

# Swiss Consular Presence in Montreal: A Timeline

Since 1875, Switzerland has maintained an uninterrupted consular presence in Montreal. This timeline highlights key milestones in that history and situates them within the broader context of Switzerland's representation in Canada.

## 1874

### A Civic Initiative in Montreal

The Swiss National Society, a group of Swiss community members in Quebec, submits a petition to the Federal Council in Bern requesting official representation. This marks the beginning of consular relations between Switzerland and Canada.

Switzerland opens its first consular post in Montreal, laying the foundation for an uninterrupted presence that continues to this day. It remains Switzerland's only representation in Canada until the early 20th century.

## 1875

### First Swiss Consular Presence in Canada

## 1906

### Consular Post Opens in Toronto

Switzerland expands its presence with a second post in Toronto, which is later upgraded to a Consulate General in 1965. This office closed its doors 2014.

The change in status reflects Montreal's growing importance in bilateral relations.

## 1912

### Montreal Post Becomes a Consulate General

## 1913

### Consular Post Opens in Vancouver

Switzerland establishes a presence on Canada's west coast. The post becomes a Consulate General in 1980.

Switzerland establishes its first federal diplomatic representation in Canada with a legation in Ottawa. It is upgraded to an embassy in 1957.

## 1945

### Swiss Legation Opens in Ottawa

## 1955

### The Consulate General Moves into the James-Crathern House

The consulate relocates to its current home, a building designed by Edward Maxwell and built between 1892 and 1893. The residence stands as a symbol of Montreal's late 19th-century architectural heritage.

Following the closure of the Consulate General in Toronto, the Montreal post takes over jurisdiction for Eastern Canada. It now covers a vast area stretching from Manitoba to the Atlantic provinces, and also includes the Bahamas.

## 2014

### Jurisdiction of Toronto Transferred to Montreal

## 2025

### 150 Years of Consular Presence in Montreal

Today, the Consulate General of Switzerland in Montreal serves nearly 27,000 fellow citizens across a jurisdiction spanning more than 5.9 million square kilometres. It continues to foster strong ties between Switzerland and Eastern Canada, while actively promoting Swiss values and presence across the breadth of this vast territory.

