



# The Department

as well as civil and military uprisings. They can also facilitate matters in cases of missing persons, child abduction/custody disputes, kidnapping, arrest and detention as well as lost or stolen passports.

- In some countries, our offices provide a registration service for travellers staying longer than three months to help maintain contact in case of an emergency or crisis.
- Many offices abroad, where required, also develop and maintain an up-to-date contingency plan to evacuate Canadians in times of war or civil disobedience, or when natural disasters occur. For example, in Sierra Leone, we evacuated Canadians four times in four years (between 1997 and 2001).
- We publish Country Travel Reports, which provide up-to-date information on safety and security conditions, health issues and entry or visa requirements for over 220 destinations. If the situation is too dangerous in a given location, we recommend that Canadians leave the country or refrain from travelling there. These reports can be accessed from the travel section of the Department's Web site (<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>). They can also be obtained by phoning 1-800-267-6788 (in Canada) or 1-613-944-6788, or by faxing 1-800-575-2500 (in Canada) or 1-613-944-2500. This information is available 24 hours a day.
- We have come to the aid of many Canadians in distressing situations in other countries. Here are just a few examples of the kind of help our offices abroad provide.

## **Case 1: Medical Repatriation**

*At a party in Kathmandu, Nepal, a young Canadian named Paul fell off the roof of a three-storey house. He suffered a spinal injury and a fractured arm, right foot and pelvis. He required surgery to place a metal rod in his back. Doctors recommended that this be done in a country where there would be better facilities. He had to be medically evacuated.*