

China. Internet service is available but is subject to certain government restrictions. The larger modern hotels have business centres that can provide translation, fax and printing services.

Politics

The close relationship between the Communist Party of China and the Government of the People's Republic of China means that there are few aspects of life in the country that do not have a political dimension. Moreover, Chinese citizens do not have the same rights or expectations of privacy that Westerners are accustomed to. The Chinese people you encounter may feel justifiably uncomfortable if you discuss politics, particularly if you are critical of their government—or even your own. If you

PROTOCOL TIPS CONVERSATION

Refer to the country as the People's Republic of China, or simply China. Taiwan is considered a province of China, so don't refer to it as a country.

are not a Chinese citizen, participation in any political activities will be considered inconsistent with your status, and you may be expelled from the country.

Canadian Consular Services

If you are going to remain in China for three months or more, you should register with the Canadian Embassy or nearest consulate. This will make it easier for them to help you if needed. Keep in mind, however, that your Canadian citizenship does not exempt you from any local laws or regulations. Moreover, Canadian officials may not be able to help you at all if you have Chinese citizenship.

The Canadian Embassy or consulates can help you with any of the following:

- contacting relatives at home in case of an emergency;
- dealing with medical emergencies;
- coping with situations such as natural disasters and civil or military conflict;
- accessing sources of information about local laws, regulations and customs;