

## Foreign PEP (Politically Exposed Person)

A **foreign PEP** is a person who holds or has held one of the following offices or positions in or on behalf of a foreign state:

- head of state or head of government;
- member of the executive council of government or member of a legislature;
- deputy minister or equivalent rank;
- ambassador, or attaché or counsellor of an ambassador;
- military officer with a rank of general or above;
- president of a state-owned company or a state-owned bank;
- head of a government agency;
- judge of a supreme court, constitutional court or other court of last resort; or
- leader or president of a political party represented in a legislature.

These persons are foreign PEPs regardless of citizenship, residence status or birthplace. A person determined to be a foreign PEP, is forever a foreign PEP.

## Domestic PEP

A **domestic PEP** is a person who holds or has held within the last 5 years a specific office or position in or on behalf of the Canadian federal government, a Canadian provincial government, or a Canadian municipal government:

- Governor General, lieutenant governor or head of government;
- member of the Senate or House of Commons or member of a legislature;
- deputy minister or equivalent rank;
- ambassador, or attaché or counsellor of an ambassador;
- military officer with a rank of general or above;
- president of a corporation that is wholly owned directly by Her Majesty in right of Canada or a province;
- head of a government agency;
- judge of an appellate court in a province, the Federal Court of Appeal or the Supreme Court of Canada;
- leader or president of a political party represented in a legislature; or
- mayor\*.

\* In line with legislation across Canada, municipal governments include cities, towns, villages and rural (county) or metropolitan municipalities. As such, a mayor is the head of a city, town, village, or rural or metropolitan municipality, regardless of the size of the population.

A person ceases to be a domestic PEP 5 years after they have left office.



## Who is a head of an international organization?

The head of an international organization is a person who is either:

1. the head of an international organization established by the governments of states;  
or
2. the head of an institution established by an international organization.

When we refer to the head of an international organization or the head of an institution established by an international organization, we are referring to the primary person who leads that organization, for example a president or CEO.

There is no requirement for an institution established by an international organization to operate internationally. It is possible that an institution that has been established by an international organization only operates domestically, or in one jurisdiction.

Once a person is no longer the head of an international organization or the head of an institution established by an international organization, that person is no longer a HIO.

For more information about these definitions please follow the link: [FINTRAC](#)