

Visitors to China are required to complete a health questionnaire on arrival, and it is prudent to carry documentation demonstrating that you have received all necessary immunizations. Health authorities in Canada can advise you about recommended precautions and vaccinations. Statements made on the health questionnaire (for example, admitting that you are HIV positive) could result in denial of entry. Take into account that, in general, sanitation standards in China do not match those in Canada, and there are high levels of air pollution in some of the major cities. Drinking water can also be a problem. Take your prescription or over-the-counter medicines with you.

People with special requirements should verify the availability of any facilities they need before visiting China. In general, people with disabilities can expect access to travel facilities and other public places to be more difficult than it is in Canada. You may have to make special arrangements to obtain amenities that you expect as a matter of course at home.

Before you go, you should read about the social, political and

economic environment in China. The Internet is a good source of information. The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade has brought together information on a wide range of programs and services related to China on a Web site called Canada's Window on China (<http://www.canada.org.hk>).

If possible, take time to learn some basic Mandarin or Cantonese, depending on your destination. These languages are tonal, and you may find pronunciation more difficult than with Western languages. However, the Chinese people you meet will appreciate your effort to communicate with them in their own language, even if it is just a few phrases.

Dual Nationality and Canadian Consular Services

China, like many countries, does not recognize a person's right to have more than one nationality (citizenship). Under the laws of China, when a citizen of China obtains a second nationality, there is a loss of Chinese citizenship. In practice, however, recognition of Canadian citizenship is not automatic. The person must take overt actions such as consistently using a Canadian passport and obtaining