

Introduction

Canadians love to travel. Each year we make more than 100 million trips abroad for both business and pleasure. The vast majority of these excursions go off without a hitch.

But unfortunately all trips do not come with a hassle-free guarantee. Accidents, illnesses, legal problems and linguistic and cultural difficulties do occur.

Most problems are minor and you can usually solve them yourself. But if you run into more serious obstacles, our offices abroad are there to assist you.

If you are sick, in trouble or have lost your passport, our offices will do all they can to smooth your way.

Before You Go

Preparation is the key to a successful trip. By doing your homework before you leave, you minimize the chances of something going wrong.

Be Prepared

Before you board that airplane or train, take time to learn about the political, cultural and economic environment of your destination. Learn at least a few key phrases in the country's language. Even a

Bon Voyage, But ... will help you plan ahead. Read it before you book your next business trip or vacation abroad. And pack it in your luggage — it is a handy reference book of travel tips, important telephone numbers and addresses of Canadian government offices around the world.

For More Information

The "For More Information" section includes information on publications, resources and programs available from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, as well as from other government departments and agencies mentioned throughout the text.

modest command of the local language will go a long way.

When you are travelling, the laws of the country you are visiting apply to you too. Never assume that because you are a Canadian citizen you are immune to foreign laws.

Some countries experience ongoing wars, insurgencies or sporadic unrest. Find out if your destination

is known to be dangerous. Country Travel Reports, published by the Consular Affairs Bureau of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, provide information on safety and security conditions, health issues and entry and visa requirements for over 220 travel destinations. This information is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

If you require assistance abroad, contact the nearest Canadian government office. Addresses and telephone numbers are listed at the end of this booklet.

When travelling abroad, you may wish to use *Canada Direct*, an automated long-distance access service that allows you to call home to Canada or to other countries using the Canadian telecommunications network. Simply dial the access number for the country you are in and follow the voice prompts. If required, a bilingual Canadian operator is always available to assist you. For *Canada Direct* access numbers, see the list at the end of this booklet.

While you are abroad, tune in to Radio Canada International (RCI) or consult the RCI Web site for the latest news. RCI also broadcasts messages from the Canadian

government during emergency situations. Check with RCI to obtain a schedule of the times and frequency of broadcasts to different parts of the world.

Is Your Passport in Order?

Your passport is the best proof of your Canadian citizenship. You and all family members should have a valid passport if you plan to travel outside Canada.

Passport applications are available at passport offices, post office outlets and Canadian government offices abroad. Allow at least three weeks for delivery of your new passport.

If your passport is due to expire within six months of your arrival in another country, check with that country's embassy or consulate in Canada for its rules and restrictions regarding passport validity and expiration. Some countries will not let you enter if your passport is due to expire within six months of entry.

Before you leave on your trip, be sure to complete the "In case of accident or death notify" section in your passport. This will help us quickly notify your family or friends if an emergency arises.

Make a photocopy of your passport's identification page and keep it