

Tips while away for a lengthy period



- 1. Passports/Nexus** — Check to see that your passports/nexus cards are up to date and renewed. Scan a copy to your email and leave a copy with a family member.
- 2. Medication** — Make sure you have enough medications for the duration of your trip. If you're flying, it's safer to store any important medications in your carry-on baggage rather than your checked luggage, in case it's delayed or goes missing.
- 3. Banking** — Let your bank know that you will be away. Make sure authorized payments have been set up for all necessary bills.
- 4. Home Insurance** — Talk to your broker to see what's required while you're away for a lengthy period. A home is considered vacant if left unsupervised for more than 30 days and could void the policy. Leave a copy of the insurance documents with a family member or neighbour.
- 5. Car Insurance** — If you're not taking the car on your trip then there are ways to save money by reducing coverages on the policy. If you are taking the car on your trip, then make sure you've spoken with your broker about having the vehicle rated properly and leave a copy of the insurance papers at home with family.
- 6. Regular House Visits** — Have a neighbour check in on your property on a regular basis. This might help meet home insurance requirements. They can keep an eye on your home and help with snow removal/icing and other maintenance issues to help avoid the house looking vacant.
- 7. Mail/Newspapers** — Try and put a stop on all mail and newspaper services. You can try to forward the mail to your winter address. Also have someone stop by on a regular basis to collect what has been delivered.
- 8. Prepare Your Home** — Shut off the main water supply. Set the interior lights on a timer and make sure there are enough exterior lights on motion detectors to deter burglars. Unplug all electronics, this includes TVs and internet modems. If possible, empty the fridge and freezer entirely in case of a power interruption. Check to see that the smoke detectors are properly functioning and if it's been a while since you last changed the batteries, perhaps now is the time. The last thing you can do is to make a list of all your valuable items along with pictures in case there is a fire.
- 9. TV/Internet/Phone** — Adjust these services as needed to help save some money. Make sure you have an appropriate plan for your cell phone to avoid costly roaming charges.
- 10. Social Media** — Refrain from posting travel plans on social media websites. This might let the wrong person know that you aren't in town.