

More permanent employment in Mexico requires different visas, depending on the nature of the work and the privileges the Canadian worker will be granted. In general, FM3s are needed for temporary stays up to a year and FM2s are required for longer stays or immigration.

Although some business people enter Mexico for preliminary business purposes using only a tourist visa, this is not advised. Even if you will not receive remuneration for your efforts or are just in the planning stages, you must apply for and receive the proper business visa. It is important to remember that contracts or other legal documents signed in Mexico by persons who have not obtained the proper status for the purpose of doing business in Mexico may not be considered to be legally binding.

Business visas can be obtained from the Mexican Embassy in Ottawa or from Mexican Consulates located in Vancouver, Toronto, and Montréal. Tourist cards are available from the same sources or travel agents upon issuance of airline tickets. Tourist cards or business visas should be kept in a secure place while travelling in Mexico as they must be presented to officials when leaving the country.

## ***Money***

On January 1, 1993 a new monetary system was established. The new unit of currency, the "New peso," is worth 1000 of the pesos that were used up to December 31, 1992. The New peso is divided into 100 centavos. The dollar sign with the letter N preceding it (N\$) is used to denote it. Within Mexico, the N is often dropped and only the dollar sign used.

Cheques drawn on foreign banks are difficult to cash in Mexico, but travellers' cheques are generally negotiable in banks, hotels and restaurants. Credit cards are accepted in most hotels and restaurants, particularly in tourist areas. Currency may be changed at the airport, hotels, banks and exchange houses. There are no restrictions on bringing pesos into Mexico from outside the country.