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THE LESTER B. PEARSON BUILDING



HOME TO CANADA'S DEPARTMENT
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
INTERNATIONAL TRADE



Canada



This brochure is a collaboration between the Retired Heads of Mission Association and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade as a follow-up to the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Lester B. Pearson Building. Special thanks to former ambassadors Dorothy Armstrong and Léopold Amyot for their much appreciated contribution to the text of this brochure. They brought to this endeavour their diplomatic experience and their love of art.

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"Misunderstanding arising from ignorance breeds fear, and fear remains the greatest enemy of peace."

Lester B. Pearson
Oslo, December 11, 1957

Dept. of Foreign Affairs
Min. des Affaires étrangères

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**"Misunderstanding arising
from ignorance breeds fear,
and fear remains the
greatest enemy of peace."**

Lester B. Pearson
Oslo, December 11, 1957

In the last decade,
Canada signed or ratified
165 multilateral and
266 bilateral treaties,
and joined 12 major new
international/regional
organizations or processes.

WHO WE ARE ...

Whether we are based in Ottawa or thousands of kilometres away, the more than 7000 people who work for the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) strive to bring Canada to the world and the world to Canada. Our primary role is to manage Canada's day-to-day relations with the governments and peoples of other nations, both bilaterally and within the many international organizations in which Canada participates. Under the direction of our Ministers, we develop and implement the policies that determine how our country approaches its role in the world, and are ready to respond quickly and effectively when a crisis occurs.

If you're travelling or living abroad, we're the people who can help you if you have a problem. If you're in business, we promote Canadian exports and help you take advantage of new opportunities. And no matter where in Canada you live or what you do, we work on your behalf for peace, prosperity and the basic values that Canadians share.

Most people think of us as diplomats, and many of us are. But we are also secretaries, clerks, computer professionals, historians, economists, administrators, librarians, trade specialists, policy analysts, editors – the list goes on and on. We are young and not so young, male and female, from small towns and big cities and places in between. We are as diverse as Canada itself and have one thing in common: a commitment to serving Canadians and Canadian interests around the world.

HELPING CANADIANS TRAVELLING ABROAD

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Over 7 million Canadians have passports. They make more than 80 million trips outside Canada every year. DFAIT's consular services help you to prepare for foreign travel while at home and provide a variety of services once you are abroad. Our services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, through a network of some 125 missions.

Before you go, you can consult our Travel Information Program, which tells you what you need to know about conditions in other countries, including up-to-date travel reports on safety, security or health concerns and visa requirements. You can also request our free publications on safe travel. For more information, please call 1-800-267-6788 or visit our Web site: www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca and click on the icon: Travel.

DFAIT's Consular Bureau handles some 8900 calls monthly. More than 2.3 million Canadians received consular services in 1998-1999 in 189 countries around the world.

ASSISTING CANADIAN BUSINESSES

Every \$1 billion increase in Canada's exports sustains 6000 Canadian jobs. One out of three Canadian jobs depends on exports.

DFAIT's Team Canada Inc facilitates access to market information and export advice through the InfoExport and ExportSource Web sites, which received over 190 000 hits, in 1998-1999. In that same period, the national 1-888-811-1119 telephone referral service responded to 9700 enquiries.

Canada's ability to sell goods and services abroad, attract job-creating investment and develop the best technology is key to sustaining one of the highest standards of living in the world. DFAIT works with Canadian business to achieve these goals.

Our more than 800 trade representatives around the world provide assistance to Canadian companies on more than 150 000 occasions each year, helping them to generate billions of dollars worth of exports.

Under the Program for Export Market Development, more than 700 small and medium-sized Canadian companies are provided with financial assistance each year to help them become exporters or to diversify into new export markets.

DFAIT is responsible for the day-to-day management of our trading relations with other countries. Our negotiators work through multilateral organizations such as the World Trade Organization to defend Canada's interests. They also participate in major international talks leading to such agreements as the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Canadians take pride in the fact that we have a society based on the rule of law, respect for human rights, democracy, peace and support for the disadvantaged. These values are reflected in the conduct of Canadian foreign policy, which has as its key objectives the promotion of peace and security, prosperity and employment for Canadians, and the overall projection of Canadian values and culture throughout the world.

DFAIT promotes these values in our relations with individual countries and as a member of such international organizations as the United Nations, the Commonwealth, La Francophonie, the G-8 and the Organization of American States. On a regular basis, we seek out the views of Canadians on how we can better reflect these values as we go about our work. We have taken a leadership role on those international issues of greatest interest to Canadians, including the ban on landmines, promoting sustainable development and ending child labour.

Of particular importance are DFAIT's efforts to promote the Canadian arts and cultural industries abroad, as well as Canada's international education and academic relations program. There are 273 Canadian Studies Programmes around the world.

In 1998-1999, DFAIT supported some 450 Canadian cultural events abroad involving 4000 to 5000 artists.

Our arts and cultural industries contribute significantly to our prosperity by creating wealth – over \$20 billion to our GDP – and employment – over 600 000 jobs.

THE LESTER B. PEARSON BUILDING

The Lester B. Pearson Building, home to Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, welcomes visitors from around the world every day. It is a busy place for international conferences, trade delegations and diplomatic missions. Situated at 125 Sussex Drive in Ottawa, it fronts on the ceremonial route linking Parliament Hill in the city centre with the residences of the Governor General and the Prime Minister to the east. Across the road are the National Research Council's Steacie Institute and Earnscliffe, once the home of Canada's first Prime Minister, Sir John A. Macdonald, and now the residence of the British High Commissioner. Also nearby are the embassies of France, Japan and Saudi Arabia, and the high commissions of Malaysia and South Africa.

The building is named in honour of Lester Bowles Pearson, Canada's 14th Prime Minister, a winner of the Nobel Peace Prize and a distinguished statesman (1897-1972). His ideals and vision continue to be a source of pride and inspiration to the Department and to Canadians.

Opened on August 1, 1973 by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the Lester B. Pearson Building reflects the surrounding landscape. It is a structure worthy of the Department and the Canadian people it serves. Over the years, scores of dignitaries have passed through its heavy bronze doors – kings and queens, presidents and prime ministers, foreign ministers, ambassadors, and many others.



◀ The Lester B. Pearson Building has a tiered structure designed to evoke strength, history and a bond with past civilizations.

Designed by Brian Brooks of the architectural firm Webb, Zerafa, Menkes, the building has a tiered structure designed to evoke strength, history and a bond with past civilizations. Its four towers covered in granite aggregate provide some 56 000 metres of office space and are connected by an enclosed glass lobby. In 1998, the Building Owners' and Managers' Association named this the best government building in Canada.

Some 3000 civil servants work out of the Lester B. Pearson Building. They manage Canada's external relations with other countries, bilaterally and through international organizations such as the United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Commonwealth, La Francophonie, the G-8, and the Organization of American States. But a very important part of their work is promoting international trade and investment, and helping Canadian businesses to market their goods and services in other countries. They are also the hub of an extensive network of about 4000 employees, including locally engaged staff, at some 125 Canadian missions around the world, who provide assistance of all kinds to Canadians travelling or living abroad.

The Lester B. Pearson Building houses offices, boardrooms, a conference room and auditorium, and a library. Displayed in it are contemporary works of art that reflect the vigour and diversity of Canadian culture. Many pieces were commissioned specifically for the building by gallery or museum professionals; they were chosen to enrich and complement the building's spaces while maintaining an atmosphere of elegance and simplicity.

Also exhibited are works of art that belong to the Department's fine art collection, which contains nearly 5000 works by Canadian artists. Since the 1930s, donations and purchases have added to this distinguished assemblage of paintings, sculptures, prints, drawings, photographs and fabric arts. While some of the collection is displayed at Headquarters in Ottawa, most of it is located at Canadian diplomatic missions abroad to promote and heighten awareness of Canada's cultural identity.

THE BEGINNINGS

In many ways, the history of the Department of External Affairs – as it was called until 1995 – is the history of Canada’s growth from Dominion status to full nationhood. For over 40 years after Confederation in 1867, Canada’s treaty negotiations and boundary disputes were handled by Britain. In 1909, Prime Minister Sir Wilfrid Laurier took the first tentative steps toward greater autonomy in foreign relations by establishing the Department of External Affairs. Operating out of rooms above a barbershop on Bank Street, the new Department consisted of one Under-Secretary of State and four clerks. It functioned largely as an archive, liaison office with the British Colonial Office, and passport office for Canadians travelling abroad. In 1914 it moved to new quarters in the East Block on Parliament Hill, closer to the heart of government, where it remained for nearly 60 years. By 1964 the Department had outgrown its East Block premises, and so planning began for the building now known affectionately as “Mike’s Place.”

In the mid-1920s, the Department began its transformation into a full-fledged foreign office under the guidance of Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King and his hard-working Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, Oscar Douglas Skelton. As Canada gained greater autonomy, the need grew for diplomatic representation abroad. O. D. Skelton established a highly professional foreign service and, between 1925 and 1929, opened Canadian posts in Geneva, Washington, Paris and Tokyo. His influence over the young Department was lasting and unparalleled. His memory is honoured in the lobby that bears his name.



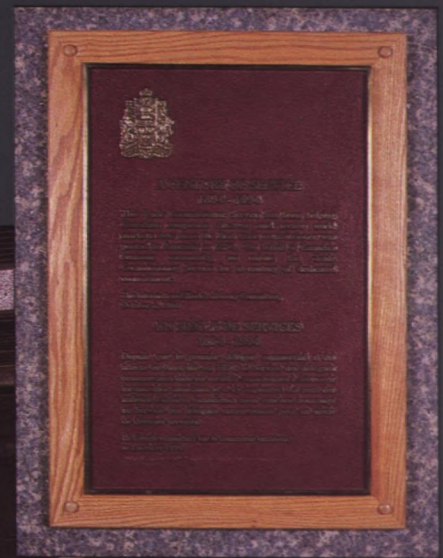
◀ The Trafalgar Building,
Ottawa, first site of
the Department of
External Affairs offices,
1909-1914.

Also developing at this time were Canada's presence and influence as a trading nation. Canada's first full-time Trade Commissioner, John Short Larke, set sail for his post in Australia in 1894. During the next 15 years the Service grew in number to 21 Commissioners in 16 different countries. In 1982, the Department of External Affairs and the Trade Commissioner Service amalgamated, and in 1995 the name was formally changed to Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

MAIN ENTRANCE

A visit to the Lester B. Pearson Building begins on the terrace outside the main entrance, where the sculpture *Haida*, by Robert Murray, stands guard. Raised and educated in Regina and Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, early in his career Murray turned from painting to large-scale, abstract metal sculptures. *Haida* incorporates moulded metal plates looking as flexible and delicate as paper, with forms that change as the observer moves around or away from them. Equally remarkable is Murray's use of colour on the metal surfaces to produce depth and texture. Controversial when it was unveiled, the soaring sculpture still has the power to shock or inspire.

From the terrace, visitors enter the building through four sets of double-cast bronze doors designed by Robert Hedrick, a painter and sculptor from Windsor, Ontario. They are set in a wall of clear glass, revealing the main foyer beyond. The sinuous pattern of the relief on the doors recalls an abstract painting as well as the influences of Mexico and Spain, where Hedrick studied and often returned to live and work.



- ▲ The Trade Commissioner Service celebrated its 100th anniversary in 1994.
- ◀ Designed by Robert Hedrick the sinuous pattern of the relief on the doors recalls an abstract painting.

MAIN FOYER

In the main foyer, visitors are greeted by the flags of some 186 nations with which Canada maintains diplomatic relations, the only such collection in the country.

Directly above the entrance is Canada's Coat of Arms, granted by royal proclamation in 1921. The motto, *A mari usque ad mare* (From sea to sea), is taken from Psalm 72: "He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth." This beautiful rendition of the Arms of Canada was hand-carved by acclaimed Ottawa sculptor Arthur Price, renowned for designing the National Research Council's silver sphere displayed in front of the corporate headquarters on Montreal Road, Ottawa.

Directly opposite the entrance hangs a vivid mural entitled *Canada West Canada East*, painted in 1943 by Quebec City artist Alfred Pellon on a commission for the Canadian Legation (later Embassy) in Rio de Janeiro. Though not typical of the abstract-surrealist style associated with this artist, the panels have their own interest and charm: they depict the immensity of Canada and its infinite variety, from the villages of Quebec on the St. Lawrence River to the mountains and totem poles of British Columbia.

To the right of the entrance, in the northwest corner of the foyer, the Lester B. Pearson Commemorative Area honours the memory of Canada's foremost diplomat and a true world statesman.



◀ *Canada West Canada East*, painted in 1943 by Quebec City artist Alfred Pellán.



▲ Directly above the entrance is Canada's Coat of Arms, hand-carved by Ottawa sculptor Arthur Price.

◀ Visitors to the Lester B. Pearson Building are greeted by the flags of some 186 nations with which Canada maintains diplomatic relations.

Bearing the nickname “Mike,” Pearson was one of the Department’s first recruits in the 1920s and quickly established himself as a perceptive observer and able writer. In 1935 he was sent to London as First Secretary of the Canadian High Commission, a posting that gave him a front row seat as Europe drifted toward war. He subsequently served as Under-Secretary and then Secretary of State for External Affairs. At the United Nations in 1956, he helped to resolve the Suez Crisis by proposing a peacekeeping force – a contribution that earned him the 1957 Nobel Peace Prize. He served as Prime Minister from 1963 to 1968.

In this area, visitors will find a bronze statue of Pearson by Danek Mozdzenski, along with display cases containing the citation from the Nobel Prize Committee and the original medal presented to Pearson in 1957, in Oslo, Norway. These were generously donated to the Department in 1992 by Pearson’s son Geoffrey.

The centrepiece of the area is the Lester B. Pearson Memorial Mural – a triptych entitled *Thought screen Timespace*, by abstract expressionist Charles Gagnon. With a photographer’s keen eye, this Montreal artist incorporates quotations from Pearson’s writing and speeches, even reproducing the original typescript of some of the documents. By choosing a palette of neutral colours, Gagnon demonstrates the sense of nuance and compromise that are characteristic of his subject.

A final commemorative work is the painting entitled *The Passing of Lester B. Pearson, Peacemaker*, by William Kurelek. Born in a small Ukrainian farm community near Edmonton, Kurelek grew up on the Prairies in the farming heartland of Canada. This painting pays a personal tribute to the man Kurelek admired as a great Canadian and a unifying force



◀ *The Passing of Lester B. Pearson, Peacemaker* by William Kurelek.



▲ A bronze statue of Pearson by Danek Mozdzenski.

◀ Lester B. Pearson Memorial Mural – a triptych entitled *Thought screen Timespace* by Charles Gagnon.

Ottawa Canada
1997



A Global Ban
on Landmines

in the nation, which is shown here in a panoramic backdrop. Pearson's role as peacemaker is symbolized by a map of the world, with some of the trouble spots highlighted to where peacekeeping forces have been assigned.

Across the foyer from the Pearson bronze is a piece commemorating the December 1997 signing of the historic convention banning anti-personnel (AP) mines, known as the Ottawa Convention. Negotiated in Oslo, Norway, the Convention prohibits the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of AP mines. Among other things, signatory countries undertook to destroy existing stockpiles within four years and to clear minefields within 10 years. The Convention was signed in Ottawa by 122 countries, including Canada, and became international law on March 1, 1999.

To the left of the lobby is Ottawa-born painter Ken Lochhead's mural, *External Affairs*. Its atmosphere of light, space and spontaneity suggests qualities that the artist believes enhance international diplomacy as well as personal relationships.

Beside it is the second Kurelek painting in the building's collection, *The World Today*. Devoutly religious, Kurelek's later paintings convey a strong moral, even apocalyptic message. Painted in the 1960s during the Cold War and the nuclear arms race, *The World Today* depicts carefree children playing next to a burning barn; it was meant as a



▲ William Kurelek's *The World Today* was meant as a warning to world leaders to redouble their efforts for peace.

◀ Ottawa-born painter Ken Lochhead's luminous mural, *External Affairs* suggests qualities that the artist believes enhance international diplomacy.



warning to world leaders to redouble their efforts for peace. Kurelek said of the work, "I am compelled to express this vision in the desperate hope that somewhere, sometime, someone may be moved to think again."

In the Protocol Lobby, stands a pivoting steel sculpture entitled *Colonne #16* by Ulysse Comtois of Granby, Quebec. The piece has a central steel core and flexible arms consisting of aluminum plates that can each move full-circle. One art critic said of Comtois, "He is one who believes that art need not be sacred, that it can be a source of fun . . . and indeed encourages the onlooker to redesign it in novel ways." Visitors are invited to be creative with the sculpture if they wish.

Also in this lobby is *Case of the Lost Line*, by Claude Tousignant. The canvas shows an elongated oval form resembling a racetrack that seems to shift and vibrate.

S K E L T O N L O B B Y

In the southwest corner of the main foyer is the Skelton Lobby, named in honour of one of the key architects of the Department: O.D. Skelton, who was Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs from 1925 to 1941.

Skelton was born in 1878 in Orangeville, Ontario, to parents of Anglo-Irish descent. After completing his doctorate at the University of Chicago and passing the exams for the elite Civil Service of India, he chose an academic career, and served as Sir John A. Macdonald Professor of Political Economy and later Dean of Arts at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. A prolific writer on Canadian history and contemporary politics, Skelton had



◀ "Foreign policy is an extension of domestic policy and as we have gained control of the one, so we must gain control of the other..."

O.D. Skelton
Canadian Club, Ottawa, January 1922



▲ A pivoting steel sculpture entitled *Colonne #16* by Ulysse Comtois has a central steel core and flexible arms consisting of aluminum plates that can each move full-circle.

◀ *Case of the Lost Line* by Claude Tousignant.

influence well beyond the academic world. Three years after hearing him give an address at a Canadian Club luncheon, Prime Minister MacKenzie King asked Skelton to succeed Sir Joseph Pope, Canada's second Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs. Skelton saw the Department as a vital instrument for asserting Canadian autonomy. Two of his objectives were to establish a network of diplomatic missions reinforcing Canada's independence from Britain, and to create a high-quality foreign service. Among his recruits were two future Governors General, Georges Vanier and Jules Léger, as well as the young Pearson himself.

With Canada's entry into the Second World War, Skelton worked even harder than usual and his health suffered. "I have known no man with a sense of duty greater than Skelton," Prime Minister MacKenzie King wrote in his diary on February 1, 1940, "or who took on tasks more willingly and with less complaint. I am afraid that he will not be able to stand very long further indefinite strain." Skelton died, while still serving, in 1941.

The Skelton Lobby serves as a reception area that can hold up to 400 people. It also leads to the Robertson Conference Room and the Cadieux Auditorium, named after two other notable members of the Department.

At the far end of the lobby by the window stands *Inukshuk* (meaning "like a person") by one of Canada's outstanding Inuit artists, Osuitok Ipeelee of Cape Dorset, Nunavut. It is a pillar of natural stones carefully placed to represent the human figure. For generations, similar sculptures have been used in the Arctic by Inuit and explorers alike as landmarks and directional pointers.



◀ *Inukshuk* by one of Canada's outstanding Inuit artists, Osuitok Ipeelee. It is a pillar of natural stones carefully placed to represent the human figure.

ROBERTSON CONFERENCE ROOM

The Skelton Lobby gives way to the handsome Robertson Conference Room, named in honour of former Under-Secretary Norman A. Robertson. It contains an oval United Nations-style table that accommodates up to 40 delegates, with seating for 125 more behind. The room has been the scene of many international meetings as well as Cabinet and First Ministers' (federal, provincial and territorial leaders) meetings. It can provide full audiovisual and simultaneous translation services in six languages.

Robertson was a brilliant economist who joined the Department in 1929. An excellent diplomat, he served twice as Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, twice as High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, and once as Ambassador to the United States. From 1949 to 1952, he held the position of Clerk of the Privy Council and Secretary to the Cabinet. Over the course of a long career, he advised five prime ministers and impressed generations of foreign service officers and other civil servants with his robust intellect.

Inside the Conference Room is a massive wall tapestry entitled *Manitoulin Canada*, by artist Joyce Lehto of Sudbury, Ontario. Lehto's work adds warmth and colour to the room through its use of the traditional Scandinavian *Ryijy* technique. Its blues, greens and earth tones evoke the landscape of Manitoulin Island, off the northern shores of Lake Huron, and perhaps also some of the mystery of the Manitou, revered by the indigenous Algonquian peoples as the unknown power of life and the universe.



◀ *Manitoulin Canada*, a massive wall tapestry by Joyce Lehto, adding warmth and colour to the room.

◀ The Robertson Conference Room, named after former Under-Secretary Norman A. Robertson, has been the scene of many international meetings.

CADIEUX AUDITORIUM

Next to the Robertson Conference Room, the Skelton Lobby leads into the Cadieux Auditorium, which has seating for 225 people. The room is named after Marcel Cadieux, a tough, shrewd diplomat and trained lawyer who served as Canada's first francophone Ambassador to the United States.

A vivid personality and an effective negotiator, Cadieux was both a committed federalist and a true Quebecker who encouraged young French Canadians to consider a career in the foreign service. In 1970, he represented Canada with extraordinary effectiveness in negotiations on Canada-U.S. maritime boundaries.

Below the stage stands *Sundogs*, a minimalist sculpture by Saint John, New Brunswick native Fred Willar from the Op Art period, representing colour as form. Watching the vertical stripes, the observer's eye is persuaded that there is movement.



◀ The Cadieux Auditorium is named after Marcel Cadieux, Canada's first francophone Ambassador to the United States.

◀ *Sundogs*, a minimalist sculpture by Fred Willar, represents colour as form.

JULES LÉGER LIBRARY

Returning to the main foyer, visitors find the Jules Léger Library and the Enquiries Service directly across from the entrance to Tower B on the south side. This facility is open to anyone conducting research on foreign affairs and international trade.

The library is named after Jules Léger, who served Canada as Under-Secretary of State, Ambassador and Governor General. Arranged here in a special area, and reflecting his scholarly interests, is his personal collection of books, generously donated by his wife, Madame Gabrielle Léger. Today, the library also offers electronic resources in the field of foreign relations; and through the Enquiries Service, it provides research assistance to the general public.

TEAM CANADA INC SECRETARIAT

Along the same corridor is the Secretariat of Team Canada Inc. This partnership links federal departments, the provinces and the private sector; it was created to achieve a greater degree of cohesiveness and effectiveness in delivering international business development programs and services to the Canadian business community.

The Secretariat is a key point of access for Canadian firms requiring trade and investment information. Its work complements that of the Canada Business Service Centres located across Canada.



Team Canada Inc. • Équipe Canada inc



◀ The Jules Léger Library was named after Jules Léger who served Canada as Under-Secretary of State, Ambassador and Governor General.

HOSPITALITY CENTRE

The Hospitality Centre, located on the 9th floor of Tower A, is a beautifully designed area where the Government of Canada provides official hospitality in connection with its conduct of foreign relations. Guests and visitors are treated to a spectacular panoramic view of the Ottawa River and the Gatineau Hills from this location atop the building. The Hospitality Centre can accommodate up to 145 persons at a sit-down meal and up to 225 guests at a stand-up reception. There are two smaller dining rooms as well, which can accommodate up to 12 and 26 people respectively at sit-down meals.

CAFETERIA

The Department's 600-seat cafeteria is located on the main floor, just to the left of Tower C. Dominating it is a work entitled *Veneration of the White Collar and Blue Collar Worker*, by Vancouver-based artist Gathie Falk. The two-sided ceramic wall mural pokes a bit of fun at the civil servants and workers that Falk imagines will be eating lunch at these tables. At first sight, all those shirts and ties, glasses and pens may seem identical, but closer examination reveals each to be slightly different from the next. Such is Falk's vision: what may appear ordinary is, after all, unique.



◀ The Hospitality Centre is a beautifully designed area where the Government of Canada provides official hospitality in connection with its conduct of foreign relations.

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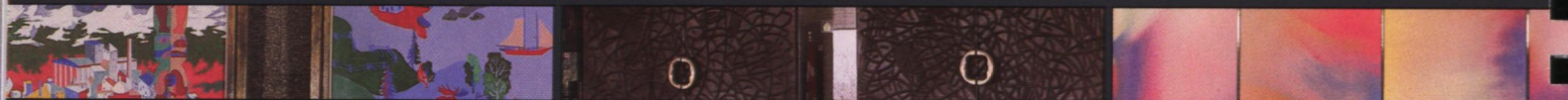
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Affaires étrangères et du
Commerce international*

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The Lester B. Pearson building :
home to Canada's Department of
Foreign Affairs and International
Trade. --
61502705





Department of Foreign Affairs
and International Trade

Ministère des Affaires étrangères
et du Commerce international