

Dress appropriately. If local women don't wear trousers to the office, you shouldn't either. Wear sensible shoes that allow you to stand for long periods and to move quickly if necessary.

Learn how to decline food graciously during business dinners so that no one will be insulted. For example, in Asia, leave some food in your bowl. This implies that your hosts have fed you well and you're no longer hungry.

Understand that, in some countries, even if you do business with men during the day, you may be seated separately, with women only, for evening dining.

In Korea, the highest-ranked businessperson, whether female or male, is expected to enter and exit a meeting-room first.

In certain cultures, businessmen may consider it acceptable to proposition or to flirt with visiting businesswomen. Don't be offended. A simple and direct "no" is appropriate.

Before offering gifts to your hosts, make sure that the type of present and even the colour of the wrapping paper are culturally acceptable.

Consular Assistance

Canada has over 270 "points of service" worldwide where consular officials are ready to help you if needed. If you encounter problems while travelling abroad, contact a Canadian embassy or consulate. Addresses and telephone numbers are listed in our booklet *Bon Voyage... But*.

If you require urgent assistance abroad, you can make a collect call to the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade in Ottawa, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at (613) 996-8885, or e-mail us at sos@dfait-maeci.gc.ca. See *Bon Voyage... But* for more information on consular assistance.