

- direct you to sources of information about local laws, regulations, cultural customs and visas;
- assist with medical emergencies;
- replace passports (fees apply).  
However, not all offices are authorized to issue regular passports;
- try to ensure equitable treatment under local laws if you are arrested.  
At your request, they can inform relatives and friends about your arrest and try to ensure that legal rights and processes are extended to you consistent with the standards of the host country.  
However, they cannot set aside local laws if you are charged with an offence, or intervene in the judicial process of a foreign country. They cannot post bail, pay for a lawyer or pay your fines;
- notify your next of kin, with your authorization, regarding an accident or death and let them know whether, and how, they can help.

### ***Emergency Consular Services***

Canadian government offices abroad offer 24-hour assistance. Outside of office hours, your telephone call will automatically be transferred to a consular officer in Ottawa or you will be asked to leave a message for a return call. In either case, there will be a prompt response. If you leave a recorded message, make sure that it is clear and that you leave

a complete telephone number or contact address. In addition, you can make a collect call to the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade in Ottawa at (613) 996-8885. You may wish to use the Canada Direct service if it is available in the country you are calling from.

### **Voting**

Canadians who reside abroad are eligible to vote by absentee ballot in all federal elections. For details, consult the nearest Canadian government office abroad.

### **Opening a Bank Account**

You may wish to set up a bank account in your host country that is fed by funds from your Canadian account. To do this, you will need to go to a local foreign exchange bank with your passport, your alien registration card and Canadian banking information (your branch and account number). Usually, someone who can speak English or French will be available to assist you. The process can be complicated and time-consuming, and you should make sure that you have a source of funds during this period. Retain all documentation on financial transfers, as you may need it for local income tax purposes.