

- They can replace passports. However, not all offices are authorized to issue regular passports.
- If you are arrested, they can try to ensure equitable treatment under local laws. At your request, they can inform relatives and friends about your arrest and try to ensure that legal rights and processes are extended to you consistent with the standards of the host country. However, they cannot set aside local laws if you are charged with an offence, or intervene in the judicial process of a foreign country. They cannot post bail, pay for a lawyer or pay your fines.
- If you wish, they can notify your next of kin regarding accidents or deaths and let them know whether, and how, they can help.

Emergency Consular Services

Canadian government offices abroad offer 24-hour assistance. During non-office hours, a telephone call you make to an office abroad will be automatically transferred to a consular officer in Ottawa or you will be asked to leave a message on an answering machine. In either case, there will be a prompt response. If you leave a recorded message, make sure that it is clear and that you leave

a telephone number or a full contact address. In addition, you can make a collect call to the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade in Ottawa at (613) 996-8885. You may wish to use the *Canada Direct* service if it is available.

Voting While Overseas

Canadians who reside abroad are eligible to vote by absentee ballot in all federal elections. For additional information, consult the nearest Canadian government office abroad.

Banking

You may wish to set up a bank account in your host country that is fed by funds from your Canadian account. To do this, you will need to go to a local foreign exchange bank with your passport, your Alien Registration Card and Canadian banking information (your branch and account number). Usually, someone who can speak English or French will be available to assist you. The process can be complicated and time-consuming, and you should make sure that you have a source of funding during this period. Retain all documentation on financial transfers, as you may need it for local income tax purposes.

It is also important that you establish how much money you