

HOW CAN YOU PREVENT PROBLEMS?

If you are a dual citizen, or are considering becoming one, you can minimize risks and complications for yourself and your family by learning about the consequences of having dual citizenship and taking these actions:

- **Know your citizenship status.** Obtain information from the appropriate authorities of any country where you may be a citizen. Also be sure to contact Citizenship and Immigration Canada or the nearest Canadian government office abroad. Canadian officials will be happy to provide you with information or tell you where it may be available.
- **Find out whether dual citizenship will create difficulties for you,** if the country of your other citizenship recognizes dual nationality, and whether you can keep your foreign citizenship, before applying for Canadian citizenship.

Dual citizenship and parental child abductions

Many international child abductions involve parents and children with dual citizenship. If the abducting parent carries a second passport, Canadian authorities may encounter difficulties in preventing the abduction. The Government of Canada cannot prevent another country from providing passport services to Canadian parents or children who are also citizens of that country.

You or your lawyer can request that a foreign diplomatic or consular mission not provide passport services for your child. To do so, provide the mission with a written request, along with a certified copy of any court orders dealing with custody or foreign travel by your child. Inform the foreign mission that you have also sent a copy of your request to Consular Services of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada in Ottawa.

For more information, consult the publication *International Child Abductions: A Manual for Parents* at www.travel.gc.ca.