

tary benefits for people who are covered by a Canadian provincial health-care plan (see page 22 of this booklet). Replacement insurance provides coverage for those who are ineligible for provincial plans.

Replacement Insurance

If you will be living outside Canada for long enough to lose your provincial health-care coverage, you will need full replacement coverage and not just supplementary benefits. You may elect to waive your temporary out-of-country coverage if your provincial plan allows it, since you will need replacement coverage from the date of departure anyway.

Full replacement insurance is less readily available than supplementary insurance, but there are a number of companies that provide insurance specifically designed for expatriates. An Internet search on the key words "global expatriate health insurance" produces the names of several alternative providers. You should arrange for replacement insurance before you leave, but be aware that you may not be able to obtain appropriate coverage from a Canadian company. Most of these policies reserve the right to repatriate you to a

country for which you hold a passport in the event of serious illness or injury, and they may not pay for treatment in Canada. This is another reason for waiving your out-of-country coverage when you leave.

All such policies place some limitations on pre-existing medical conditions and have age restrictions. It is possible, however, to obtain coverage from an international provider with no forced repatriation provision that will cover you up to age 75, with limited coverage for pre-existing medical conditions. The premiums for such a policy are in the neighbourhood of U.S.\$10,000 per year for each covered person at the higher end of the age range.

Real-Estate Issues

For many Canadians, owning their own home is part of their dream of an ideal retirement. This is also a practical issue since good rental accommodation is expensive in many popular destinations, especially as furnished homes are often the norm for expatriates. While it is prudent to rent for a time before you decide on a particular location, purchasing a condominium or a house is an option you may want to consider.