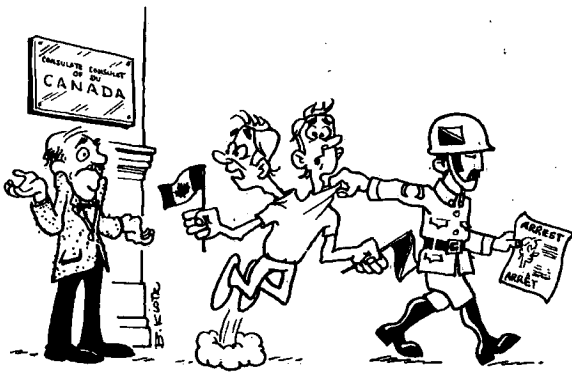


you might find yourself in violation of local laws relating, for example, to compulsory military service, taxation or illegal emigration.

It is your responsibility to determine if you, your spouse, or other family member is also a citizen of another country and, if so, whether there will be complications during a visit there. Citizenship laws are complicated.



In a situation of "dual nationality" the ability of Canadian authorities to assist you may be severely curtailed because the foreign state has, within its boundaries, full jurisdiction over persons it considers its citizens.

Before leaving for a country whose citizenship you may possess or may have possessed, verify your status with the diplomatic or consular Mission of that country in Canada and enquire whether there are any outstanding obligations to which you will be subject on arrival.

Foreign Laws and Regulations

Canadian travellers must bear in mind that they are subject to the laws, both criminal and civil, of the country they are in.

Many countries have substantially different local customs, legal systems and judicial processes. You should not expect that because you are a foreigner you will be exempt from local laws or enjoy preferential treatment. (N.B. Some countries do not afford equal treatment to women.) Your behaviour, dress and general appearance, an open expression of your political opinions or religious beliefs, the active or even symbolic participation in local political, liberation, or revolutionary movements, even the taking of pictures may be considered crimes under local laws and regulations. In certain countries, the penalties for disregarding local and religious customs are severe; corporal punishment has been administered to persons who violated the Islamic prohibition on the use of alcohol.

The criminal law of some countries provides for **guilt by association** under which someone may be charged simply for being in the company of a person suspected or found guilty of a crime (e.g. trafficking or possessing drugs, smuggling antiques, using counterfeit money).

A Canadian involved in a civil action abroad (for example in a dispute over a debt, contract or lease) may, in some countries, be put in jail or denied permission to leave (or alternatively, his/her possessions may be detained) until the matter is settled. **Canadians conducting business where local practices are substantially different from those in Canada should be alert to the legal considerations.**

If you are uncertain, it is preferable to seek clarification through local authorities before taking any action you feel may violate a local law or offend custom. In many countries, if you stand accused of violating a local law **you will be presumed guilty until you prove your innocence. Imprisonment while awaiting trial is customary** in many countries and pre-trial detention may last several months.