

it may, however, help in the transfer of funds from Canada for these purposes.

**Canadian diplomatic or consular missions cannot provide you with services ordinarily performed by travel agencies, banks or hotels. They cannot make hotel reservations or travel arrangements, cash cheques or provide loans. Nor can they assist in finding employment, or in obtaining residence or work permits, or driving licenses.**

If you are charged with an offence Canadian diplomatic or consular officials cannot set aside local law on your behalf. In general they can intervene only in situations where discrimination or a denial of justice is evident. It is, however, important that as soon as possible after the arrest you request the police or prison officials to contact the nearest Canadian Consul. Contact with the Consul is a right under international law. While unable to interfere with local justice the Consul can inform relatives or friends, provide names of local lawyers, assist in obtaining funds from family or friends, send back reports of the prisoner's condition, and attempt where possible to improve the conditions of detention.

**In an EMERGENCY, be it a natural disaster, civil disturbance, hostilities involving the country in which you are, or case of urgent need, quickly get in touch with the nearest Canadian mission. If there is no resident Canadian mission, you may receive help from the mission of a friendly country, e.g. Australian, British... You will be assisted in whatever way possible in the circumstances.**

## Other Information

**Money and Currency** — Before leaving Canada, consult a bank or foreign currency exchange company about the most appropriate form in which to carry your funds. In some countries, including parts of the United States,

traveller cheques in Canadian dollars and even Canadian currency may not be accepted by hotels, stores, or banks. Similarly, some credit cards, money orders and bank drafts may not be honoured. Banks and companies specializing in foreign exchange transactions can give you advice and services.

You may wish to obtain a small amount of different currencies you will need on arrival in each country. **Some countries require a currency declaration upon arrival.** You may be asked to prove when leaving that you are not taking out of the country more money than you imported. Most countries insist that currency exchange be carried out at officially designated banks or change offices and at approved and set rates of exchange. The authorities may consider any other type of currency exchange (such as between private persons) to be black-marketeering, an offence often punishable by confiscations, severe fines and lengthy jail sentences. Check with the foreign missions in Canada or with your travel agent about currency regulations in countries you intend to visit.

**Keep a separate record of your travellers cheques or credit cards. In the event of loss or theft, they can then be promptly cancelled and replaced.**

**Health Care Abroad** — The cost of medical treatment and hospitalization outside Canada is often prohibitively expensive. While no traveller wants to think of an accident or illness marring a trip, such things happen and it may prove a major shock to discover, for instance, that hospital and doctor's bills of many thousands of dollars must be paid in cash before securing release from a foreign medical institution. Check your present governmental, employer or personal medical insurance coverage and enquire about "Outside of Canada" medical insurance available from a number of Canadian insurance companies. **While travelling, carry your provincial insurance plan identification card and proof of supplementary travel medical insurance taken privately.**