

finer they face for carrying inadmissible passengers. Since birth and baptismal certificates, for example, do not have photographs, they are no longer accepted by airline companies without accompanying valid photo identification. Even carriers taking Canadians from Canada to the United States on round-trip tickets have refused to return them to Canada without valid photo identification and proof of Canadian citizenship.

As a result, many travellers have had to contact Canadian diplomatic missions in the United States for assistance. When this happens, the mission has to verify documentation with provincial and federal authorities, which involves further delay. In light of these difficulties, when you travel to the United States, and indeed to all countries, remember that a Canadian passport is still the best internationally accepted evidence of your Canadian citizenship and the best possible photo identification. Carrying your Canadian passport is recommended for all visits to the United States.

Dual Nationality

Some Canadians may have U.S. as well as Canadian citizenship through birth in the United States

or through naturalization or descent. Although this is not likely to create problems — and in fact may solve some — it is wise for you to understand your status under U.S. law.

Canadians who are also U.S. citizens should always identify themselves as U.S. citizens when entering the United States. For information on dual nationality, dial 1-800-529-4410. With your Touch-Tone™ phone choose English or French and then listen to the choices — press 1 for the menu of services, then 2 for citizenship information and then 3 for information on dual nationality.

Criminal Records

If you have a criminal record, no matter how minor or how long ago the offence, you are probably not eligible to enter the United States. There may also be problems in transit through U.S. airports. Under U.S. law, a Canadian pardon does not cancel a criminal conviction.

If you have a criminal conviction, it is strongly recommended that you contact one of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (USINS) ports of entry listed on pages 39-40 well in advance of travel to the United