

environment in Mexico before you go. If possible, take time to learn some basic Spanish. Mexicans appreciate visitors who make an effort to communicate with them in their own language, even if it is just a few phrases.

Business people may want to consult the Information Source on Mexico, export *i*, on the Internet (<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/>

exporti) which provides market summaries, market profiles, business guides and business tools for doing business in Mexico. The Mexico Trade Action Plan is also available through the Department's Internet home page (<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>). A look at the Canadian Embassy Web site (<http://www.canada.org.mx>) will also certainly prepare you better for your trip.

Entering Mexico

Some procedures for entering Mexico are more complex than their Canadian equivalents. Some visitors make the mistake of assuming that, if a particular requirement is not enforced on one trip, it will be the same the next time. But because of increased visitor traffic, especially since the advent of the NAFTA, officials are enforcing some regulations more vigorously than in the past. Moreover, there is always potential for differing interpretations between ports of entry or individual officials. For example, visitors who have never been asked to return their tourist documents on departure may be surprised when they miss a flight because of a lost form. Prudent visitors always obey the law, even

though it might not seem to be enforced in a particular instance.

Travel Documents

As already mentioned, proof of citizenship is the fundamental document for all foreign travel, and Mexico is no exception. A passport is the best way to provide this proof. Naturalized Canadian citizens must present a valid passport. Carry a marriage certificate if your name is different from the one on your birth certificate or photo identification. The other required documents vary depending on your personal circumstances as well as the mode and purpose of your trip. It is prudent to have copies of each document so you can carry