

documentation with provincial and federal authorities, which involves further delay.

Passports

While U.S. authorities currently do not have a legal requirement that Canadians carry a passport, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade strongly urges all Canadians travelling to the United States to obtain and carry a Canadian passport before leaving Canada. It is the only document that conclusively proves that you are a citizen of Canada with the right to return to Canada. Remember that a Canadian passport is still the best internationally accepted evidence of your Canadian citizenship and the best possible photo identification.

Special Cases

Persons who have been diagnosed with HIV or AIDS normally need to obtain a waiver of ineligibility before they can travel to the United States. Contact the nearest office of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (U.S. Department of Homeland

Security's Citizenship and Immigration Services) for information on how to apply for a waiver.

If you have an unusual situation concerning entry into the United States, you should obtain authoritative information from the U.S. authorities immediately before your visit. For more information, consult the U.S. Embassy Web site (www.usembassycanada.gov) and select "Traveling to the U.S.A.?" from the menu, or go to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) Web site (www.uscis.gov).

Snowbirds

A maximum admission period of six months is expected to be the norm for Canadian retirees seeking to winter in warmer climes. Those who wish to stay longer may apply for an extension once they are in the United States.