

service, Radio Canada International. Where there is sufficient local bandwidth, CBC

programs can also be heard over the Internet. TV5 broadcasts news in French.

Canadian Consular Services

If you plan to be a resident of another country for three months or more, you are encouraged to register with the nearest Canadian government office. This will make it easier for consular officials to contact you in the event of a personal or other emergency. Registration is voluntary; registration forms are available from any Canadian government office abroad, and the information you provide is not shared with any other government department. Refer to the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade publication *Bon Voyage, But...* or the Department's Web site for a complete listing of Canadian government offices abroad, and obtain the details for your country of destination. Keep in mind, however, that your Canadian citizenship does not exempt you from any local laws or regulations. Moreover, Canadian officials may not be able to help you at all if you have acquired local status, such as citizenship.

Canadian consular officials can help you with any of the following:

- contacting relatives at home in case of an emergency;
- dealing with medical emergencies;
- coping with situations such as natural disasters and civil or military conflict;
- accessing sources of information about local laws, regulations and customs;
- replacing passports; and
- dealing with local authorities if you are arrested.

Canadian government offices abroad offer 24-hour emergency assistance. During non-office hours, a telephone call you make to an office will automatically be transferred to a consular officer in Ottawa, or you will be asked to leave a message on an answering machine. In either case, there will be a prompt response. You can also contact the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade in Ottawa at (613) 996-8885.