

## Backgrounder

### NEW PASSPORT DESIGN

Modifications to the Canadian passport design are fuelled by the Passport Office's desire to keep the document current with the latest security technologies to protect the integrity of the travel document and consequently the traveller, against the growing threat of fraud.

The Canadian passport is a world-class document, respected internationally, that meets the standards set by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). Canada is a regular participant at ICAO conferences and is looked to for leadership in the areas of new technology developments in passport design.

The development of the new passport design began with the manufacture of a new special paper, developed by a Canadian company in concert with the Passport Office Technologist, new and distinctive inks and colours, and improvements to the lamination technique. Like the previous model, this new passport can be read by passport machine readers at ports of entry around the world.

Canadians possessing a valid old-style passport need not worry that their passport will not be recognized. Such passports remain valid (five years from the date of issuance) until they expire. However, Canadians can apply for the new-style passport by submitting their old passport, an application form, the fee, and proof of citizenship. The old passport will be cancelled and returned with the new passport.

On August 27, Passport Offices across the country will begin issuing the new 24-page version passport, except for Passport Office operations in Hull. For environmental reasons, the Hull office will continue to issue the former style until that inventory runs out.