

Be sure that, when you leave, you have copies of all essential records. You may need these later to clarify your tax status. And keep in mind that you may come home sooner than you planned.

Make sure that you know how to contact the nearest Canadian diplomatic or consular mission in the country you have chosen for retirement in case you run into difficulties.

### *Travel Arrangements*

Canadians are generally familiar with the relatively low cost of travel to popular vacation destinations. However, these rates usually involve charter flights that originate in Canada and are available only on a seasonal basis. In addition, direct flights to Canada are not available from many popular destinations on a year-round basis.

Many countries require foreign visitors to have a valid return ticket. This means a paid ticket with a return date within the time limits allowed by immigration authorities. A full-fare return ticket with an "open" travel date is generally acceptable, but an unused return portion of a charter flight ticket is not. You may need to purchase expensive

one-way open tickets connecting through other countries to satisfy immigration authorities, even if your application for residency is pending. If you have to make an unplanned trip home for family or personal reasons, be prepared to pay several times the charter rate to which you may be accustomed.

If you have special needs when travelling, make sure that, before you go, you research the attitudes and facilities that you may encounter. You may have to make special arrangements to obtain amenities that you expect as a matter of right in Canada. Most developed countries have provisions for people with special needs. There are few places, however, where these arrangements are as advanced as they are in Canada. And in some countries, disabled people are not expected to access travel facilities and other public places at all.

#### **Research Alternative Destinations**

Are you making realistic assumptions about weather, immigration regulations and access to services?