

belongings duty-free. This process can take several weeks, so be prepared to live in temporary accommodation while you wait for your belongings.

Retirement

Chinese law does not explicitly recognize retirement as a reason for immigration. Nonetheless, Canadian retirees wishing to emigrate to China and live there full-time, but who do not intend to work, study or invest, may consider applying for a "D" visa. This is most easily obtained if you have relatives in China who can sponsor you and handle your application. People in this category should be aware that they may be considered Chinese nationals, and they should research the implications very carefully before making a decision.

To obtain a "D" visa, you must first obtain a Permanent Residence Confirmation form from the local Public Security Bureau in the municipality or county where you intend to live. You will also require a health certificate.

Real Estate

Until recently, the People's Republic of China prohibited the private ownership of land. With economic reforms starting in 1978, the need to introduce market principles to land use became apparent, but it was not until 1987 that China allowed private ownership of land, which is still very restricted.

Real estate reforms were implemented on an experimental basis in a few cities at first, and were extended to the nation as a

PROTOCOL TIPS

DRESS

Chinese business people are relatively formal; suits for men and suits or dresses for women are conventional for business meetings. When in doubt about appropriate clothing, it is always best to err on the conservative side and to behave with the same good manners as you would in Canada.