

PRESS RELEASE

NO. 3

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JANUARY 22, 1969NEW PASSPORT REGULATIONS

The Honourable Mitchell Sharp, Secretary of State for External Affairs, today announced details of changes in passport requirements aimed at strengthening the Security of the Canadian passport. Changes announced are as follows:

Documentary Proof of Canadian Citizenship

Henceforth all applicants residing in Canada must provide documentary evidence of their claim to Canadian citizenship.

Persons claiming birth in Canada must present birth certificates, which are obtainable from the Registrar of Vital Statistics of the province in which the birth took place. Alternatively, they may present Certificates of Proof of Canadian Citizenship (includes a miniature certificate) which are obtainable from the Registrar of Canadian Citizenship, by application to him or through a clerk of Citizenship Court.

Applicants not born in Canada will be required to provide documentary evidence of Canadian Citizenship in the form of Certificates of Naturalization in Canada, Certificates of Canadian Citizenship or Certificates of Registration of Birth Abroad. Persons wishing to apply for a Canadian passport who do not hold one of these Certificates are urged to confirm their citizenship status with the nearest federal citizenship registration office, or the Registrar of Canadian Citizenship, Ottawa, and are advised that this procedure may take several weeks. In this way they would be able to submit with their passport application, documentary evidence to substantiate their claim to Canadian status.

Emergency Travel Situations

Fully completed applications already in the mail or which are at present being held by the Passport Office will be processed under the old requirements. It is recognized that undue hardship might be experienced by some applicants who have immediate travel plans and who do not have time before leaving Canada to apply for necessary certificates. In these cases the Passport Office has authority to provide temporary passport services in emergency situations. Passports of limited validity provided under these conditions will only be extended to their full validity upon submission of these limited validity passports if the documents are submitted before January 1, 1970.

Supplementary Information with Statutory Declaration in Lieu of Guarantor

Under existing passport requirements applicants who are unable to obtain guarantors of their applications are permitted to submit statutory declarations in lieu of guarantor. Because this procedure has certain weaknesses