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# news release

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For release

## NEW CANADIAN PASSPORT HAS ENHANCED SECURITY FEATURES

The Minister for Public Security Canada, the Honourable Doug Lewis, today announced the introduction of a new Canadian passport design with enhanced security features.

"This new design is the result of the Passport Office's commitment to strengthen the security of the document, reducing the possibility of fraud," said Mr. Lewis.

With the growing threat of international travel documentation fraud aided by image duplication equipment, such as colour laser copiers, the new passport design has added unique features that will counter illegal replication or alteration attempts.

Another feature will allow standard passport readers to detect bogus copies of the new design and assist inspection authorities at ports of entry to identify a forgery more readily.

The new passport design retains many elements of the preceding model -- for example the cover, size, and raised printing -- but significant differences exist with several innovations.

The passport pages of the new booklet are made from the most advanced passport security paper, produced and developed in Canada with an enhanced watermark design. Another characteristic of the new passport is the use of the perimeter page numbering system on the visa pages. Canada is believed to be the first country to introduce this feature to protect against visa page substitution. In addition, the security laminate on the identification page has been bolstered to deter counterfeiting and tampering.

"Technological advancements are happening quickly, and we must stay ahead of those who would abuse our system," added Mr. Lewis.