

immunities is not to benefit the individuals concerned but to ensure the efficient performance of the functions of the diplomatic missions or consular posts of which they are members. Nevertheless, it is also the clear duty of all persons, even if they are in receipt of such diplomatic or consular immunities, to respect the laws and regulations of the receiving state. If they do not, they can be recalled or even be asked to leave by the host government. Employees should be careful not to engage in any abuse of their immunities. (See also the Manual of Protocol and Legal Affairs, Section 2.6)

Traffic offences committed by diplomatic personnel, whether or not such offences are serious, tend to generate much unfavourable publicity and criticism in most countries, including Canada. It is important that all employees at posts, both Canada-based and locally engaged, comply and are seen to be complying with local traffic and parking laws and regulations.

Arriving employees should seek, and shall be given, authoritative guidance from the mission on local laws and practices and their status in relation thereto. It is the duty of all employees who find themselves involved with the local authorities to bring their formal status as a member of a Canadian diplomatic or consular mission to the attention of those authorities, and to claim immunity pending any final decision from Ottawa as to whether that immunity should, in the particular circumstances, be waived or upheld.

SECURITY

The Canadian Government, as any employer, has the right to expect that it can repose full confidence in its employees. In addition to the Oath of Allegiance, as a condition of their employment all Public Servants sign the following Oath of Office and Secrecy: