

they can be downloaded on-line ([www.chinaembassycanada.org](http://www.chinaembassycanada.org)). Applications are normally processed in about five days, but priority service is available for an additional charge.

If you are travelling to Hong Kong first, visas for the rest of China can be obtained fairly quickly from the Visa Section, Office of the Commissioner, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, People's Republic of China, 5/F Lower Block, China Resources Building, 26 Harbour Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong, or through the China Travel Service (CTS), China International Travel Service (CITS) or some private travel agencies.

The Chinese visa will be inserted into your passport, so you must submit your passport with the visa application. At least two completely blank pages must be available in your passport. The Chinese government will not issue visas to applicants whose passports list Taiwan or Hong Kong as the country of birth.

You must also affix a recent passport-size photo to the application form and include a money order or corporate cheque for the required fee. Personal cheques are not accepted. The fee for a single-entry or transit visa is about \$50; a 12-month multiple-entry visa costs about \$150. Other required documentation depends on the type of visa you are requesting.

### ***Tourist Visas***

A tourist visa, or L visa, will be issued to Canadians travelling either on group tours or as individual tourists. If you are participating in a group tour, submit a letter confirming the tour arrangements from a travel agency in China along with your application. If you are travelling as an individual tourist and not as part of an escorted group, submit a copy of your return ticket along with evidence that you have sufficient funds for the trip.

Tourist visas are generally valid for three months from the date of issue and for 30 to 60 days after entry into China. It is possible to arrange for longer stays if the visa is obtained in Hong Kong. Visas can be extended in China at Public Security Bureau offices or through China International Travel Service agents. People entering China on an L visa are not permitted to work. Although it is possible to change the status of your visa from a tourist to a work visa on the Chinese mainland, the process can be very difficult.

### ***Business and Working Visas***

To conduct business in China, you require an F visa. To obtain an F visa, you need an official invitation from a business counterpart in China or the relevant Chinese authorities. To work in China, you require a Z visa. In addition to a letter of