



communiqué

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POSTAL STRIKE: PASSPORT CONTINGENCY PLANS

The Department of External Affairs advises that with the disruption of postal services and in view of the uncertain length of the dispute, the public should apply in person to one of the 18 regional passport offices across the country or one of the two central offices in Hull and in Ottawa to obtain their passports. Regional offices are located in St. John's, Fredericton, Halifax, Quebec City, Montreal, Saint-Laurent, Toronto, Scarborough, North York, Hamilton, London, Windsor, Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver and Victoria. All offices can provide a fast, personalized and assured service.

The Department recognizes there will be a number of incoming passport applications mailed from points in Canada as well as completed passports sent to applicants that will be held up in post offices across the country. If an individual believes that his or her document falls into one of these categories and if the passport is required to meet urgent travel plans, the Passport Office in Hull should be contacted (tel.: local calls - 994-3500; long distance calls (toll free) 1-800-567-9615) to make alternate arrangements.

If the departure is not imminent, applicants are asked to await the resumption of normal postal service to allow the Passport Office to deal with urgent cases.