

March 23, 1988

CFX-0267

TRAVEL ABROAD BY PROVINCIAL MINISTERS
SPECIAL PASSPORTS

The Department of External Affairs and its missions abroad are anxious to work with provinces to maximize the success of their official travel abroad. To facilitate such official travel, the Department is authorized to issue, on request, "special" official passports for all premiers, cabinet ministers, speakers of legislative assemblies and leaders of the opposition and their wives.

Applications for "special" passports should be made on the same application form as for ordinary blue passports, should include an original of a birth certificate, a proof of citizenship or an ordinary passport, and two pictures. No fee is charged but the title of the minister requesting the passport should be given in the two official languages and it should be specified on the application form that it is for a "special passport". Special passports are valid for the duration of time a minister holds a specific portfolio. They should be returned for amendment or issuance of a new special passport on change of portfolio. It should be surrendered when the holder ceases to be a minister of the crown. Applications should be sent to Mrs F. Despard-St. Jacques, Official Travel, Passport Bureau, Department of External Affairs, 200 Promenade du Portage, Place du Centre, Hull, P.Q. K1A 0G3. Alternatively, applications may be submitted through the regional passport offices.

It should be noted that to obtain a "special" passport, one does not have to be holder of/or request an "ordinary" passport. However, as nobody should be in possession of two passports, should the applicant already hold an "ordinary" passport, it should be returned with the application for a "special" passport. It will be kept at the passport office until the "special" passport is returned.