

Risks and problems

There are also risks and problems associated with having more than one citizenship.

Recognition of Canadian citizenship: The most important of these is that your Canadian citizenship may not be recognized in the country of your second citizenship. The authorities of that country may not recognize Canada's right to provide you with consular assistance.

There could also be problems in other countries, especially if you used the travel document of the country of your second citizenship to gain entry. In such circumstances, the local authorities could decide that Canada does not have the right to provide consular assistance.

Military service: Many countries still have compulsory military service. If you are a citizen, and you meet other conditions, you may be legally required to register for military service and to respond to call-up orders. This legal obligation may exist even if

A Canadian from Toronto went to Italy with his Italian-born parents. He was informed by the Italian authorities that he was considered an Italian citizen and would be required to perform military service. He had to have family members in Toronto obtain certain documents and then have them certified by the Italian consulate before he was allowed to leave Italy.

you do not reside in the country of your second citizenship. Your obligations could be enforced even if you're just visiting at some point in the future.

Some countries do not accept ignorance as an excuse for failure to comply. The consequences could be imprisonment or immediate induction into military service the next time you arrive in the country or