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CANADIAN SUBJECT  
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## Canadian Foreign Policy

TEXTS

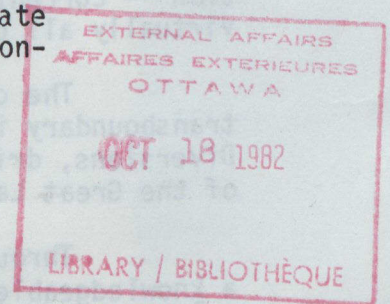
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September 1982

### Canadian Consulates: An Aspect of Canada-US Relations

While Canada's embassies abroad are responsible for intergovernmental affairs, in some large countries, or where Canada has particular regional, economic, political or cultural interests, the embassies are assisted by consulates general and consulates. Canadian consulates exist in Australia, Brazil, Britain, France, Germany, Italy and in the United States, which has the largest number because of mutually extensive trade, transboundary and personal relations.

The 14 consular posts in the USA contribute significantly to the advancement of Canadian interests. They are located in Atlanta, Boston, Buffalo, Chicago, Cleveland, Dallas, Detroit, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, New Orleans, New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco and Seattle, each with responsibility for large local areas and adjacent states. Traditionally they have been involved in trade promotion, tourism, immigration, and also, services to travelling Canadians. While these are important functions, in recent years the role of the consulates has evolved and they have developed programs to respond to Canada's need to expand its economic and political information gathering and, in turn, to disseminate information to Americans about Canada and its concerns.



External Affairs  
Canada

Affaires extérieures  
Canada

Domestic Information  
Programs Division

Direction des programmes  
d'information au Canada

43-235-015



Many of the Canadian consulates in the USA cover areas of greater economic importance to Canada than any one of our other trading partners abroad. For example, Canadian exports to the Detroit area are worth more than Canada's exports to all of Western Europe. Exports to each of the New York and Minneapolis areas equal our exports to Japan, while the value of exports to each of the Cleveland, Chicago, Detroit, Minneapolis, New York and Seattle posts' territories is greater than the value of Canadian exports to Britain.

Investment in Canada from various regions in the USA is greater than investment from overseas, while Canadian investment in the USA has increased dramatically in recent years.

The Canadian consulates in the USA deal with issues which have a bearing on the daily lives of Canadians. They include acid rain, exports of natural gas and fisheries.

Like Canada, the USA is a country with distinct regional differences and interests that influence national policies. State governments have jurisdiction over some economic, political and environmental issues that have a direct impact on Canada. The consulates keep abreast of these regional issues and attempt to influence them in a way which protects Canadian interests.

The New York Consulate General, in particular, has an important responsibility in monitoring Wall Street and maintaining contacts with executives and analysts of the many multinational enterprises headquartered in New York. It also assists the provinces when they seek to borrow money in New York. Our consulates work closely with potential US investors in Canada, especially those in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco and, increasingly, Dallas.

Each Canadian consulate reports on important regional energy developments and investment prospects and, at the same time, explains the procedures of our national energy policy and Foreign Investment Review Act to Americans. The post in Boston helped to ensure a fair chance for a Canadian company to bid on and win a contract to supply that city with new buses, and the Seattle consulate has made a consistent contribution to our fisheries negotiations. Buy America legislation -- current and proposed -- has been a major preoccupation of virtually all of our missions in the USA.

The consulates also make representations and report on current transboundary issues such as acid rain, the Garrison and Skagit River Diversions, drilling near the Georges Bank scallop beds and the clean-up of the Great Lakes.

Through personal contacts, Canadian consular officers present a knowledgeable view of Canadian policy, which is persuasive but sensitive to American interests, to state politicians, senior executives, newspaper editors, the electronic media and academics.



The information and cultural affairs programs of our consulates promote informed, accurate and sympathetic reporting of Canadian affairs. Since New York, in particular, but also Los Angeles and Chicago are the print and electronic media centres of the USA, Canada's consulates general in these cities generate interest in Canadian affairs, providing facts and explaining the Canadian point of view on issues of the day.

The aim of our academic relations program is to develop an informed, well-disposed and sustained interest in Canada among the US intelligentsia. Teaching, research, seminars and publications as well as courses in Canadian studies in US universities are the more important means of pursuing this goal.

Canadian consulates help to publicize the excellence of individuals and groups in the various fields of the arts and often provide opportunities to show the sophisticated and original image of Canadian society. In 1981 for example, the New York Consulate General opened 49th PARALLEL, a gallery to exhibit the works of Canadian artists and musicians.

Opinion and developments in the United States are of fundamental importance to Canada both provincially and federally and the role of Canadian consulates in imparting a better knowledge and understanding of Canada to the American public will become increasingly important to the furthering of Canadian interests in the years ahead.



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