citizenship and be granted status by the host country.

Canadian Embassy in Mexico City.
Courtesy of ARBC

8   With the June 26th, 2013 amalgamation of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and of the Department of Foreign Affairs, International Trade (DFAIT) into the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD), the international aid and development program is now part of DFATD.