

special economic zones in the late 1970s. Today there are many partnerships between Chinese and Canadian compa-

nies in a wide variety of industries, from the traditional sectors to emerging technology and knowledge-based industries.

## Before You Go

The preparation you need depends on the purpose and duration of your trip. Regardless of where you are travelling in China and how long you will stay, ensure you have:

- a valid passport and the required visa;
- health insurance to cover you during your stay outside Canada; and
- the address of the Canadian Embassy or consulate nearest to where you will be travelling.

If you're travelling to Hong Kong, a valid Canadian passport is all that is required. If you're travelling to other parts of China, you will also require a visa. Visas can be obtained in Canada and also in Hong Kong, provided that you have the necessary documentation. There are seven types of visas and permits:

- "L" visa is issued to Canadians travelling either on group tours or as individual tourists;

- "F" visa is needed to conduct business in China;
- "Z" visa is required if you will be working in China;
- "G" visa is issued to travellers who will pass through China in transit;
- "X" visa is available to students attending accredited universities or colleges in China;
- "D" visa is issued to retirees to China; and
- special permission is required to visit Tibet.

If you stay in China for an extended period, or if you receive remuneration from Chinese sources, you will need additional residency and work permits that must be obtained in China after your arrival. This process can be bureaucratic and time-consuming, so be sure to allow adequate time for proper certification before you plan to start work.