

Goal 4: To maintain the integrity and reputation of Canadian travel documents, conducting projects to help us detect and prevent the fraudulent use of Canadian passports, and communicating with the public, stakeholders and third parties concerning fraud prevention.

The Passport Office has produced the passport brochure detailing the major security features of the current passport and providing an expert contact source to external organizations for additional advice, guidance and expertise. This material is being made available to border control authorities throughout the world.

The Passport Office worked closely with Interpol this year and participated on international conferences to address the issue of fraudulent travel documents and to set strategies against such problems.

prosecuted cases and investigations, as well as passport security details, is shared with law enforcement agencies (nationally and internationally) to establish anti-counterfeit and anti-smuggling strategies. The Passport Office is available to assist law enforcement agencies in investigations.

It is this sort of strategy and partnership that makes future abuses, counterfeiting, forgeries and altered travel documents identifiable, and establishes the Canadian passport as a very secure document, recognized worldwide.

Keeping the pace

This year, the Passport Office feels very strongly about its achievements in the area of security. Advancements in technology, machine-readable access cards, and security counter measures all had successful results,

?> Between 1947 and 1970, Canadians could apply only by mail to Ottawa for a passport. Requirements were very simple, and applicants claiming birth in Canada didn't have to provide proof. Within a few years, however, the number of lost and stolen passports rose, pointing out the need to tighten requirements. The shock of broad press coverage following the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., whose killer, James Earl Ray, had escaped arrest while travelling on a fraudulently-obtained Canadian passport, reinforced the need for changes. <

The Security, Policy and Entitlement directorate participated on the International Standards Organization (ISO) working group for passport specification standardization for machine-readable travel documents, and also the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) working party meetings on harmonizing machine readable travel documents. The issue of security is foremost on the agenda.

The Passport Office has expanded partnerships with CIC, RCMP and provincial agencies, and it continues to have a positive impact towards optimizing security.

For instance, the RCMP has always led the investigation and identification of active alien smuggling organizations, travel document counterfeiters, document vendors, alien couriers/escorts and both smuggling routes and trends. Information regarding

and contributed greatly to our achievements. Relationships with external law enforcement and government organizations have enhanced information sharing, and have led to a united front in addressing the needs of the individual and of the Government of Canada. Canada strives to remain at the leading edge in technological developments in passport design and processing systems with the goal of protecting the integrity of the travel document and remaining current with international security technology.

The security and technological projects taken and completed during 1996-97 were successful stepping stones into a secure 21st century.

