The relevant central authorities in Canada and in the foreign country will do some or all of the following to assist you:

➤ provide you with information on how to proceed with an application under the Hague Convention;

➤ provide up-to-date information on the participating countries;

➤ discover the whereabouts of a child who has been wrongfully removed or retained;

➤ prevent further harm to such a child by taking provisional measures;

➤ secure the voluntary return of the child; and

➤ provide or facilitate the provision of legal aid and advice, including the participation of legal counsel and advisors.

2. HOW TO APPLY

Your provincial/territorial central authority will provide you with a copy of the Convention-approved application form and other information about issues under the Convention. The application will require the following:

➤ information on your identity, the identity and date of birth of the child and the identity of the person alleged to have removed or retained the child;

➤ all available information concerning the whereabouts of the child and the identity of the person with whom the child is presumed to be;

➤ a statement of the grounds proving your right to have the child returned; you must prove the wrongful removal or retention of the child and your custody rights that existed at the time of the wrongful removal or retention;

➤ supporting documents, such as a certified copy of the judgement or agreement granting you custody or access rights, where such a document is applicable; and

➤ a statement giving the foreign central authority the right to act on your behalf.

In addition to providing supporting documents in the official language of your choice (English or French), you may be required to provide translations in the official language of the country concerned.

3. PROCEDURE IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY

The Canadian central authority will transmit your application to the central authority of the country concerned. In turn, the foreign central authority will submit your application to its appropriate judicial authority. If the return of