

Under Chinese law, a citizen is a person who has Chinese nationality under the Chinese Nationality Law. Persons who have Chinese nationality under this law include Hong Kong and Macao residents and former residents who are of Chinese descent and who were born in Hong Kong or other parts of China. They may be Chinese citizens even though they hold, or have held, Hong Kong British Dependent Territories Citizen passports, British National (Overseas) passports or other foreign passports. Canadian officials will be prevented by the Chinese authorities from providing consular services to Canadians who have used their Chinese or Hong Kong travel documents to enter China.

Canadian law permits a Canadian to have more than one nationality. It is the policy of the Canadian government to encourage Canadians to use a Canadian passport when travelling abroad and to present themselves as Canadian to foreign authorities. Canadian officials in China will offer consular assistance to Canadian citizens whenever they can. But their right to do so may not be recognized by Chinese authorities in the case of Canadians who have not specified their Canadian citizenship when entering China, by using a Canadian passport, or when dealing with local authorities.

THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

ENTERING CHINA

Entry into China usually involves a three-stage process:

1. inspection of your passport, visa and other travel documents;
2. completion of a health questionnaire; and
3. customs inspection.

You can be fined or expelled if you arrive in China without a visa (except in Hong Kong and Macao, where only a valid passport is required).

Visas and Documentation

Canadians visiting China require a visa, which can be obtained from the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Ottawa, or from the Chinese consulates general in Calgary, Toronto and Vancouver. The Vancouver office has responsibility for British Columbia and Yukon Territory. The Calgary office covers Alberta, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories. The Toronto office handles applications from Ontario and Manitoba. Residents of the other provinces and Nunavut should apply to the Embassy in Ottawa. Visa applications can be obtained by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the Chinese embassy, or