

Travel Documents

The Passport Office issues about 1.3 million travel documents annually. To meet the varied travel requirements of its clients, the Office is authorized to issue seven different types of travel documents.

The one familiar to most Canadians is the blue **24-page passport**. It is issued to Canadian citizens and is used for occasional travel, such as vacations and business trips. It accounts for 98 per cent of all travel documents issued. The passport is valid for five years and is currently non-renewable. Children under 16 may be added to a parent's passport or they may have their own.

The **48-page passport** very closely resembles the 24-page passport, but with its extra pages it is more convenient for frequent travellers, such as business people.

In addition to these documents, the Passport Office issues burgundy coloured **Diplomatic Passports** to Canadian diplomats, top-ranking government officials, diplomatic couriers and to private citizens nominated as official delegates to diplomatic international conferences.

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The Office also issues **Special Passports** to people representing the Canadian government on official business. These include members of the Privy Council who are not members of the Cabinet, Members of Parliament, provincial Cabinet members, public servants and private citizens nominated to conferences that are not diplomatic in nature.



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Diplomatic or Special Passports may be provided to the families of officials if they are also travelling at public expense. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade determines eligibility. Diplomatic and Special passports are valid for five years, but entitlement to them ends on the date of the termination of the official status of the bearer or on the date of the termination of the official duty. When the entitlement ceases, the passport document must be returned to the Passport Office.

Canadians stranded abroad may be issued **emergency passports** by Canadian diplomatic and consular missions on behalf of the Passport Office.