

clearance from Canada. The fee is US\$10, which must be charged to a major credit card. If you place your boat in care of a marina in Mexico when you leave the country, you must return at least once per year. A departure clearance is required when you take the vessel out of Mexican waters.

Mexican Citizens

Mexicans who have immigrated to Canada and become citizens are entitled to enter Mexico on the same basis as other Canadians. They may, however, have additional rights as Mexican citizens. In December 1996, the Mexican Senate approved amendments to articles 30, 32 and 37 of the Constitution which recognized dual citizenship for the first time. An application to the Mexican authorities is required to take advantage of this right, and time limits apply. Further information is available from the Mexican Embassy in Ottawa or from consulates across Canada. (See the section, Mexican Government Offices in Canada for the addresses.)

Customs

All persons entering Mexico must undergo customs inspection. In the major ports of entry, travellers

who have "nothing to declare" are selected for inspection at random. You will be asked to press a button in the customs area which turns on a light. If the light is red, your baggage will be inspected.

Visitors arriving by air or sea are permitted to bring in US\$300 worth of goods. Those arriving by land are allowed only \$50 per person. Travel-related items, such as clothing, may be brought in duty free, although there can be differences of opinion over the quantity of baggage that a tourist should have when crossing by land. Goods beyond the duty free limits may be subject to duty and taxes, which totalled nearly 33 percent in early 1998. Visitors should be prepared to document the value of goods they may be transporting.

Imports of tobacco are limited to 20 packs of cigarettes or 50 cigars or 250 grams of tobacco. Alcoholic beverages are restricted to three litres of wine, beer or spirits. There are special restrictions on imports of endangered species or goods based on their exploitation.

Visitors bringing commercial samples or display materials for trade shows or other events may obtain a temporary import permit, provided the goods will be re-