

recommendations to the public and private sectors. At present, 18 (of a maximum 21) Ontario citizens serve on the Council, representing business, finance, labour, agriculture, universities and government. Each member serves without compensation for a term of one, two or three years. The Council meets monthly, generally in Toronto although meetings are held occasionally in other Ontario centres.

Essentially, the Council operates as an advisory body reporting some of its findings directly to the Ontario government and publishing others for wider distribution. Recent reports cover the fields of immigration, government reform, poverty, urban development, social change, municipal reform and municipal waste disposal. A biennial index of research projects carried on within provincial government agencies and departments and certain industrial companies operating in Ontario is also published.

The Council shares the Ontario government's view that the economy of the province is not an entity separate from Canada. For this reason the Council does not undertake separately for Ontario what the Economic Council of Canada has done and is doing for Canada as a whole. Projects are undertaken with the Economic Council of Canada on a co-operative basis and information is exchanged between the two Councils.

A small permanent Council staff undertakes direct assignments and supervises the design and administration of projects assigned to others. Areas of study are established as a result of liaison and discussion with the public and private sectors. Until recently the greater portion of the Council's research was carried on within Ontario universities. However, the professional services of private consulting firms are now being used more frequently.

4.6 External relations

4.6.1 Canada's international status

The growth of Canada's international status is reflected in the development of the Department of External Affairs. Until the 20th century Canadian negotiations with foreign countries were conducted through the British Foreign Office and dealings with other parts of the Empire through the Colonial Office; Canadian interests abroad were handled by British diplomatic and consular authorities and all Canadian communications to other governments went through the Governor General. The gradual recognition of Canadian autonomy in international affairs and increased Canadian responsibilities abroad made expansion of services and representation after 1920 not only inevitable but imperative. British diplomatic and consular authorities could no longer conveniently look after all Canadian interests. An important step in the evolution of the Department of External Affairs as the foreign service arm of the Canadian government resulted from an agreement reached at the 1926 Imperial Conference which changed the Governor General's role from that of representative of the British government to that of personal representative of the Sovereign. Britain, no longer officially represented here, appointed a High Commissioner to Canada in 1928; after July 1, 1927 correspondence from foreign governments, including that from the Dominions Office in London, was directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs (a portfolio held by the Prime Minister until 1946) instead of to the Governor General.

In the 1920s and 1930s Canada established diplomatic relations with Australia, Belgium, France, Ireland, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, South Africa and the United States and during the 1940s, with the wartime governments of Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Greece, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Yugoslavia functioning in London or Cairo, and with the Argentine Republic, Brazil, Chile, China, Cuba, Mexico, Newfoundland, Peru and the USSR. High Commissioners were accredited to India, Pakistan and Ceylon (Sri Lanka) and subsequently to other countries as they became independent and joined the Commonwealth. In the 1960s, Canada also developed its diplomatic relations in the French-speaking world, particularly with the newly independent francophone states of Africa. Relying on a system of multiple accreditation, Canada now has ambassadorial links with all of the 21 francophone African countries. Diplomatic relations were established with the Holy See in 1969 and with the People's Republic of China in 1970. Today, Canada maintains formal diplomatic relations with all 20 countries in Latin America and has diplomatic, consular or trade representation in 127 countries.

Membership in international organizations has entailed establishment of other offices outside Canada. A Permanent Canadian Delegation to the United Nations in New York was