

and no appeals remain outstanding. The transfer request must be initiated by the detainee who, supplied with the requisite documentation by the consular officer, submits one set of completed documents to the Canadian authorities or to those of the country where the prisoner was sentenced, as the case may be. These are then considered and, if all parties agree, the transfer proceeds, although the detainee has the option of withdrawing his or her application at any time before transfer arrangements have been made. There is no specified cut-off date for the submission of an application for transfer.

The Canadian authorities must recognize convictions abroad; however, these convictions will not constitute a criminal record in Canada pursuant to the criminal records act.

Canada currently has transfer agreements in effect with Bolivia, France, Mexico, Peru, Thailand and the United States. Furthermore, through a multilateral convention concluded under the aegis of the Council of Europe, transfers may be undertaken with Austria, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom and some of its colonies, and the United States.

## **Afterword**

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As a relative or friend of a Canadian imprisoned abroad you may find that you are called upon to carry a considerable emotional and financial burden over an extended period. Departmental officials with experience in dealing with the problems of incarcerated Canadians understand how difficult this situation can be and can provide helpful advice.

It is hoped that this handbook will answer most of your questions. Should you require additional information, please contact: