

If you have been away from Canada for seven days or more, you may bring back goods worth up to C\$750 without paying duties and taxes. These goods can include alcoholic beverages and tobacco products as described above.

With the exception of tobacco products and alcoholic beverages, you do not need to have the goods with you when you arrive at the border.

When calculating the number of days you are absent, do not include the date you leave Canada, but do include the date you return.

Tobacco products included in a personal exemption are still subject to a minimum duty unless they are marked "Canada-Duty Paid—Droit acquitté." The law in Canada also limits the quantity of tobacco products that may be imported (or possessed) by an individual for personal use if the tobacco product is not packaged and stamped "Canada-Duty Paid—Droit acquitté" (in accordance with the

Excise Act, 2001). The limit is currently five units of tobacco products. One unit of tobacco products consists of one of the following: 200 cigarettes, 50 cigars, 200 tobacco sticks, or 200 g of manufactured tobacco.

If you have any questions about what you can bring home, call the Border Information Service Line of the Canada Border Services Agency (see page 45).

BE AWARE AND DECLARE

You must declare all items purchased or acquired abroad, whether they are intended for yourself or as gifts, as well as goods bought at a Canadian or foreign duty-free store. Keep your original receipts for possible inspection.

The booklet *I Declare*, published by the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), describes what you can and cannot bring back to Canada if you have been away for less than a year. After a stay abroad of more than a year, there are special import provisions for household items and personal belongings. Information is contained

in the CBSA brochure *Moving Back to Canada*. Contact the CBSA for information on importing a vehicle.

ILLEGAL SOUVENIRS

There are restrictions on bringing certain goods into Canada. If you are considering bringing back meat, eggs, dairy products, fresh fruits and vegetables, plants, animals, or products made from their skins or feathers, contact the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) beforehand for guidance—it could save you a lot of trouble. For accurate and timely information on import requirements, consult the CFIA Automated Import Reference System at <http://airs-sari.inspection.gc.ca>.

For information on importing weapons, contact the Canada Firearms Centre.

A list of products banned in Canada due to safety hazards can be found on the website of Health Canada under "Consumer Product Safety."

There are more than 30,000 species of wild animals and plants regulated under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). A violation of CITES could lead to seizure of your purchase, as well as a fine and/or prison term. Contact Environment Canada for details.

Also, be aware that it may be illegal to bring home cultural property, such as antiques or fossils, whose sale or export is banned or controlled by the

country of origin. Strict penalties may be imposed, and cultural property may be confiscated and returned to the country of origin. For more information, contact Canadian Heritage or the embassy of the country you are visiting.

HEALTH CONCERNS

If you become sick or feel unwell after returning to Canada, you should see your doctor. Inform the doctor, without being asked, that you have been travelling or living outside Canada and where you have been. If you were ill while travelling, also see your doctor upon return and explain your travel history and any treatment you received.

