

- They can help you during emergencies such as natural disasters and civil and military uprisings.
- They can direct you to sources of information about local laws, regulations, cultural customs and how to obtain visas.
- They can assist with medical emergencies.
- They can replace passports. However, not all missions are authorized to issue regular passports.
- If you are arrested, they can try to ensure equitable treatment under local laws. At your request, they can inform relatives and friends about your arrest and try to ensure that legal rights and processes are extended to you consistent with the standards of the host country. However, they cannot set aside local laws if you are charged with an offence, nor intervene in the judicial process of a foreign country. They cannot post bail, pay for a lawyer or pay your fines.
- If you wish, they can notify your next of kin regarding accidents or deaths and let them know whether, and how, they can help.

Emergency Consular Services

Canadian missions offer 24-hour assistance. During non-office hours, a telephone call you make to a mission will be automatically transferred to a consular officer in Ottawa or you will be asked to leave a message on an answering machine. In either case, there will be a prompt response. If you leave a recorded message, make sure that it is clear and that you leave a telephone number or a full contact address. In addition, you can make a collect call to DFAIT in Ottawa at (613) 996-8885. You may wish to use the *Canada Direct* service if it is available.

Voting While Overseas

Canadians who reside abroad are eligible to vote by absentee ballot in all federal elections. For additional information, consult the nearest Canadian mission.

Banking

You may wish to set up a bank account in your host country that is fed by funds from your Canadian account. To do this, you will need to go to a local foreign exchange bank with your passport, your Alien Registration Card (green card) and Canadian banking information