

The Travel Documents

The Passport Office produces a number of travel documents:

- the 24-page passport
- the 48-page passport
- diplomatic passports
- special passports
- emergency passports
- refugee travel documents
- Certificates of Identity

The Canadian Travel Documents

Canadians like to travel. In 1991, Canadians took roughly 82 million trips outside the country and, although the large majority of these were to the United States, demand for Canadian travel documents is high. The Passport Office issues approximately 1.3 million of these documents annually.

In order to facilitate travel, and in response to both the status and the needs of our clients, the Passport Office is authorized to issue a number of different travel documents.

The **24-page passport** is the regular travel document, familiar to most Canadians. It is a blue booklet, 125 mm high x 92 mm wide. It is issued to Canadian citizens and is used for occasional travel — for example, vacations and business trips. This passport currently accounts for almost 98 per cent of all travel documents issued. The passport is valid for five years and is currently non-renewable. Children under 16 may be added to a parent's travel document or they may be issued their own. The current fee for the regular passport is \$35.

The **48-page passport** is virtually the same as the 24-page passport, but the extra pages make it handy for frequent travellers, for example, those who regularly do business abroad.

In addition to these two documents, the Passport Office issues **diplomatic passports** to Canadian diplomats and top ranking government officials including the Governor General, the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, Cabinet members, and Lieutenant Governors of the provinces as well as to diplomatic couriers and to private citizens nominated as official delegates of the Government of Canada to international conferences. The diplomatic passport is recognized by its burgundy cover.

A **special passport** is provided to representatives of the Canadian government travelling on official business. These include, among others, members of the Privy Council who are not members of the Cabinet, members of Parliament, provincial cabinet members, and private citizens nominated to conferences that are not diplomatic in nature. The special passport is green in colour.

Special or diplomatic passports may be provided to the families of the officials if the families are also travelling at public expense. Determinations regarding eligibility are made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Both special and diplomatic passports are valid for five years, but entitlement to them ends on the date of the termination of the official status of the bearer or on the date of the termination of the official duty. When the entitlement ceases, the passport must be surrendered.