

Questions and Answers

General Overview

1. Which programs are affected?

Effective April 1, 1992, the Department will transfer responsibility for:

- Immigration to Employment and Immigration Canada
- Cultural and Academic Relations to the Canada Council
- International Sports to Fitness and Amateur Sports
- International Expositions to Communications Canada

2. Will other programs be affected at EAITC?

The Department will retain responsibility for political and economic relations, trade policy and development, communications, public affairs, consular affairs and the Passport Office. The changes we are about to implement should permit us to sharpen our focus on those core responsibilities and to handle them even more effectively.

3. What is the rationale for this decision?

The principal objective is to strengthen and clarify accountability by creating a tighter linkage between responsibility for policy formulation and program delivery. This link has already been established in the case of the development assistance program. The logic of that model is now being applied to these other programs. In doing so, this should ensure greater operating effectiveness and improved service to Canadians.

The streamlining of External Affairs and International Trade Canada will also position the Department to respond more effectively to the major foreign policy and trade challenges facing Canada.

4. Is this not inconsistent with the consolidation decision of 1982?

No. The primary reasons for consolidation were to ensure more effective coordination of official activities abroad and to increase the level of integration of trade within foreign policy activities. In the intervening decade, the issue of control and coordination has been resolved and it has been accepted that EAITC is responsible for the conduct of the full range of Canada's relations with other countries. Authority and accountability abroad are now clearly vested in the Head of Mission. Neither the general coordinating responsibility of EAITC nor the role of the Head of Mission will be affected by this decision.