

Canada's agriculture and forestry. To enforce these laws, we have Canadian inspectors with dogs trained to sniff out plant and animal products. Before you leave, call a local office of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada for more information.

Canada Customs and Import Controls

You must declare everything acquired abroad, whether purchases for yourself or gifts, as well as goods bought at a Canadian or foreign duty-free store. Keep your original receipts for possible inspection.

If you've been away from Canada for 24 hours, you may claim C\$50 worth of goods, excluding alcohol and tobacco, duty-free. After 48 hours, you may claim C\$200. You can now claim the C\$500 exemption any time you have been away from Canada for seven days or longer.

Certain goods are restricted from entering Canada. If you are considering importing meat or dairy products, weapons, plants, vehicles, or exotic animals or products made from their skins or feathers, please contact Canada Customs beforehand for guidance.

Obscene materials, hate propaganda, most weapons including firearms, and goods harmful to the environment are prohibited from entering Canada.

If you have any questions about what you can bring home, call your local Canada Customs office. Someone is available 24 hours a day, year-round, to answer your questions. If you're calling in Canada, dial 1-800-461-9999 to reach the Automated Customs Information System. Outside Canada or from Ottawa, call (613) 993-0534.

Illegal Souvenirs

While travelling outside Canada, you may decide to purchase souvenirs. Unfortunately, many attractive items sold in foreign countries are made from endangered plants or animals.

Crocodile skin briefcases and wallets, python skin boots, ivory bracelets and carvings, coral earrings, cactus rainsticks,

tortoise shells, orchids and parrots are some of the more common items illegally brought back to Canada. These items are included in the more than 40,000 species of wild animals and plants regulated under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Under Canada's new **Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act (WAPPRIITA)**, a violation of CITES could lead to seizure of your purchase, as well as stiff penalties of up to \$150,000 and/or prison terms of up to five years.

The same rules apply if you already own an item made from a controlled wild animal or plant and you wish to take it out of Canada. Since other countries also have strict laws, it's safer to leave these items at home.

To determine what you can and cannot legally bring back into Canada please call **Environment Canada** at **(819) 997-1840** or fax them at **(819) 953-6283**.

After Residing Abroad

After a stay abroad of more than a year, there are special import provisions for household items and personal belongings when you move back to Canada. Information is contained in the brochure *Moving Back to Canada?*, available from Canadian missions abroad, your local customs office or from the Communications Branch, Revenue Canada, Customs and Excise, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0L5, telephone **(613) 993-0534** or **1-800-461-9999** (within Canada).

PART FIVE: PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

International Relations

- Diplomatic, Consular and Other Representatives in Canada*

This publication may be obtained for approximately \$15.00 each plus GST and shipping by writing to: Canada