

submitted to the local Public Security Bureau for examination once a year.

The application for a residence certificate must be supported by documentation demonstrating the applicant's employment. A registration certificate for a representative office of a foreign company from the Chinese Administration for Industry and Commerce is acceptable for this purpose.

The residence certificate is valid for a specific residence and a specific employment situation. Foreigners who wish to change places of residence or employment must apply to the Public Security Bureau to have their residence certificate changed.

Once you have a permit to reside in China, you can obtain an import permit, valid for six months, to bring in personal belongings duty-free. This process can take several weeks, so be prepared to live in temporary accommodation while you wait for your belongings.

### *Retirement*

Most Canadians considering retirement in China have ancestral roots in that country, and

many of them will wish to spend only part of each year there. In some cases they may be able to achieve their objectives with a series of tourist visas.

Chinese law does not explicitly recognize retirement as a reason for immigration. Nonetheless, Canadian retirees wishing to emigrate to China and live there full-time, but who do not intend to work, study or invest, may consider applying for a "D" visa. This is most easily obtained if you have relatives in China who can sponsor you and handle your application. People in this category should be aware that they may be considered Chinese nationals, and they should research the implications very carefully before making a decision.

To obtain a "D" visa, you must first obtain a Permanent Residence Confirmation form from the local Public Security Bureau in the municipality or county where you intend to live. You will also require a health certificate.

### *Real Estate*

Until recently, the People's Republic of China prohibited the private ownership of land. With economic reforms starting in