

Although every attempt has been made to provide accurate and up-to-date information on this complicated issue, definitive and authoritative information can be given only by the HKSAR Immigration Department.

The Right of Abode

As of July 1, 1997, persons not deemed to be of Chinese nationality can meet the definition of "permanent resident" as established in Section 24 (4) of the Basic Law if they:

- ✓ entered Hong Kong on a valid travel document;
- ✓ have ordinarily resided in Hong Kong for a continuous period of not less than seven years (if ethnic Chinese born in Hong Kong, the seven continuous years can be at any time, whereas for other foreigners the seven years must have occurred immediately prior to applying to be a permanent resident); and
- ✓ have taken Hong Kong as their place of permanent residency before or after the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

If a Canadian of Chinese ethnic origin who was born in Hong Kong returns to Hong Kong and does not declare to the HKSAR Immigration Department his or her Canadian citizenship, he or she will be deemed to be a Chinese national for the purpose of permanent residency. Persons who have Right of Abode status will have the following rights: