

and children. The processing of an application accompanied by the required documentation *usually* takes up to 10 working days if the application is presented in person at a passport office, or at least 20 working days if it is mailed. So plan to apply well before your departure.

Visa

If you're planning to visit Hong Kong for up to 90 days or Macao for up to 30 days, you do not need a visa. For a longer stay, you can obtain a visa on arrival in Macao or Hong Kong, provided you have the necessary documentation. A visitor fee of 100 patacas for each adult and 50 patacas for each child up to 12 years old is applied on arrival in Macao. There is no visitor fee for Hong Kong.

If you're travelling to other parts of China, you will require a visa, which can be obtained in Canada. Further information is provided in the Visas and Documentation section and the Hong Kong section.

Health Insurance and Questionnaire

It is unlikely that your health insurance in Canada will provide adequate coverage while you are abroad. You must obtain appropriate health insurance before you leave. Make sure you understand the terms of your policy; it should cover all your

needs and those of all accompanying dependants.

Visitors to China are required to complete a health questionnaire on arrival, and it is prudent to carry documentation demonstrating that you have received all necessary immunizations. Statements made on the health questionnaire (for example, admitting that you are HIV positive) could result in denial of entry.

Health authorities in Canada can advise you about recommended precautions and vaccinations. Take into account that, in general, sanitation standards in China do not match those in Canada, and there are high levels of air pollution in the major cities. As in many Asian countries, drinking water can also be a problem. Take your prescription or over-the-counter medicines with you.

Residency and Work Permits

If you stay in China for an extended period, or if you receive remuneration from Chinese sources, you will need residency or work permits that must be obtained in China after your arrival. However, you should gather information on the process prior to your arrival in China from a Government of China embassy or consulate. This process can be bureaucratic and time-consuming, so be sure to allow adequate time for proper certification.