

PRESS RELEASE



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OPENING OF EMERGENCY PASSPORT OFFICES

Honourable Mitchell Sharp, Secretary of State for External Affairs, announced today that because of the postal strike, the Department has authorized that emergency passport issuing offices be opened in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver, until normal mail services have been resumed.

The temporary offices will be in operation at the following addresses by tomorrow morning, July 19:

Montreal	National Revenue Building, 1st Floor, 305 Dorchester Street West
Toronto	Mackenzie Building, 2nd Floor, Adelaide Street East
Vancouver	Begg Building, 3rd Floor, 1110 Georgia Street West

The purpose of the temporary offices is to issue or renew passports to all Canadian citizens who are required to travel immediately because of the death or serious illness of a close relative abroad, or because of an urgent business appointment.

The offices will also provide passport facilities to citizens who are required to travel abroad shortly and whose applications or passports are inaccessible temporarily in the mails.

Applications will also be received and examined from persons who are proceeding abroad at a reasonably early date.

Applicants who are not planning to proceed abroad through one of the gateway terminal cities previously mentioned may forward their applications to the Passport Office, Ottawa, either through their travel agents or transportation company, or themselves by one of the express services. Travel agents or persons forwarding applications to Ottawa should indicate what delivery arrangements are to be made for the completed passport.

As the Passport Office completes applications in process, it will inform the applicant by telegram suggesting that he get in touch with his travel agent or transportation company to complete arrangements for obtaining delivery of the passport, and to notify these details to the Passport Office by telegram. In such cases, the transportation company will be acting on the applicant's behalf.