

DUAL NATIONALITY AND CANADIAN CONSULAR SERVICES

China, like many countries, does not recognize the right of a person to have more than one nationality (citizenship). Under the laws of China, when a citizen of China obtains a second nationality, there is an automatic loss of Chinese citizenship. In practice, however, the loss does not occur unless a person undertakes such overt actions as living on a permanent basis in Canada, consistently using a Canadian passport, obtaining a visa from the Chinese authorities for entry into China or renouncing Chinese citizenship in writing to the Chinese authorities. (The renunciation of Chinese citizenship is provided for in Chinese law, but it has not been possible to obtain specific details on how it can be done.)

Canadian law permits a Canadian to have more than one nationality. However, it is the policy of the Canadian government to encourage Canadians to use their Canadian passport when travelling abroad and always to present themselves as Canadian to foreign authorities. Experience has shown that several governments, including the Government of China, do not recognize the right of the Government of Canada to provide consular protection to Canadians who have not specified their Canadian citizenship in dealing with local authorities. Although the Government of Canada will attempt to offer assistance in such situations, it may be extremely difficult to do so. *Canadians who have obtained permanent residency status in Hong Kong on a basis other than their Canadian citizenship*