

What you can do

Preparation and knowledge are the keys to avoiding problems associated with dual citizenship. If you have any questions or concerns, contact the country of your second citizenship before you travel. Formally establish whether you are subject to any outstanding obligations such as military service, taxation or education repayment. This information should be *confirmed in writing*. Carry this document with you when you travel — some dual citizens have received inaccurate or incomplete information from officials representing the country of their second citizenship.

A bilateral treaty between Canada and China establishes that China will recognize the Canadian citizenship of persons with Chinese ancestry if they enter China using a Canadian passport.

A Canadian citizen of Chinese origin travelled to China on his Chinese documents instead of his Canadian passport. He was arrested for problems associated with a business venture and jailed shortly after his arrival. Despite repeated requests for visitation rights by the Canadian government, access was denied for over four years.

If you do run into problems abroad because of your dual citizenship, contact the nearest Canadian embassy or consulate immediately. If you're unable to make contact and require immediate assistance, place a collect call to the Operations Centre, Consular Affairs Bureau, Foreign Affairs Canada, at **(613) 996-8885**. You can also contact us by e-mail, at **sos@international.gc.ca**.