

The Passport Office issues diplomatic passports to Canadian diplomats and top-ranking government officials, including the Governor General, the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, Cabinet members and Lieutenant Governors of the provinces, as well as to diplomatic couriers and to private citizens nominated as official delegates of the Government of Canada to international conferences of a diplomatic nature.

A special passport is provided to representatives of the Canadian government travelling on official business. These include members of the Privy Council who are not members of the Cabinet, members of Parliament, provincial cabinet members, and private citizens nominated to conferences that are not diplomatic in nature.

Diplomatic or special passports may be provided to the families of the officials if the families are also travelling at public expense. The Minister of Foreign Affairs determines eligibility.

Both diplomatic and special passports are valid for five years, but entitlement to them ends when the official status of the bearer terminates or when the official duty terminates. When the entitlement ceases, the passport must be surrendered.

Canadian travellers stranded abroad may be issued emergency passports by Canadian diplomatic and consular missions on behalf of the Passport Office.

Canada issues refugee travel documents, authorized under the 1951 United Nations Convention on the Status of Refugees. These documents are issued to permanent residents, and some persons with Minister's permits, who have refugee status in Canada.

Certificates of identity are issued to stateless persons, legally landed in Canada, who do not yet qualify for Canadian citizenship, and who are unable to obtain a travel document from another country.

Refugee travel documents are endorsed for travel to all countries, except the holder's country of origin. The Certificate of Identity is endorsed for travel to countries specified in the document. Both of these documents are limited in their validity to one or two years, with provision for extension. During that time, the holders are able to take advantage of the opportunity to apply for Canadian citizenship, which will make them eligible to apply for a Canadian passport.