



All the right moves between Hong Kong and Canada

When the going gets tough, the tough call in the professionals

Moving home can be an emotional rollercoaster ride, from the excitement of making a fresh start, to the sorrow of leaving friends, to the trauma of abandoning all that is familiar. That can be complicated by the physical necessity of moving, which few people consider properly before committing to a relocation.

That consideration is the key to a successful move. Information, about what to do before, during and after your move, will help you settle more easily in your new home.

For most people living in Hong Kong, a move is inevitable, whether you are returning to Canada after a contract expires or are simply transferred home, or are migrating to Canada. If you are transferring back to Canada, your company may provide some assistance since many multinationals now employ relocation consultants. These consultants can advise transferred employees on the physical and emotional aspects of relocating. The process includes such tasks as selling any real estate holdings, cultural training, and finding jobs for accompanying dependents to advising on change of address mailing lists, and the details of a physical move.

It is important to remain in control of your move. That control will be gained through information and organization. There is one golden rule for a successful move: Do your homework. And do as much as possible.

Through the looking glass

Start at the end - your destination. It's important for you and your family to know to what and to where you're moving. Organizations like the Young Men's and Women's Christian Associations (YMCA and YWCA) have branches worldwide and can often provide information



about your destination. You can also secure a copy of an Economic Conditions Abroad (ECA) report. ECA, based in London, provides a detailed profile of destinations, including such economic data as cost of living indices, as well as practical briefs on medical care, education, recreation, security and safety.

Once you've done some homework, it is important that you and your partner visit your new home in advance. Spend a few days exploring. If you can, involve your children in the tour. Try the public transportation, look at the shopping, tour schools, wander through parks and explore other recreational opportunities. Find out as much as you can about various neighborhoods before you make a deci-

