

Immunities in Canada, which received Royal Assent on June 29, 1977 and was amended by the Act to amend the Act respecting Diplomatic and Consular Privileges and Immunities, assented to on July 10, 1981.

The immunities enjoyed by diplomatic and consular personnel from the administrative and judicial systems of the accrediting state reflect the fact that they are sent and received as representatives of their government, and a state will not normally seek to subject the diplomatic and consular representatives of another state to its legal proceedings. Similarly the privileges, which are in effect exemption from certain forms of taxation, reflect the fact that one state will not normally tax another, at least in so far as its government activities, as distinguished from commercial activities, are concerned.

The purpose of having a regime of privileges and immunities is to enable the members of the diplomatic or consular mission to perform their legitimate duties without being hindered by the accrediting state.

The Vienna Conventions establish regimes for the protection of diplomatic and consular missions and their personnel throughout the world, including a number of countries in which the rule of law and freedom of the individual do not carry the same weight as in Canada. This is a key factor for Canada, where political, economic and trade relations with other countries are essential to our security and prosperity. We have a large number of Canada-based representatives in our diplomatic and consular missions abroad. Their ability to work effectively, and in some cases their personal security and