

be required to take meals to hospitalized family members during the day. Your Chinese partner might need time off to sit with a terminally-ill friend sent home to die.

Chinese people also attach great importance to pregnancy and child birth. Your partner organization may make special allowances for pregnant staff members, permitting them, for example, to leave work early or do less work than normal. After the child is born, the mother may be given much longer leave with pay than Canadians receive.

Canadians are accustomed to a wide circle of friends who change over time. Once established, Chinese people will maintain friendships forever. Friends are expected to share in most aspects of each other's lives. The responsibilities and obligations might be considered onerous to a Canadian.

Chinese friends spend a very high portion of their non-work time with each other. They routinely drop over unexpectedly at any time of the day or night, yet this is not considered an

infringement of privacy. The sharing of personal items and private business is expected and taken for granted, regardless of how valuable the items may be or how personal the business. Criticism and advice between friends are often given and accepted without resentment. Considerable physical contact (such as hand-holding, arms around each other) takes place between friends of the same sex.

For Canadians, it is acceptable to have a series of casual relationships with members of the opposite sex. In contrast, Chinese expect and condone very few. Romantic physical contact of any sort is an acknowledgment of strong attachment. Hugging and hand-holding can convey serious romantic intent among traditional Chinese. A Canadian should understand that any physical contact can have serious implications. Physical contact in public is not accepted traditionally, even between husband and wife, although this is changing among younger urban people. If you do show affection to your husband or wife in front of Chinese friends, be prepared for "oohs" and "ahs."

Women ♦ ♦ ♦

If you are a Canadian woman working in China, you may receive a few sexist remarks. If you are married, you may find Chinese men defer to your

husband at first. But once you establish your credibility, you will have no problem. Youth is a more serious barrier than gender. Like Canada,