

## Permanent Retirement Abroad

Retiring permanently to another country is an option for Canadians who are seeking a lower tax jurisdiction, do not intend to return regularly to Canada and can obtain adequate health-care protection.

If you are thinking of leaving Canada and taking up permanent residence in another country, you should be aware that this involves establishing a legal status within the other country that goes well beyond that of an annual tourist. You may seek either permanent residency or citizenship status, or both. Either may impose a variety of conditions and requirements, and you should be very clear about their implications. Among other consequences, Canadian consular officials in your country of destina-

### **Assemble Documentation**

Are all your travel documents, including passports and visas, in order? Do you know how to contact the nearest Canadian diplomatic or consular mission?

tion may not be able to help you if you run into difficulties.

### **Immigration and Citizenship Issues**

#### **Country of Destination Regulations for Immigrants**

Immigration regulations vary greatly from country to country, and it is essential that you understand them before you go.

Most countries base their immigration system on three fundamental principles:

- employment;
- investment; and
- family connections.

Some countries also recognize retirees or people with a guaranteed minimum income as potential immigrants, but this is far from universal. For example, Mexico has a special category for retirees called *inmigrante rentista*, but the United States does not recognize retirement as a valid reason for establishing permanent residency in the country.

Countries that do recognize retirement as an immigrant category generally require proof of