

### ***Regulations for Canadians entering and working in Colombia:***

Immigration in Colombia is regulated by Decree 2268 of 1995. (See section X for addresses of Colombian Consulates in Canada).

Following are the types of visas issued to enter in Colombia:

1. Visitors permit : Granted at the port of entry for up to a 90 days visit.
2. Service Visa: Granted to foreign personnel coming under international agreements for technical or scientific cooperation or assistance programs.
3. Business visa : Issued to businessmen, industrialists and executives; it is normally granted for a three year term.
4. Resident visa : Granted to foreigners wishing to live and/or work permanently in Colombia.
5. Temporary Visa : Granted to professionals, technicians and specialized workers hired by public or private organizations; it is normally granted for two years.

### ***Security Situation and risk assessment:***

Colombia is a country of contrasts: it has a very favourable investment climate, a solid economy and continued economic growth. Colombia along with Chile, is the only country in South America with an investment grade rating from international rating agencies. Consequently, Colombia attracts significant foreign investment; its people in general are warm, friendly and hard working and yet, there are security risks, particularly in remote rural areas and therefore, companies working in Colombia should seek advice on measures that should be taken.

Careful and effective security measures are warranted for Canadians establishing residence or business in Colombia by taking precautions in daily activities, seeking advice in selecting safe-living accommodations and office facilities. Several reliable security agencies offer a range of advisory and protection services. Companies considering establishing a physical presence in Colombia are advised to consult with the Canadian Embassy, as well as with Canadian firms which have offices and staff in this country.

## **IX DISTRIBUTION AND BUSINESS PRACTICES**