

When you are abroad, you will be able to tune in to Radio Canada International (RCI) for the latest news. RCI also broadcasts messages from the Canadian government during emergency situations.

What Documents Do You Need?

Passport

All Canadian citizens must have a valid passport before taking up residence abroad. Once living overseas, you should continue to maintain a valid passport. Application forms are available on-line through the Passport Office Web site, and at passport offices, post offices and Canadian government offices abroad. Passport applications accompanied by the required information and supporting documentation are usually processed within five working days if presented in person or up to three weeks if mailed to the Central Passport Office. When planning your departure time, however, allow yourself more time if you need a visa, since a valid passport is required before you can apply for a visa.

Your passport is valid for five years. If your passport is due to expire within the next six months, check with your host country's

embassy or consulate in Canada for its rules and restrictions regarding passport validity and expiration. Some countries will not let you enter if your passport is within six months of expiry.

Before you leave Canada, be sure to complete the "In case of accident or death notify" section in your passport. This will help us quickly notify your family or friends if an emergency arises. You should also prepare a "passport emergency kit" in case your passport is lost or stolen. This should include a photocopy of the identification page in your passport, an original of your birth or citizenship certificate, the address and telephone number of the Canadian government office abroad in the country in which you plan to work, and two recent passport-size photographs. Keeping this information in a safe place separate from your passport will save you time and money should you lose the originals. For added security, you may also want to leave a kit with a friend or relative at home.

If your passport is lost or stolen while you are overseas, report the loss or theft to the local police, obtain a copy of the police report and contact the nearest Canadian government office abroad immediately for a replacement. Before a new passport can be issued, you