

## Questions and Answers - New Birth Certificate Design

### **Q: What's new about this design?**

**A:** The new certificate is 5 inches wide by 7 inches high. The new size is designed to discourage people from carrying it in their wallet or purse because certificates are frequently lost or stolen. Birth certificates, because they are a foundation document, should be stored in a safe place unless it is needed.

The stock for the new document is high security polymer plastic. Specifically, the certificate has:

- Two transparent windows one with a colour shifting property and one with three 'floating' maple leaves
- Unique watermark/shadow features maple leaves; Canada geese
- Thread feature containing the "CANADA" repeated
- Tactile printing similar to that found on Canadian currency
- Colour shifting printing, "CANADA" in three waves below the clear window containing the maple leaves (purple/green); and
- Contains the provincial brand in colour with the jurisdiction's seal and a signature

The new design also contains certain forensic feature that assists authorities in determining validity of the document.

### **Q: Why is the design being changed?**

**A:** The standard certificate in use is more than 30 years old. While features have been added, with new developments in technology and emerging threats related to identity theft, tampering and counterfeiting, the Vital Statistics Council for Canada recognized the need to update the standard document design to offer the latest protection against counterfeiting and tampering.

### **Q: When will the new certificates be available?**

**A:** All babies born on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 and after will receive the new certificate.



**Q: Should individuals who have older, NWT issued birth certificates be concerned about their identity fraud or identity theft?**

**A:** Birth certificates are a foundation identity document and we should be vigilant about protecting ourselves against identity fraud and identity theft.

People should ensure that birth certificates are kept in a safe location at all times, and they should not carry their birth certificates in a wallet or purse for use as a general identification.

Although there is no requirement to do so at this time, people in this territory may order a new format birth certificate at any time.

**Q: How much will the new birth certificate cost?**

**A:** The cost of the new birth certificate will be \$20. There is no increase in cost to the public.

**Q: What about old certificates – are they still valid?**

**A:** Yes.

Your current birth certificate will continue to be a valid NWT birth certificate.

In some instances where identity security is of utmost importance, citizens may be asked by other agencies to provide the new, more secure document as proof of identity or citizenship.

**Q: Are old certificates being replaced free of charge?**

**A:** No. The fee is required to cover the costs of production and issuance of the new document.

**Q: Can individuals born in other provinces get the new secure birth certificates?**

**A:** You must apply for your birth certificate from your province of birth. Most Canadian provinces and territories already have adopted the new certificate. Ontario is the only other jurisdiction that has not yet implemented the polymer style.

