

Diplomatic and/or consular representation

3.6.1.1

The addresses of Canadian representatives abroad and representatives of other countries in Canada may be found in Appendix 5.

Federal-provincial aspects of Canada's international relations

3.6.1.2

As a result of the growing international dimension of provincial interests abroad, a Federal-Provincial Coordination Division was established in 1967 in the Department of External Affairs. The purpose of this division was to maintain liaison with the provinces to facilitate their legitimate international activities in a manner that would meet provincial objectives, yet be consistent with a unified Canadian foreign policy.

The federal government's position on provincial international relations was outlined in the 1968 White Paper *Federalism and international relations*, which emphasizes that Canada's foreign relations must serve and reflect the interests of all provinces as well as those of its two major linguistic communities. The federal government's international policies include recognition of legitimate provincial interests beyond national borders, and continued promotion of national unity through adequate projection internationally of Canada's bilingual character.

Provincial participation at international conferences and in the work of international organizations is assured by including provincial officials on Canadian delegations, and by canvassing provincial governments for their views on the positions and attitudes which Canada might adopt on the subjects treated by these organizations. These include areas of particular interest to the provinces such as human and civil rights, education, health, agriculture, labour and environment.

Other aspects of Canada's international relations of particular interest to the provinces include the promotion of trade, investment, industrial development, immigration, tourism, cultural exchanges, environmental questions, science and technology, bilateral and multilateral agreements, and assistance to developing countries. In matters of aid, the federal government encourages a detailed federal-provincial consultation to ensure that specific projects are coordinated within the framework of Canada's aid contributions. The promotional activities of the provinces coupled with their increased interests in international activities have led to a greatly increased number of provincial visits abroad. The federal government, through the Department of External Affairs and its embassies and high commissions, assists provincial officials by making arrangements and appropriate appointments for their visits abroad and in coordinating visits of foreign personalities to provincial capitals.

Treaty-making powers. Once it has been determined that what a province seeks to achieve through agreements, in fields of provincial jurisdiction, falls within the framework of Canadian foreign policy, provision is made for direct provincial participation in negotiating with the authorities of the foreign country. When these arrangements are to be incorporated in an international agreement having legal effect, however, this can be achieved only through the exercise of the federal power to conclude treaties.

International activities

3.6.2

Canada and the Commonwealth

3.6.2.1

Originally a tightly knit coalition of five members, the Commonwealth has evolved into an international association of 36 sovereign states embracing approximately one quarter of the earth's land surface and population, the latter characterized by a diversity of races, colours, creeds and languages. Comprising both developed and developing countries, and governments committed to various international organizations, the Commonwealth represents a unique association whose members are bound by shared political and social values, similar attitudes and institutions, a similar political and historical experience, and a common language. The interests of its members extend to all continents.