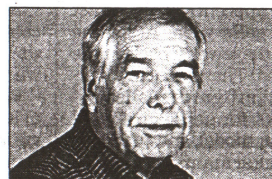


## LIFE

# A solid ID for unsettling times

murderous terrorist attacks in New York and Washington on Sept. 11 created a sense of identity crisis for as well as for Americans. It has become important to be able to prove yourself, to have papers, to prove you are who you are. The federal government, criticized for lax controls and immigrant rights for terrorist attacks, is now rushing to introduce a new ID card for all Canadians. The photo ID cards will replace the current paper document, considered easy to counterfeit. The federal government is tightening its rules for issuing birth and citizenship certificates, the main documents for obtaining a Canadian passport. It's also reviving its desire to introduce a voluntary citizenship card.



JIM STEWART

SENIORS

But polls suggest most Canadians approve of the idea of tighter identification procedures. They want reassurance that the borders will be as secure as possible against people coming into the country under false pretenses and with evil intent.

I suspect there will be a run on re-

quests for birth certificates, Canadian passports and citizenship certificates. Most Canadians already know about birth certificates and passports, and how to go about getting them. The Canadian Citizenship Certificate is less well known, but next to a passport, it's probably the most reliable and effective ID available.

The certificate is issued automatically to new citizens, but any Canadian citizen can get one. It's an official identity document, issued by the government of Canada, which certifies that its holder is a Canadian. It does not replace a passport, which is required for most travel abroad. But it is currently accepted in North America and parts of the Caribbean as documentary evidence of your right to re-enter Canada.

The wallet-size plasticized document can be used as proof of citizenship when applying for jobs or a passport and in many other circum-

stances. An application kit can be obtained from the local Citizenship and Immigration Call Centre, at (514) 496-1010.

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**Could you tell me where to get a list of seniors' residences in the Montreal area? And is there an organization that would take me around to visit some of those places? J.S.**

The Information and Referral Centre of Greater Montreal publishes a comprehensive guide to private residences for self-sufficient seniors. It costs \$15 and can be obtained by calling the Centre at (514) 527-1375.

Local CLSCs also have consultants specializing in helping seniors, including those who have lost autonomy, find suitable residences.

A number of organizations will

arrange transportation for seniors wanting to look at prospective residences before making a choice. One of the best is Helping Seniors, which offers support every step of the way. In most cases, says president Marie-Claude Giguère, the services are free. Call Helping Seniors at (514) 748-7485 for information or a free copy of its useful booklet on key questions to ask when looking for a residence.

The McGill Information Services for Seniors, headed by Ginette Mayrand, is another good place to start any search. It has excellent contacts with a wide range of public and private services for seniors. Call (514) 888-4055.

✦ You can contact Jim Stewart by writing him c/o the Living Section, The Gazette, 250 St. Antoine St. W., Montreal H2Y 3R7 or by calling (514) 987-2553; please leave your name and phone number. Personal replies cannot be provided.