points when purchasing such health care insurance:

- Will the insurance plan pay foreign hospital and related medical costs directly?
- Is medical evacuation to Canada covered?
- Are pre-existing medical conditions covered?
- Will the insurer provide the cash deposits required by some hospitals?
- Are costs associated with a death abroad, including the return of remains to Canada, covered?
- Is service available on a round-the-clock basis?

Some travellers' insurance packages also cover flight cancellations for medical reasons.

Real Estate Issues

Foreign Property Reporting Rules

Canadian residents who own property abroad are required to report their foreign assets to the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency. This is a relatively recent provision, designed to ensure that residents declare capital gains and interest on foreign assets on their Canadian income tax returns. The regulations were originally introduced in 1996, but implementation was delayed, and the first reporting deadline was April 30, 1999. All Canadian taxpayers with foreign property valued at more than $100,000 are required to report their holdings, and there are substantial penalties for non-compliance.

Staying in Touch

No matter how attractive a foreign destination may seem at first, most expatriates find that they are more dependent than ever on contact with family and friends. Others find that news from home is a stabilizing influence, at least while they are becoming accustomed to being foreigners in another country. However, you should not assume that telecommunications and mail systems will be as efficient as they are in Canada.