

PROTOCOL TIPS GREETINGS

Chinese people often greet each other with a nod or a slight bow, but a handshake is quite acceptable. *Ni Hao* is the standard greeting at any time of the day, often said twice. Business cards should be printed with Chinese on one side and presented with both hands, Chinese side up. It is appropriate to make your position or status clear, even though the Chinese may avoid identifying themselves precisely.

The Justice System

When in China, you are subject to Chinese laws and are not entitled to any special protection or consideration because of your Canadian citizenship.

The administration of justice is substantially different in China than it is in Canada. In general, police and other officials have considerably more discretionary power than their Canadian counterparts. A lawyer does not have the same advocacy role as in Canada, and the rights of accused persons are much more limited. In civil matters, claims of unstated intent may take precedence over written contract terms.

If you are arrested or detained, you can request that the arresting officer inform the Canadian Embassy

or nearest consulate, provided that you have entered China as a Canadian citizen. You will need a Chinese lawyer. Canadian officials can refer you to one who speaks English, as well as to Canadian lawyers who have experience working in the local court system. Meanwhile, be aware that what you say can be used against you. Avoid making any arrangements with police or court officials unless your lawyer is present.

Communications

The telephone system in China is still not up to world standards, but it is improving rapidly. The best place to make phone calls is in your hotel, especially if it is a modern one. Cellular phones are available, but expensive. *Canada Direct* service is available from some major cities in China by calling **108-186**.