

it has been decided that when an applicant submits a statutory declaration to the effect that he is unable to obtain an eligible guarantor of his passport application who has known him for the required period of time he will, henceforth, also be required to complete a supplementary questionnaire providing additional personal information through which he may be readily identified by the Passport Office. This questionnaire will form part of the statutory declaration and will be known as Form EXT 829.

Abolition of Passport Renewals

The steady increase in the number of passports reported lost or stolen annually by Canadian travellers, the majority of which are lost outside Canada, has reached a level requiring remedial measures because of the security hazard represented by unrecovered documents. Because of this hazard, the Government has decided that the renewal of Canadian passports should be eliminated and the passport limited to a single five-year term.

Passports now issued may not be renewed on the expiry of the original five-year period. Passports issued originally for five years and which have since been renewed for a further period of up to five years will continue to be valid until the expiry date given in the passport.

Decentralization of Passport Issuance

The Department has been asked to implement a programme for decentralization of passport issuance in relation to the nation's major international air terminals from which travellers depart, often on short notice on direct flights to overseas points. It is hoped that branch passport offices will be established in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver in approximately twelve months time as soon as staff resources permit; it is planned that a small office will be opened in the Maritimes at a later date.

Future decentralization will be undertaken in relation to the establishment of future major international departure airports and the volume of passport applications emanating from these areas which would be necessary to justify the expenses involved.

New Fee Schedule

The fee for a Canadian passport has remained at five dollars (\$5.00) for 43 years. The cost of operating the passport service has increased over the years to the point where it is now essential for the Department to adjust its fees to a sufficient level to recover fully the present costs for administering its passport service, provide the additional financial resources for underwriting its decentralization programme and the means to provide a more responsive service to the public.

In order to recover the expenses involved, the Government has found it necessary to introduce a new fee schedule which will increase the cost of a regular Canadian passport to ten dollars (\$10.00) and that of the businessman's passport (48-page document) to twelve dollars (\$12.00). The new fee schedule and the new passport requirements will come into effect at midnight tonight, January 22, 1969.