

## **Passport and Customs Information for Canadian Citizens Traveling to the United States**

*NOTE: This information is compiled from available public information to assist Canadian travelers attending the Spiritual Care Collaborative's Spiritual Care Summit '09 in February, 2009. All Canadian travelers can find the most up-to-date information on passport and customs information at the following Web sites: [www.passport.gc.ca](http://www.passport.gc.ca) and [www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca). Other international travelers should check the requirements of their country for passage into the United States.*

### **Canadian citizens traveling by air to, through or from the United States must present one of the following documents:**

- a valid Canadian passport; or
- a valid NEXUS card when used at participating airports.

This requirement applies to all travelers, regardless of age, including children.

NOTE: All travelers (including Canadians) departing the United States by air to **any** destination (including Canada) must present a valid passport (or NEXUS card for return to Canada only). For example, if a Canadian citizen enters the United States by land by presenting acceptable documents other than a passport, and then plans to board a flight in the United States destined for Mexico (i.e. an international destination other than Canada), a valid passport is required for the air travel. Similarly, if a Canadian citizen drives to the United States and returns to Canada by air, a valid passport or a NEXUS card must be presented to board the plane. It is important to note that a passport is not mandatory for air travel **within** the United States.

Canadian citizens intending to fly to, through or from the United States should apply for a passport, keep it up to date and carry it with them when travelling.

The NEXUS program offers a simplified and expedited border clearance process to low-risk, pre-approved travellers. For more information, visit [www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca).

### **Canadian citizens traveling by land to the United States must present one of the following:**

- a government-issued photo ID, such as a driver's licence, PLUS a birth certificate or citizenship card;
- or a valid passport; or
- a NEXUS card; or
- a Free and Secure Trade (FAST) card; or
- an enhanced driver's license; or
- a Certificate of Indian Status card; or
- for those aged 18 years and under only proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate, is required.

Canadian citizens 15 years of age and under will only require proof of citizenship, such as an original or a copy of a birth certificate, or a Canadian citizenship card. Canadian citizens 18 years of age and under who are travelling with a school or other organized group under adult supervision with parental/guardian consent may also present proof of citizenship alone.