

Congratulations

YOU ARE OFF TO CANADA!



WHERE TO START?

Once your Immigrant visas have been placed into your passport and you have received your Confirmation of Permanent Residency papers, you are ready to go to Canada.

You need to ensure all family members enter Canada before the expiry date shown on the visas (yes this includes the kids as well). You do not have to enter at the same time, but the main applicant either needs to enter Canada first, or all family members need to enter together.

When you arrive at the airport in Canada you will need to present your passports, Confirmation of Permanent Residency documents, and completed customs card (you receive this on the plane). Once you arrive, they will direct you to immigration to process your documents and customs paperwork (see "Declaring Your Goods"). Once the officer has signed your documents, they will give you back the copy of your Confirmation of Permanent Residency without the photo on it. This is a very important document and you must keep it safe. I would also recommend making a copy or taking a photo of it.

You can read the Canadian Government's Official Welcome to Canada Handbook [here](#).



ARRIVING IN CANADA

Once you arrive in Canada, you will need to present:

- 1) your COPR and/or your permanent resident visa,
- 2) your passport, and
- 3) proof that you have the funds to support yourself and your family.

The officer will make sure that all of your documents are valid and will ask you a few questions to make sure that you still meet the requirements to immigrate to Canada. This should only take a few minutes, but the wait times to see the officer vary based on which airport you are landing at. The officer will also confirm your Canadian mailing address. Your permanent resident card will be mailed to you at this address. The cards cannot be mailed outside of Canada.



DECLARING YOUR GOODS

On your first entry into Canada you will need to declare all of the goods that you will be bringing into Canada, whether they are accompanying you on that first trip or not (i.e they are being shipped over later). You will need to complete a BSF186 - Personal Effects Accounting Document, [which you can download here](#), and present it to the officer on arrival. If you have specific questions on this document, you will need to contact the Canada Border Services Agency.



MOVING WITH PETS

If you will be importing animals into Canada, you will need to ensure that they meet all of the requirements associated with their species and home country. Animals such as cats and dogs do not need to be quarantined in order to be imported into Canada as long as they meet certain requirements. **To read the specific requirements associated with importing your pet, click [here](#).** Scroll down the page and click on the type of animal you wish to bring with you to Canada to view their specific requirements. If your pet is not listed, contact the Canada Border Services Agency for assistance.

IMPORTING WEAPONS OR FIREARMS

If you will be importing weapons or firearms into Canada, you will need to ensure that you meet all of the specific requirements to do so, and ensure that they are not prohibited from being imported into Canada. In some cases it may be easier to sell your weapons or firearms and buy new ones in Canada after completing the required tests and fulfilling the licensing requirements. **Please see [instructions here](#),** from the Canada Border Services Agency.



OBTAINING YOUR PERMANENT RESIDENT CARD

When you arrive at the airport and the immigration officer is completing your paperwork, they will ask you for a physical address in Canada to which they can mail your Permanent Residency card. If you have a Canadian address available (either your own, a family member or trusted friend) you can provide this to them, and they will then mail the card to you at that address. If you do not have a Canadian address available,

they will provide you with a form to complete and send to them once it is available. They will not send the cards to you outside of Canada. If you do not receive your Permanent Resident card before you need to return to your home country, you will need to apply for a Permanent Resident Travel Document for your next entry to Canada. You can find the required information and forms for this document below:

[APPLY FOR A PERMANENT RESIDENT TRAVEL DOCUMENT](#)



PERMANENT RESIDENT TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

Applications for Permanent Resident Travel Documents have to be submitted in person at your local visa application centre. This is only for those who are not in possession of their permanent resident card.

For those with visa exempt passports, you cannot be issued with an eTA if you are a permanent resident of Canada, you would still need to apply for the Permanent Residency Travel Document if you do not have your Permanent Resident card. **You can view the application requirements [here](#).**

If you do not provide a physical address in Canada where your Permanent Residency card can be sent within six months of immigrating to Canada, your card will not be issued.

You will then need to pay \$50 and lodge a formal application to be issued with a Permanent Resident card. **The details for this application can be found [here](#).**

Permanent Resident cards can be quick to receive after arriving in Canada. Depending on how long you will be in Canada on your first trip, you may have enough time to receive it. **[You can check current processing times here.](#)**

If you are submitting a formal application for a new card, then you can **[check the processing times here.](#)**





MAINTAINING YOUR PERMANENT RESIDENCY

VS. BEING ELIGIBLE TO OBTAIN YOUR CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP

To keep your Canadian permanent resident status, you must have been physically present in Canada for at least 730 days during each five-year period. These 730 days do not need to be continuous. Some of your time abroad may count towards the 730 days. To see if your time abroad may count, [see "Can my time abroad count towards my permanent resident status?" here](#). To help you track your time in Canada, you can [use the free travel journal provided by the Canadian government, here](#).

To be eligible to become a Canadian citizen, you must:

- be a permanent resident and have lived in Canada for 3 out of the last 5 years;
- have filed your taxes, if you need to;
- and pass a test on your rights, responsibilities and knowledge of Canada prove your language skills.

You can remain a permanent resident of Canada indefinitely, as opposed to becoming a Canadian citizen as some countries do not allow their citizens to hold dual citizenship. If this is the case with your home country, you would need to decide if you wanted to give up your existing citizenship in order to obtain Canadian citizenship. Canada allows dual citizenship.

LEAVING THE AIRPORT (SERVICE ONLY AVAILABLE IN TORONTO)

Get a warm welcome from the moment you land in Toronto. Our associate provides an extensive and well-designed arrival package for their guests.

Their arrival services include the following:

- Meet and greet at the airport, taking you to their home or your designated accommodation.
- Exclusive use of a private, spacious, fully equipped, furnished three-bedroom home, will be your home away from home in Ontario. Yes, they cater to the kids as well.
- Getting you settled - help with SIN numbers, opening bank accounts, mobile contracts, drivers licence appointments, school interviews, libraries etc
- Familiarizing you with shops and advice on products, quality - get to know how the city works.
- Taking you sightseeing, just to have you relax and get better acquainted with your new environment.

Contact Werner at werner@canadaabroad.com to learn more.





APPLYING FOR GOVERNMENT MEDICAL INSURANCE

The government medical in Canada is issued by each individual Province. You will need to consult with the department in your Province to confirm which documents they require from you in order to apply.

In Ontario, for example, you can only apply once you have two original physical documents to show your address in Ontario. This could be your Canadian driver's license and then an original mailed bank statement, lease agreement or proof of insurance. There is a list of other acceptable documents on the [Ontario Health Insurance Plan \(OHIP\) website](#). Each province has a similar site you can access to ensure you have the required documents to apply. They will also specify any wait periods before your medical would take effect.

In Ontario, there is a 90-day wait period before you would be covered, which means you would want to ensure that you have private coverage for when you first arrive in Canada. For the other provinces you can click for their specific requirements below:

- [British Columbia](#)
- [Alberta](#)
- [Saskatchewan](#)
- [Manitoba](#)
- [Quebec](#)
- [Newfoundland](#)
- [New Brunswick](#)
- [Prince Edward Island](#)
- [Nova Scotia](#)
- [Northwest Territories](#)
- [Yukon Territory](#)



OBTAINING YOUR SOCIAL INSURANCE NUMBER

Your Social Insurance Number is essentially your Canadian Tax number. You will require this in order to work in Canada. **[You can find the closest Service Canada Centre to where you are staying here.](#)** You will need to take your passport and Confirmation of Permanent Residency document with you to obtain your number. It will be issued to you on the spot.

OBTAINING A CANADIAN DRIVER'S LICENSE

Depending on which Province you are moving to, you may have an easier time obtaining your license. In some provinces, if you have been driving long enough in your home country, and depending on your home country, you may be able to "swap" your existing license for a Canadian one. I would recommend that you obtain a Driving Record from your home country as some provinces will require it in order for you to obtain a full license. You would need to pass both a written and physical driving test. **[You can read up on each province's requirements here.](#)**

TRAVEL INSURANCE

When you first arrive in Canada, you will not initially be covered by the Canadian medical system. You will want to ensure that you have private coverage during this time so that you do not run the risk or incurring any medical bills. You will want to ensure your travel medical will cover you as a new immigrant and will be valid during your entire wait period. We do have associates who assist with this type of medical for new immigrants.

If you require assistance or a quotation please contact us at: werner@canadaabroad.com



OPENING A BANK ACCOUNT

The Royal Bank of Canada provides services and accounts for new Immigrants to Canada. You can contact them before your move to discuss opening an account from your home country before you leave for Canada as well as how to move money over to Canada before you arrive. Other banks in Canada also offer these services, such as TD Bank, HSBC, Scotiabank, CIBC and BMO, but client feedback has stated that The Royal Bank of Canada has been the most helpful to date. **You can contact them by clicking [here](#).**





OBTAINING A CANADIAN RÉSUMÉ

WHEN APPLYING FOR WORK IN CANADA, IT IS IMPORTANT TO ENSURE THAT YOUR CV IS UP TO CANADIAN STANDARDS

A powerful résumé is one that can clearly describe your achievements in such a way that you can confidently defend what you did, take pride in the fact that you produced the outcomes, and communicate to the recruiter the context behind you, personally, as an individual. A properly, well thought-out résumé is an autobiography of yourself, while at the same time a road-map for recruiters to have an idea of what kind of person you are, and in the longer term, perhaps where you may end up fitting best in their organization. Canada Abroad can assist prospective immigrants to Canada with converting their CVs into Canadian résumés, tailoring their LinkedIn profiles for the Canadian market and preparing them for Canadian interviews. [Click here to learn more.](#) We have provided answers to some of the most frequently asked questions associated with drafting a Canadian résumé. [This interview can be accessed for free via Spotify](#) or the [Canada Abroad Canadian Immigration Podcast official website.](#)

FINDING A PLACE TO STAY

Need assistance finding a place to stay in Canada? Canada Abroad can help. Our associates have over 25 years of property experience, meaning they are ideally suited to help in advising on all property matters when it comes to leasing or buying a property. In Canada, prospective tenants and buyers have representation from a Real Estate Agent, at no cost, which makes it vastly different from some other countries, where buyers and tenants are not represented and have to approach the seller's or landlord's agent. Our associate is passionate about advising new immigrants through the process of finding their ideal Canadian home and being the 'agent of choice' when it comes to negotiating on their behalf.

For assistance with your Canadian move contact us at: werner@canadaabroad.com

BUYING A HOME

Canada Abroad can assist you with purchasing a home in Canada. Our associate enables home buyers to get their best mortgage with a full-service digital brokerage solution. They negotiate for you to get you the best rates & features from over 30 Banks, Credit Unions & Financial Institutions. Matching your unique needs to save you money. A Canadian company with an international understanding - they have worked with many new immigrants buying property in Canada and can ease the transition and get you the best deal. They understand there are all types of new Canadians and work to find the best solution both in the short and long term.

Contact us at werner@canadaabroad.com to learn more.



FINANCIAL ADVISING AND ACCOUNTING

Do you need help with any of the following?

- Creating a Canadian financial plan
- Advice on what to do with your local retirement funds
- Transferring non-retirement funds to Canada
- Building an investment portfolio in Canada
- Advice on Canadian insurance products
- Transferring your financial assets from your home country into Canada

- Tax in Canada vs your home country
- How to structure your Canadian company for optimal benefit
- How to set up a company in Canada

Our associates are experts in assisting new immigrants with their financial move and financial planning. It is most beneficial to contact them for advice before moving to Canada to ensure that you get the most out of your financial move and have all of the correct documentation on arrival in Canada.

**CONTACT US TODAY TO
LEARN MORE**



CHILDCARE AND SCHOOLING

For those with children, depending on the time of year that you arrive in Canada you will want to ensure that you can enroll your children in school or a pre-school / daycare after arrival. Each Province is different in how they are set up for enrollment and search options.

Ontario, for example, allows you to register with their Provincial service to assist you in finding an accredited pre-school / daycare. You enter your details, your child's details and can mark off which schools you would like to enroll your child in. You usually would select those closest to home. The schools then contact you to let you know of any open availability. These programs are not free and have to be paid out of your own pocket.

For those moving to Canada, whose children are of age for elementary or high school, you can use the applicable Provincial government's Ministry of Education website to find a school for your children and these programs are funded by the government. For those moving to Ontario for example you would look at the Ontario Ministry of Education website.



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