ON THE ROAD

Taking Precautions

The same rules apply abroad as at home, only more so. Foreigners are usually at greater risk than locals. In many countries, foreigners are specifically targeted. Don't wander into unknown areas—find out how safe they are first. Don't pick up hitchhikers or cross borders with people you have just met. Watch your luggage and make sure it's locked. Never take anything, even an envelope, across a border for someone else.

Do not display large amounts of money or expensive jewellery in public. Use a money belt or a case with concealed sections for valuables.

Don't forget to telephone home, particularly if you have promised family members or friends that you would do so. We receive thousands of calls every year from worried family members or friends who have not received a promised call.



Keep a separate record of your traveller's cheques and credit cards.

Never carry your passport, travel tickets, identification documents, cash, credit cards and insurance papers together. If you do so, you risk being left with no identification or funds in case of theft or loss.

Use the safety deposit box at your hotel. Never leave valuables in your room.

Lost or Stolen Passport

If your passport is lost or stolen while you are travelling, contact the nearest Canadian government office immediately after reporting the loss or theft to the local police. Make sure you get a copy of the police report or the report number. Before a new passport can be issued, you must complete an application form, produce documentary evidence of your Canadian citizenship (e.g. a birth or citizenship certificate), present new photographs, pay the required fee and complete a "Statutory Declaration Concerning a Lost, Stolen, Inaccessible or Destroyed Canadian Passport or Travel Document" (form PPT 203). If you subsequently find your lost/stolen passport, it must be returned to Passport Canada for inspection and destruction.

Foreign Laws and Customs

When you are travelling in a foreign country, familiarize yourself with the way of life there. Respect that country's laws, religions, culture, class structure and economic conditions. Although you may not agree with some of the country's beliefs, remember that you are a visitor.

In many countries, appropriate attire for both sexes is very important and may even be legislated. Penalties for disobeying local laws can be quite severe.

Be especially respectful of temples, mosques, churches, synagogues and other religious sites. Many of these areas are off limits to foreigners or people who are not members of that faith. Ask permission before taking photographs of religious artifacts, buildings or local people.

Never take photographs of military facilities, a harbour where naval vessels are docked or industrial installations such as oil refineries. You may lose your film and your camera, and you could even come under suspicion of espionage.

Illegal Drugs

Drug use and trafficking are prohibited in all countries, even though drugs are readily available and openly used in some places. Most countries impose heavy fines and long prison sentences for possession and



trafficking. In some countries, possession of even small amounts of drugs carries a prison sentence.

Never take any parcel that is not yours across a border.

Choose your travelling companions wisely. Never cross a border with a hitchhiker or as a hitchhiker.

Although you may not be carrying anything illegal, your companions may be. For details, consult the Drugs and Travel section of our Web site and our publication *Drugs and Travel: Why They Don't Mix.*

Crime and Punishment

Thousands of Canadians are currently imprisoned outside Canada for various offences. The laws and customs of countries around the world can be very different from those in Canada. Ignorance of those laws is no defence.

While in a foreign country, you are subject to its laws and regulations. Your Canadian citizenship offers no immunity.