

Organization of American States. In addition, officials of the Department of External Affairs represent Canada at many international conferences, such as the Review Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe which began in Vienna in November 1986.

Today, Canada's status is reflected in international negotiations on such vital issues as human rights, the environment, the disarmament, law of the sea, energy management and nuclear non-proliferation.

Federal-provincial aspects. A federal-provincial co-ordination office in External Affairs Canada maintains liaison with the provinces to facilitate their necessary international activities in a manner that meets provincial objectives and preserves the coherence of Canadian foreign policy. The federal government's foreign policy includes recognition of legitimate provincial interests beyond national borders and continued promotion of national unity through adequate international projection of Canada's bilingual character. The co-ordinating role of the office also includes overseeing the department's information service to the provinces, which keeps the latter informed of important Canadian foreign policy and operational developments.

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

Other international interests of the provinces include promotion of trade, investment, industrial development, immigration, tourism, cultural exchanges, environmental questions, science and technology. In this regard, promotional activities of the provinces and their interests in international activities have led to an increased number of provincial offices and visits abroad. The office is therefore involved in providing assistance with regard to a number of specific provincial activities abroad, such as opening of offices, visits of premiers and delegations, as well as making arrangements for visits of foreign visitors to the provinces. A main task for the office is to liaise and co-operate with these offices abroad in order to ensure smooth relations with foreign governments. The office's responsibilities also involve close consultations regarding negotiations on the signing by provincial governments and foreign entities of memoranda of understanding,

arrangements, and understandings. In addition, the office acts when necessary or appropriate as point of contact for provincial requests for departmental services.

Treaty-making powers. The federal government has exclusive responsibility for Canada's external affairs. There are frequent consultations between federal and provincial governments regarding treaties of provincial interest and responsibility.

Once it has been determined that what a province seeks through understandings, in fields of provincial jurisdiction, meets with Canadian foreign policy, provision is often made for direct provincial participation in negotiating with the authorities of the foreign country. International agreements having legal effect in public international law, however, can be achieved only through the federal power to conclude treaties.

Foreign operations. The Department of External Affairs Canada receives and analyzes diplomatic and consular reports and statistics; negotiates consular conventions and multilateral and bilateral agreements; monitors legislative developments which affect the status of Canadian citizens abroad; provides a link with other government services such as immigration, refugee matters and citizenship; trains foreign service personnel; provides instructions to posts abroad; recommends appointments of honorary consuls; evaluates services provided; manages Canada's immigration program abroad; and co-ordinates external aspects of immigration policies and programs.

Trade services. External Affairs Canada is responsible for maintaining and furthering an international trading climate favourable to Canadian exporters and other economic interests and for policies and programs to safeguard and advance Canada's international trading interests. As the primary federal government contact with foreign governments and international organizations which influence trade, it consults with such governments and organizations and works closely with other federal government departments, Crown corporations and agencies, the provinces, and business and academic communities to achieve these objectives.

The trade commissioner service became part of External Affairs Canada in 1982, with 91 offices in 67 countries either directly in embassies and high commissions or in separate premises. Its primary role is to promote Canada's export trade and to protect Canada's commercial interests abroad.

External Affairs also administers the policies of Tourism Canada abroad and provides advice on questions about consular activities.