

are allowed to send home. The amount of money you are permitted to leave with or to transfer may be strictly regulated by your host country. Keep all receipts and transaction records.

When working overseas, you should try to have your salary paid in Canadian or U.S. dollars. If you are paid in local currency, make sure that you know the exchange rate; the relative value of your salary could be seriously affected by changes to that rate.

Marriage and Divorce While Abroad

In other countries, the procedures surrounding relationships can be more difficult than at home. If you decide to marry while you are abroad, make sure you understand the local requirements and laws. If your future spouse is not a Canadian citizen, find out whether he or she would be eligible to travel back to Canada with you on either a temporary or a permanent basis. This information can be obtained from the nearest Canadian government office abroad.

Divorce or separation could be more complicated abroad than in Canada. Property settlement and child custody issues will be different too. If your spouse is a citizen of the country in which you

are living, he or she may have more rights than you do as a foreigner. Always make sure that you understand the laws and local procedures. Establish whether what you do locally will be legally recognized on your return to Canada. Do nothing without the advice and guidance of a lawyer.

Respecting Local Customs and Laws

Difficult situations or frustrating confrontations can sometimes occur if you are unaware of the local customs and laws of your host country. Be wise and learn ahead of time what behaviour is appropriate and what is likely to offend the local citizens.

More than 2,000 Canadians are currently imprisoned abroad for various offences. Keep in mind that, while in a foreign country, you are subject to its laws and regulations. Ignorance is no defence, and your Canadian citizenship offers you no immunity.

If you are arrested or detained, you can request that the arresting officer inform the nearest Canadian government office abroad. You will need a lawyer, and the consular official can refer you to one who speaks English or French. In the meantime, be aware that what you say can be used against you. Avoid making any statements