

ing of the Canadian diplomatic and consular missions abroad, and obtain the details for your country of destination. Keep in mind, however, that your Canadian citizenship does not exempt you from any local laws or regulations. Moreover, Canadian officials may not be able to help you at all if you have acquired local status, such as citizenship.

Canadian consular officials can help you with any of the following:

- contacting relatives at home in case of an emergency;
- dealing with medical emergencies;
- coping with situations such as natural disasters and civil or military conflict;
- accessing sources of information about local laws, regulations and customs;
- replacing passports; and
- dealing with local authorities if you are arrested.

Canadian missions offer 24-hour emergency assistance. During non-office hours, a telephone call you make to a mission will be automatically transferred to a consular officer in Ottawa or you will be asked to leave a message on an answering machine. In either case, there will be a prompt response. You can also contact the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade in Ottawa at **(613) 996-8885**.

Returning to Canada

If you have established any form of legal status in another country, you may be expected to obtain departure clearance before returning to Canada. Some countries, for example, require a statement from tax authorities that you have met all your obligations; others terminate residency permits if you leave the country for an extended period. These rules are typically enforced by inspection of your travel docu-

ments on departure. You should also be prepared to pay airport departure taxes in local currency when you leave, and in any countries that you pass through on your way back to Canada.

With regard to bringing goods into Canada, the same provisions apply to everyone; there are no special benefits for Canadian residents who go south for the winter.