



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW
CANADIAN MACHINE READABLE PASSPORT

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, announced today that the Passport Office will begin to issue a new Canadian passport with machine readable capability in its central office in Hull, Quebec on April 15, 1985, and all passport issuing offices in Canada will be producing machine readable passports by May 10.

The new passport, designed to specifications published in 1980 by the International Civil Aviation Organization, is a smaller and more secure document for the convenience and benefit of Canadians travelling abroad.

The bearer's personal information, photograph and passport details are all placed on one page under a protective laminate. Two lines of information at the bottom of the same page repeat some of the bearer's personal information and passport details in a special format for machine reading. This information can also be read visually.

The new passport will not change the fee of \$21.00 or the procedure for applying for a passport. Current passports will remain valid until their stated date of expiry.