

With the outbreak of the Second World War, it became imperative that Canada have closer and more direct contact with other governments of the Commonwealth, with the Allied governments and certain other foreign governments (e.g., in Latin America). The day after Canada's separate declaration of war on September 10, 1939, it was announced that the Canadian Government would send high commissioners to Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Ireland. These Commonwealth governments reciprocated. The appointment in 1941 of a High Commissioner to Newfoundland recognized the importance of that country to the defence of Canada.

The increasing magnitude of Canada's war effort and its growing international commitments led to a rapid increase of diplomatic exchanges with foreign countries. In 1942, by reciprocal agreement, Canada appointed ministers to the U.S.S.R. and China. During the war, a single Canadian minister was accredited to a number of Allied governments then functioning in London or Cairo: those of Belgium, The Netherlands, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Norway, Poland and Yugoslavia. (Canada also received ministers from each of these governments.) After the liberation of France, this minister, following a period in Algiers as representative to the French Committee of National Liberation, moved to Paris, with the rank of ambassador. Separate missions are now established in the capitals of all these countries.

The establishment of diplomatic relations with Latin America was another wartime development. In 1941, Canadian legations were opened in Brazil and the Argentine (the minister to the latter being also accredited in 1942 to Chile), and these countries sent their first ministers to Ottawa. Diplomatic representatives were sent to Mexico and Peru in 1944 and to Cuba in 1945. The decision to open missions in Latin America was based not only on the development of intra-American trade but also on the conviction that a closer understanding was necessary to the solution of common problems during the war, when several of those countries became allies. Canada now has diplomatic relations with all countries in Latin America. Also, because of Canada's closer ties with Latin America, a new political division devoted to that area was set up in the Department in 1960.

Canada's external affairs services continued to expand following the war. Embassies were opened in a number of countries and, after 1947, high commissioners were accredited to India and Pakistan, and subsequently to the other new members of the Commonwealth -- Ceylon, Cyprus, Ghana, Jamaica, Malaya, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Tanganyika, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uganda.

During and after the war, Canada participated in the general trend toward the elevation of legations to embassy status. In 1943, most of the large Canadian missions abroad became embassies. Since then, certain of the new missions listed above were opened as embassies, while others, such as the missions in Italy and Switzerland, were raised to the rank of embassies later.

Membership in the United Nations has increased Canada's responsibilities outside its own borders, and Canada has been represented on various organs of the United Nations since its formation in San Francisco in 1945. After Canada's election, for a term, to the Security Council in September 1947, a Permanent Canadian Delegation was established in New York in January 1948, and later in the year a small office was also opened in Geneva, the European headquarters of the organization. In view of the increasing responsibilities which Canada has assumed in the organization since that time (e.g., Palestine Truce Supervision, Indo-Pakistan border observation, United Nations Emergency Force, United Nations Operation in the Congo, and other UN undertakings), both these offices, now called Permanent Missions, have been expanded.