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Passport Canada » What's New

What's New

News Release

October 1, 2007

New guarantor policy in effect

Gatineau, Québec - The Honourable Maxime Bernier, Minister of Foreign Affairs today announced a new guarantor policy for Canadian passports. This new policy allows most Canadian adult passport holders residing in Canada or the U.S. to act as guarantors for passport applications. Today's announcement is the next step in the continued efforts by Canada's New Government to improve passport services.

"Canada's New Government is taking positive action to improve passport services for Canadians. And unlike the previous government, we are delivering results. In only a few months, we have increased Passport Canada's capacity by 40%, we have launched the simplified passport renewal process and we are announcing today the new guarantor policy," said the Honourable Maxime Bernier, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Under the new policy effective today, an eligible guarantor must:

- Be a Canadian citizen 18 years of age or older;
- Hold a five-year Canadian passport that is valid or has been expired for no more than one year;
- Have been 16 years of age or older when they applied for their own passport; and
- Have known the applicant personally for at least two years.

Demand for Canadian passports has more than doubled over less than a decade. In 1999-2000, Passport Canada issued 1.7 million passports. In 2006-2007, it issued 3.6 million passports and this fiscal year, the figure is expected to reach more than four million.

Now, any family member as well as any individual residing at the applicant's address may act as guarantor, provided he or she meets the requirements noted above. To simplify the verification of guarantor eligibility, Passport Canada will use its own database, thereby increasing the security and efficiency of the process.

For more information on travel documentation required for travel to the United States and upcoming changes due to the U.S. Western Hemispheric Travel Initiative, please visit: <http://www.cbsa.gc.ca/agency/whti-ivho/menu-e.html>.

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What's New

June 8, 2007

New Guarantor Policy

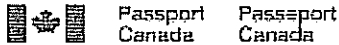
On October 1, 2007, Passport Canada will introduce a simpler guarantor policy, which will allow most Canadian adult passport holders to act as guarantors.

Under this new policy, to be a guarantor, a passport holder:

- Must hold a five-year Canadian passport that is valid or has been expired for no more than one year,
- May be a family member,
- May reside at the same address as the applicant,
- Must have known the applicant for at least two years, and
- Must be a Canadian citizen 18 years of age or older and must have been 16 years of age or older when they applied for their own passport.

By moving to a Canadian passport holder criterion for guarantor declarations, Passport Canada will be able to verify guarantor information from its own database, and will not have to rely on occupational directories.

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What's New

June 8, 2007

Simplified Passport Renewal Program

The Simplified Passport Renewal Program will be available as of August 15, 2007, and is part of a broader effort to modernize Canadian passport services.

It will allow Canadian citizens who meet certain eligibility criteria to renew their passport using a shorter form and without submitting documentary evidence of citizenship, supplementary identification and a guarantor declaration. Under the renewal program, passport applicants will only be required to submit the shorter form along with two new photos, the application fee and their last passport.

Canadians who meet the following eligibility criteria will be able to benefit from this program:

- They must be residing in Canada at the time they apply.
- They must have resided in Canada at the time of their previous application.
- They were 16 years old or over at the time of their previous application.
- Their previous passport:
 - Must have been valid for five years,
 - Must have been issued after January 31, 2002,
 - Was never damaged or reported as lost or stolen, and
 - Must have been issued under their current name.

This program will yield benefits to both passport applicants and Passport Canada. Applicants will save time and will not have to surrender important documents such as their birth certificates or citizenship cards for an extended period of time. Passport Canada's productivity will increase, as fewer steps will be required for the entitlement and screening of each file. Renewal applications are still subject to all current security verifications.

The new Simplified Passport Renewal Program application form will be available at all Passport Canada service points and through Passport Canada's Web site, and it will be accepted at all of Passport Canada offices, through receiving agents and by mail.

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