

their immigration system on three fundamental principles:

- employment;
- investment; and
- family connections.

Some countries also recognize retirees or people with a guaranteed minimum income as potential immigrants, but this is far from universal. For example, Mexico has a special category for retirees called *inmigrante rentista*, but the United States does not recognize retirement as a valid reason for establishing permanent residency in the country.

Countries that do recognize retirement as an immigrant category generally require proof of sufficient guaranteed income to support the retiree and any dependants. For example, Mexico requires a monthly income of about 17,460 pesos (400 times the minimum daily salary in Mexico City), and half as much again for each dependant. Costa Rica requires at least US\$600 per month.

Regardless of your country of destination, you will need proof of Canadian citizenship. A valid Canadian passport is the best form of proof, and is often required for entry. Many countries require prospective immigrants to apply before they leave Canada; others allow individuals to enter as

## **Assemble Documentation**

Are all your travel documents, including passports and visas, in order? Do you know how to contact the nearest Canadian government office?

tourists and then apply to immigrate. You should carefully research these aspects of any destination you are considering for retirement.

## **Canadian Citizenship**

Many countries do not recognize a person's right to have more than one nationality (citizenship). If you were born outside Canada or, in some instances, if your parents were born outside Canada, you may be regarded as a citizen of the other country. In some cases, the laws of your country of origin may provide for the revocation of your citizenship if you become a citizen of Canada, but this is not necessarily automatic. You may have to take overt action, such as living on a permanent basis in Canada, consistently using a Canadian passport, and obtaining a visa when you travel to your country of origin. In some countries, you can formally renounce citizenship.

Canadian citizenship can be relinquished only through a specific act of