

NORTHERN AFFAIRS

by Bev Young

IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS:

There are many instances where a person is required to prove his or her place and date of birth, or is asked for personal identification.

For example, persons born in Canada must now submit a copy of their birth certificate or certificate of Canadian citizenship in order to obtain a Canadian passport.

Recent changes in regulations concerning Social Insurance Numbers also require applicants to support their applications for Social Insurance Numbers and amendments to Social Insurance Numbers with copies of their birth certificate. Applications for Old Age Security and Canada Pension benefits must also be supported by a birth certificate.

Other instances where a birth certificate or identifying document is required include: (a) Application for Ontario driver's licence. (b) Enrollment in Minor Hockey Association (c) School enrollment. (d) Employment (some employers). (e) Border crossing (into U.S.A.). (f) Premises licensed under the Liquor Control Act. (g) Cashing cheques.

In order to avoid embarrassment or delays when asked for this type of identification, our office suggests that everyone carry proper identification documents on their person at all times. Firstly, we would recommend that you obtain a copy of your birth certificate. This can be accomplished by making application to the respective Vital Statistics office in the province in which you were born. Our office has application forms for every province in Canada in this regard. In Ontario the fee is \$3.00.

We would recommend that Canadian citizens, either born in Canada or outside Canada, obtain a miniature certificate of Canadian citizenship. This document is plasticized and contains your photograph and other pertinent personal information. The fee is \$2.00 and application forms are available at our office.

For persons 18 years of age and over, the Ontario Government has made an Age of Majority card available and application forms can be obtained at Liquor Control Board outlets throughout Ontario and from Northern Affairs offices. This plasticized wallet size card contains your photograph and date of birth. The fee for this card is \$2.00.

Finally, everyone should have a Social Insurance Number. Application forms are available from U.I.C. offices & Northern Affairs offices and there is no fee involved.

For more information, or application forms, please contact the Northern Affairs office, Peninsula Bldg., Marathon.

CORRESPONDENCE COURSES 1976-1977:

The Ministry of Education has just published its latest booklet outlining the elementary and secondary school correspondence courses for the 1976-1977 year. One of the educational opportunities the Ministry offers to residents of Ontario is its program of secondary school and elementary school correspondence courses. A large number of adult and school-age students, with varying backgrounds and objectives, benefit from this opportunity for example; mature students who wish to further their education or complete secondary school; to gain admission to university, college, or training courses, or earn promotion in their employment; persons who wish to study, for personal satisfaction, subjects related to their interests, hobbies, or employment; Senior Division public secondary school students who wish to supplement their school programs; students temporarily absent from the province who wish to maintain continuity in their education; students who are unable to attend school for medical reasons or because of distance from school. By means of these courses, the student is able to receive carefully prepared lesson assignments based on public and high school courses of study. Lessons are sent out on a regular basis and answer sheets and envelopes are provided. These courses are free and all books and supplies are provided by the Ministry.

A counselling service is also available to assist applicants to select courses, plan programs, to answer questions about requirements for courses and diplomas, and to provide consultation on matters related to the program of study. Upon completion of a course or program, a student is granted the appropriate certificate. All certificates have the same validity as the certificates and diplomas issued by elementary and secondary schools.

It should also be noted that a student may be granted credit allowances for maturity and length of time out of school for the successful completion of equivalent courses that are not normally identified as a secondary school course, and for the successful completion of apprenticeship training.

Information may be obtained by contacting the Correspondence Education Branch, Ministry of Education, 909 Yonge Street, Toronto, or by contacting Northern Affairs, Lower Floor, Peninsula Bldg., Marathon Phone 229-II53. In Terrace Bay and Manitowadge at the Municipal Office.

INCOME TAX:

The New Year again brings new hopes, new joys and income tax. If you are a pensioner with very little or no taxable income it is to your advantage to file a return. In this way you become eligible for Ontario Tax Credits.

These credits may either off-set taxes paid or be received in the form of a rebate.

The Ontario Property Tax Credit may be claimed by all individuals resident in Ontario on December 31, 1976. Exceptions: persons under 16 and persons under 21 who live at home and are claimed as dependents. The credit must be claimed by the spouse having the higher taxable income. Only the tax or rent paid in respect of your principal residence may be included.

The sales tax credit may be claimed by all individuals resident in Ontario on December 31, 1976. Exceptions: Persons under 16, persons claimed as dependents for income tax purposes by any other person resident in Ontario.

The pensioner tax credit may be claimed by all individuals resident in Ontario on December 31, 1976, who are age 65 or over, except for a married couple where both are 65, only the spouse with the higher taxable income is entitled to claim. Where no taxable income exists, the spouse claiming the property tax credit is required to claim the pensioner tax credit.

The Northern Affairs Offices will be happy to assist persons with no taxable income in completing a return. We are primarily interested in aiding pensioners and to this end hope to set up Tax Credit Clinics. If you wish, you may attend at any Northern Affairs Office for assistance. The address appears below. Please be prepared to provide the total amount of rent or taxes paid in 1976 and in the case of married pensioners, decide who is to claim the credits.

The Northern Affairs Office is located on the Lower Floor of the Peninsula Bldg., Marathon - Phone 229-II53.

The Northern Affairs Officer is available at the Municipal Offices in Schreiber and Terrace Bay on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. If you prefer an appointment please leave your name at the Municipal Offices.

NOTICE TO ALL SCHREIBER HYDRO CUSTOMERS

The Schreiber Hydro Commission will not accept the discount payment after the discount date. This also includes late payments that arrive at the bank through the mail.

SCHREIBER HYDRO ELECTRIC COMMISSION