México: ¿Qué pasa?

I do not do drugs. Yo no tomo drogas.

I am not interested. No me interesa.

can be unpredictable. Many hotels add large service charges to outgoing long-distance calls. Canadians living in Mexico sometimes face delays to obtain a telephone line.

When calling Canada, a good alternative is provided by the *Canada Direct* service.

Internet access is now widely available in Mexico. A list of providers is available on the Internet (http://thelist.internet.com /countrycode.html). Access can also be arranged through the business centres in the larger international hotels.

Money and Banking

Canadian currency and Canadian dollar denominated traveller's cheques are not widely accepted

I'll arrive a little late. Llegaré un poquito tarde.

> In a little while. En un momentito.

in Mexico. While they can be exchanged at some banks and most hotels in major cities, you may find it more convenient to carry traveller's cheques denominated in U.S. dollars. Canadian credit cards usually offer competitive exchange rates on purchases in Mexico. Visa, MasterCard and American Express cards are widely accepted in Mexico. Nonetheless, there are often problems with authorization procedures, and you should not rely on them as your only payment option.

Automated teller machines in maior centres can access Canadian bank accounts, but caution is advised in Mexico City. where these machines tend to attract criminals. Moreover, there have been many complaints of ATMs debiting the customer's account but not dispensing cash. Canadians can open accounts at Mexican banks, but the procedure is sometimes complex. If you plan to open a bank account, a letter of reference from your Canadian bank will help to expedite the procedure. You will also require a Forma Migratoria-3 or Forma Migratoria-2 (see the sections "Working and Doing Business in Mexico" and "Living in Mexico") to open an account.

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