

migrationnews

# CANADA

2007 | 2008 EDITION

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## HOW TO GET A JOB

The do's and don'ts  
explained



## IMMIGRATION POLICY

Canadian Government  
addresses skills shortage



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Visa Centre



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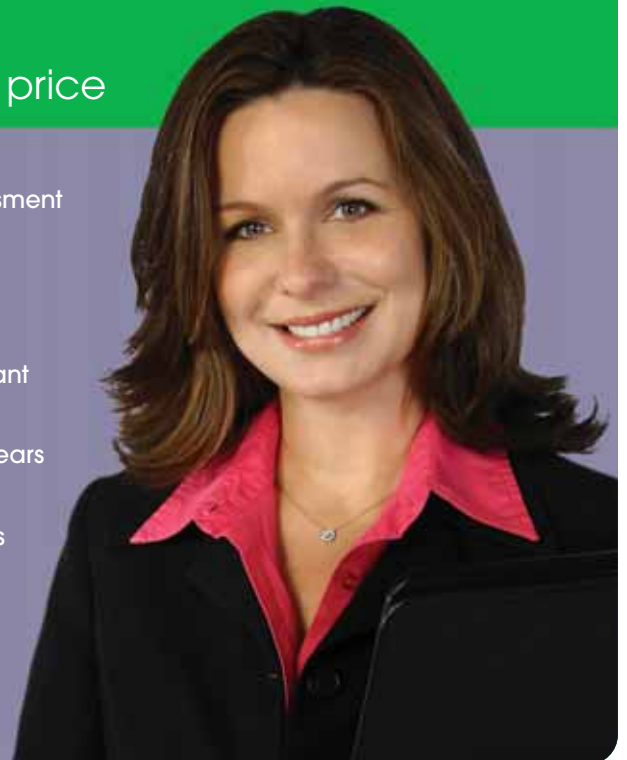
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Suzanne Carter - Editor

## WELCOME

Moving to a new country is a huge challenge but the key to success and a happy, settled life is finding out as much as you can about your new destination.

In the Canada Migration News we have collected together specific information about immigration as well as interesting facts and real life stories about life in Canada.

We hope you find it helpful – as encouragement to see your idea through, or as a practical guide for making your dream a reality.

**Suzanne Carter**  
Editor

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Key information at your fingertips

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Welcome to

# CANADA

YOUR GUIDE TO LIVING AND WORKING IN CANADA



# Canada key city profiles



## VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA

Consistently ranked as the one of top cities in the world for quality of life, Vancouver combines the best of urban living and spectacular natural surroundings. Vancouver has a mild climate in comparison to other Canadian cities, with warm summers and mild winters.

Population: 578,041 [www.vancouver.ca](http://www.vancouver.ca)



## EDMONTON, ALBERTA

A city of natural beauty and outgoing personality, the provincial capital Edmonton boasts a unique, cosmopolitan charm. Known as “Canada’s Festival City”, Edmonton hosts a number of events each summer. Average temperatures range from 17°C in the summer months to -15°C in the winter months.

Population: 730,372 [www.edmonton.ca](http://www.edmonton.ca)



## CALGARY, ALBERTA

Calgary is a dynamic city, nestled in the rolling foothills of Canada’s Rocky Mountains. Voted one of the cleanest cities in the world, Calgary is a big city without the big city problems. Calgary has high sunshine hours but very distinct seasons, with average temperatures ranging from 20°C in summer to -11°C in winter.

Population: 988,193 [www.calgary.ca](http://www.calgary.ca)



## SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN

Situated on the banks of the South Saskatchewan River, Saskatoon enjoys the natural beauty and grandeur of a river valley. While it is the largest city in Saskatchewan, it has retained its small town friendliness. Saskatoon can also boast more hours of sunshine than any other major Canadian city.

Population: 202,340 [www.city.saskatoon.sk.ca](http://www.city.saskatoon.sk.ca)



## OTTAWA, ONTARIO

With a historic blend of English and French, Ottawa is a naturally beautiful city. Surrounded by three rivers, the city is enclosed by a greenbelt of farmland and wetlands. As the capital city of Canada, Ottawa is the showcase for Canadian arts, culture and history.

Population: 812,129 [www.city.ottawa.on.ca](http://www.city.ottawa.on.ca)





### HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

Halifax, the capital city of Nova Scotia, is steeped in history, rich in culture and refreshingly cosmopolitan. A modern port city located on one of the world's largest natural harbours, life in Halifax tends to revolve around the sea.

Population: 372,858 [www.halifax.ca](http://www.halifax.ca)



### QUÉBEC CITY, QUÉBEC

Québec City is a charming and historic city with a distinctly European feel. Old Québec has retained its original fortifications and most of the buildings in the city were built before 1850. The turrets and towers of the Chateau Frontenac dominate the skyline.

Population: 715,515 [www.ville.quebec.qc.ca](http://www.ville.quebec.qc.ca)



### MONTREAL, QUÉBEC

Surrounded by water, Montréal is a great combination of old world charm and big city excitement. As the second largest French-speaking city in the world, Montréal will charm you with its Euro-American ambiance.

Population: 3,635,571  
[www.ville.montreal.qc.ca](http://www.ville.montreal.qc.ca)



### TORONTO, ONTARIO

Toronto is Canada's largest metropolitan city with an ethnically diverse community. Located on the banks of Lake Ontario, Toronto is a waterfront city complete with its own set of idyllic islands. The city boasts friendly neighbourhoods, a great urban atmosphere and exciting festivals and events.

Population: 2,503,281 [www.toronto.ca](http://www.toronto.ca)



### WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

The City of Winnipeg is located at the junction of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers, almost at the geographic centre of North America. With an ethnically diverse population, Winnipeg has grown steadily, based on its position as a major grain, financial, manufacturing, and transportation centre.

Population: 633,451 [www.winnipeg.ca](http://www.winnipeg.ca)



Source: Statistics Canada (2006 Population Estimates)

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## Nurses wage increase - Alberta

Wage increases of up to 15% mean that the province's nurses will now be amongst the highest paid in the country. The Alberta government is hopeful that improved pay and conditions will encourage more young people to take up the profession.

Source: Emigrate Canada

## ALBERTA BOOMING ECONOMY

With a booming economy, Alberta remains the centre of job creation in Canada, recently creating close to 100,000 jobs largely in the construction, business, building, support services, and wholesale trade sectors. The province's unemployment rate is less than half the national average.

A recent Fraser Institute survey named the province of Alberta as having North America's best-performing labour market over the past five years, beating out 50 American states and all other Canadian provinces and territories.

## Unemployment rate lowest for 33 years

The unemployment rate dipped 0.1 percentage points to 5.9% in September, the first time since November 1974 that the rate has been below 6.0%. The decline in the rate occurred as employment rose by an estimated 51,000, with gains concentrated in full-time employment.

Source: Statistics Canada

## Vancouver 3rd in world in quality of life survey

Vancouver's natural assets and temperate climate make it one of the best cities in the world in which to live, a new survey says. The annual quality of life survey released by Mercer Human Resource Consulting placed Vancouver third out of 215 cities, the same as last year. Vancouver's climate helped it rise in the rankings, according to Mercer spokeswoman Danielle Bushen.

Toronto edged up one spot in the rankings to 14th place. Montreal was 22nd, up two spots, Ottawa was unchanged in 20th spot, and Calgary was 25th, down one.

All five Canadian cities in the survey were praised for their relatively high levels of "personal safety and security" and for being in a politically stable country.

Source: CBC News





## USE A KNOWN CANADIAN MIGRATION CONSULTANT



Canada's immigration regulations are complex, strictly-enforced and subject to frequent change. Every year, many

thousands of Canadian residence applications are refused, returned unprocessed or delayed due to technical errors and problems that may seem unimportant to applicants. Even if your application is 95% correct, this can be grounds for outright refusal. If you are considering immigration to Canada you can get an independent assessment of eligibility by consulting a professional Canadian migration consultant and in doing so protect yourself from these risks. When you deal with a competent, experienced consultant you maximise your chance of a successful outcome. You also save a considerable amount of time, as the consultant will take responsibility for seeing that the application is prepared correctly and submitted in the format required by the immigration authorities. The consultant will also follow up with the visa office after lodgement to minimise delays and comply with documentation requests. The consultant will also keep you informed about the status of your application and about any relevant changes to policy or regulations that could affect the outcome.

It is important to check that your consultant is a member of the Canada Society of Immigration Consultants (CSIC) or a Canadian Law Society member.

So, if you don't want to risk your future in Canada, you are recommended to consult a professional migration consultant. For further information on CSIC, visit their web-site at [www.csic-scci.ca](http://www.csic-scci.ca).

This is not a publicity of the Canadian Society of Immigration Consultants, and therefore CSIC is not responsible for the contents herein.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS?

## **How long does it take to get a permanent residence visa?**

Every application is different and processing times largely depend on the type of visa being applied for. As a general rule however, it takes most applicants 12 to 24 months, sometimes up to 48 months (excluding the time required to prepare the application and qualification recognition before lodgement) to receive a decision on their visa application. Spousal cases and temporary employment authorisations tend to be a little quicker taking a maximum of 6 months to process, while applicants requiring professional registration can take an additional 6 to 12 months to process. If you are requested to attend an interview this can add many more months onto the processing of your application.

## **Once approved, how long before I must move to Canada?**

Your arrival must be within one year from the date of your medical tests. For work permits and other temporary visas you may only have a number of months to enter the country.

## **Will the Canadian immigration authorities or Embassy help me to prepare my application and make sure that everything is correct before applying?**

NO. This type of service is no longer provided by Government. The authorities exist to enforce immigration law, make decisions on residence applications and to issue residence visas. Although basic information and application forms are available, the authorities are unable to provide independent advice and personalised guidance on your specific case. Only a Canadian migration consultant can provide this kind of service.

## **Can the immigration authorities refuse my application?**

YES. A surprisingly large number of applicants are unaware how strictly the immigration regulations are enforced and are often unnecessarily refused or delayed due to technical errors on their application or by submitting the wrong supporting documentation. So the moral of the story is to seek the professional guidance and independent advice of a migration consultant BEFORE lodging an application for residence. Consultants exist to help you find the best way through the immigration maze and are highly effective in doing so.

## **My migration consultant has assessed me as being eligible for residence in Canada. If I apply without his or her help, can I be certain of success?**

NO. Although you may fundamentally qualify under Canada's immigration policy, you are by no means guaranteed of success. Your application must be prepared in accordance with the prevailing immigration regulations and submitted together with the appropriate supporting documentation in order to be approved by the Canadian Department of Immigration. The ways in which to do this are not always clearly set out by the immigration authorities and can result in many applicants presenting their cases wrongly, inevitably leading to refusal.

## **What is a permanent resident or landed immigrant?**

Essentially, it is a right affixed into your passport granting you the permanent right to live and work in Canada. You are eligible for government-subsidised medical care immediately in most states and territories but are not permitted to vote in Provincial or Federal elections. After three years you can apply for citizenship, entitling you to a Canadian passport. Temporary residents (those on student and work visas) are generally not entitled to medical care or social welfare assistance. These persons are advised to take out private health insurance.

## **When I migrate, will I lose my current passport?**

NO, not necessarily. Firstly, you will enter as a permanent resident or landed immigrant which does not affect your current citizenship status. After three years you can apply for Canadian citizenship (but this is not obligatory). The Canadian Government allows dual-nationality (i.e. the holding of two passports), so you could retain your current passport and obtain a Canadian passport as well. Having said this, you must check that your own country of citizenship allows dual-nationality, as this right must be reciprocal. If not, you will need to surrender your other passport in order to become a Canadian citizen.



**The Honourable Diane Finley**  
Minister of Citizenship  
and Immigration

# CANADIAN GOVERNMENT ADDRESSES SKILLS SHORTAGES

A total of 251,649 people immigrated to Canada in 2006, 54.9% were in the Economic class and 28% in the Family class. The parents and grandparents category and the provincial nominee category saw the highest increase.

The importance of immigration to Canada's future is highlighted by ongoing skills shortages facing businesses across Canada. With growing businesses in Canada seeking employees at a variety of skill levels, immigration is an important source of Canada's competitive advantage.

Driven by this demand, Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) raised the target for new permanent residents to Canada by 15,000 for 2007, reaching 265,000 at the upper end of the range. The target for the Economic Class has been increased by 15,000 compared to the 2006 Immigration Plan. For the Family Class, the targets of the Spouses, Partners and Children category has been increased by 5,000 and the Parents and Grandparents category by 1,000.

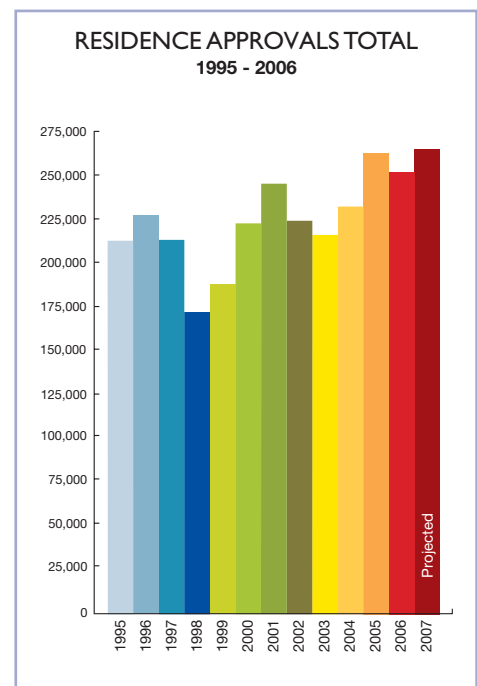
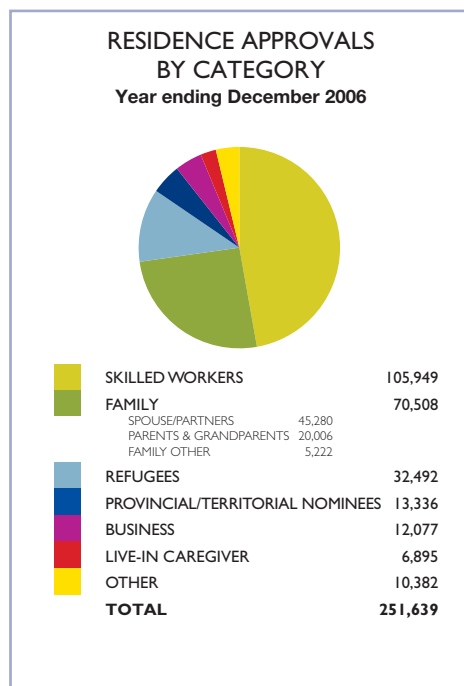
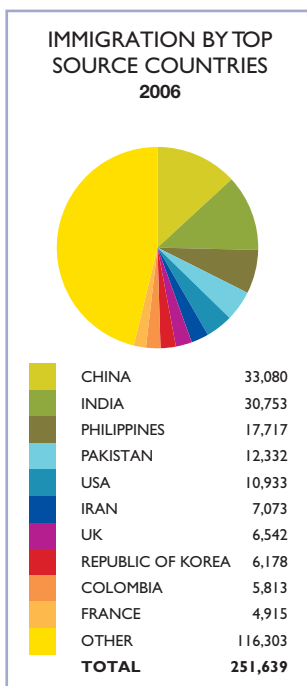
The dominant trend of 2006 was a shift towards tailoring immigration to the labour market needs of different provinces. One aspect of this is in expansions of the Provincial Nomination Program (PNP), which began in 2002. The program allows provinces to nominate individuals to immigrate who will contribute to the province's economic development, allowing these immigrants to move to Canada more easily.

The Temporary Foreign Worker (TFW) program is the Canadian government's primary means of helping employers address

immediate skill and labour shortages. The 2007 Canadian federal budget allocated \$50.5 million over two years to the TFW Program, aiming to more efficiently respond to regional labour and skill shortages and reduce processing times for applications. Online application systems will be improved and lists of occupations with known labour shortages will be maintained. Additionally, to protect temporary worker rights, a system will be developed to ensure employer compliance with the TFW.

The Agreement for Canada-Alberta Cooperation on Immigration was signed in May 2007 aimed at streamlining immigration to Alberta and making it easier and faster for foreign workers to settle in the province. With a booming economy, the province needs to attract more skilled workers, and more importantly, it needs to retain them. The agreement recognizes that community and integration services are an important part of keeping the newcomers in Alberta to build up the workforce. Under the new deal there will no longer be a limit on the number of immigrants that Alberta can nominate for Canadian Permanent Residency (under the Provincial Nomination Program), allowing the province to select and retain newcomers with skills that are in demand. The agreement will also develop mechanisms to make it easier and quicker to get the foreign workers needed to meet growing labour force demands. Another part of the agreement is to launch a pilot project aimed at fast-tracking the entry of foreign health care professionals.

**Editorial by Suzanne Carter, Editor – Migration News**



Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada



# CANADIAN IMMIGRATION REGULATIONS ...at a glance

**Do I qualify for immigration to Canada? Which class should I apply under? What conditions do I need to satisfy? Well, the Canadian immigration system is quite complicated, but here is a brief summary.**

Essentially, there are four main ways to immigrate. You can apply under one of three permanent residence classes: Skilled Worker, Family and Business. The fourth option is to apply for a temporary residence visa.

## SKILLED WORKER

The Skilled worker class, or points system as it is commonly referred to, is the most popular class. Applicants are awarded points for age, education, occupation, work experience, English and/or French ability and adaptability. Although not a requirement, points can be granted for 'arranged employment' in Canada or if you are currently working in Canada on a qualifying work permit.

Points may be awarded for 'adaptability' factors including your partner's qualifications, or if you or your partner have studied in Canada for at least 2 years, or have family in Canada (parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, sister, brother, niece, nephew, child or grandchild).

The objective is to achieve the pass mark. Applicants with the greatest likelihood of success are those:

- with tertiary qualifications (i.e. post-secondary school), for instance a Diploma, Trade Certificate or Apprenticeship, Bachelors Degree, Masters Degree or PhD;
- with a high level of proficiency in English and/or French;
- in a position to claim maximum points for relevant work experience,
- aged between 21 and 49; and
- with the ability to claim points for adaptability.

All applicants must have at least 12 months of post-graduation work experience in an occupation listed as Skill Type O or Skill Level A or B on the National Occupations Classification (NOC) list.

## FAMILY

There is also the family visa for persons who have qualifying relatives in Canada who are willing and eligible to sponsor them.

Sponsors must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident: spouse, common-law or conjugal partners; dependant child, parent or grandparent; an orphaned brother, sister, niece, nephew or grandchild (under 19); and any



relative if the Canadian sponsor does not have another close relative who is in Canada or who can be sponsored to come to Canada.

The most common type of family class application is for those persons who are married or engaged to a Canadian citizen or permanent resident.

## BUSINESS

Applicants are divided into three subcategories: Self-employed, Entrepreneur and Investor.

As the name suggests, the Self-Employed class is suitable for self-employed business persons who do not necessarily intend to employ other persons in their business. This class is limited to farmers and applicants who will be of cultural, artistic or sporting value to Canada. Under this class there is no minimum capital or past ownership requirements, but applicants must prepare a viable, well-researched business proposal and possess sufficient funds and acceptable experience to establish or purchase the proposed business in Canada. Past self-employment, though not strictly required, is considered an asset. There is also a requirement to meet the pass mark.

Under the Entrepreneur class, you must have past business experience in a qualifying business for a specified period. Applicants must also possess a net worth of at least C\$300,000. Upon arrival in Canada, there is a requirement to establish or purchase a business enterprise and provide active and ongoing management of that business within three years. Your business must create at least one new full-time job for a Canadian and meet other requirements of a qualifying business. There is also a requirement to meet the pass mark.

Applicants under the Investor class must possess a total net worth of at least C\$800,000 and invest C\$400,000 of this amount with the Canadian Receiver General for 5 years.

Although the fund is Government guaranteed, no interest is payable. Applicants must prove that the funds have been generated through their own business initiative and that they have previously managed



## IMMIGRATION TARGET

Canada's immigration policy allows for the granting of residence visas to approximately 265,000 new settlers per year.

either 5 full-time staff for at least 2 years OR owned a share in the business they have managed for at least two years in the five years prior to applying. If you do not wish to undertake an investment, an alternative is to establish a loan arrangement with a Canadian bank, whereby the amount to be invested is borrowed. Under this option, it is still necessary to possess an overall net worth of C\$800,000. The down side of this option is that you must pay the interest charges accumulated over the 5-year term.

The main advantages of the Investor class are that you do not need to actively own and operate a business and that you are issued with permanent residence immediately upon approval.

All applicants must satisfy health, police, character and credibility checks, and a range of other criteria.

*IMPORTANT NOTE; If you do not qualify under any of the above classes, you may be able to apply under one of the Provincial Government Nominee programmes. Although only a limited number of places are available every year, the regulations differ from those described above, as they are set by the Provincial Government according to economic and social needs of that region. Contact your nearest Migration Bureau Office for further information.*

*(CAUTION: Immigration Regulations can change without advance notice. You are strongly advised to seek the advice of a professional Canadian Migration Consultant before applying. Information on this page correct as at 17 October 2007)*

## TEMPORARY VISAS

A number of temporary residence visas are also available:

**Work Permits:** If you are offered a job that cannot be filled by a Canadian and the Canadian employer is able to satisfy a Service Canada labour market assessment, then you may be able to apply for a work permit. The permit is issued for the duration of the employment contract usually up to a maximum of 3 years. Important note: Canadian employers are generally reluctant to sponsor offshore candidates unless there are specific skills shortages, and do not consider applicants unless ALREADY in possession of a Canadian residence visa and present in Canada for interview. So unless you are to be transferred to Canada by your current employer, this can be a very difficult visa to obtain.

**Student visa:** If you are enrolled into a qualifying course at a Canadian tertiary institution, you can apply for a student visa. This visa allows you to study full-time and to work a limited number of hours per week. Other temporary visas include young persons working holiday programmes and visas for live-in caregivers.

For further information on any of these visa classes, please contact your nearest Canada Migration Consultant, as they will explain the immigration regulations and entry criteria in greater detail.

## CANADA

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# CANADA

Each Canadian province and territory has its own individual policies, customs and lifestyle. However, we hope that the general information provided in the following pages will give you a good indication of what you should be aware of when moving to your new homeland. For more information regarding life in Canada visit [www.canada.gc.ca](http://www.canada.gc.ca)

## GEOGRAPHY

At approximately 10 million square kilometres, Canada is the second largest country in the world. It spans five and a half time zones and is bordered by three oceans. Canada's width from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean is more than 7,700 kilometres and would take a good two weeks to drive across. Canada can be divided into six main geographical regions: The Atlantic Provinces, The Canadian Shield, The Great Lakes-St Lawrence Lowlands, The Interior Plains, The Cordillera and The Great White North. Much of Canada's land has never been permanently settled and remains only partly inhabited with an average of only three people for every square kilometre. It is estimated that there is more than 14.5 hectares of forest for every person in Canada.

## CLIMATE

Canada has four very distinct seasons and due to the country's size the climate varies considerably from region to region. The warmest areas are on the US border (where most people live) and summers are longer and winters are shorter. July and August are the warmest months across the whole country, which are usually dry with temperatures reaching from mid to high 20°C. There tends to be more summer rain on the west and east coasts and of course the far north has extremely long daylight hours. Canadian winters are long and cold with more than two thirds of the country having an average temperature of -18°C in January. Major cities are not quite so cold but temperatures are generally below freezing. Snowfall is frequent and is especially heavy in the central regions.

## POPULATION AND SETTLEMENT

Canada's population is approximately 33 million (July 2007). Owing to immigration, Canada's population growth rate of approximately 1 per cent per year is well above that of many developed countries. An uneven population distribution places 79% of Canadians in urban

areas. Economic and climatic pressures also mean that over 80% of the population is within 250 km of the US border and 90% of Canadians live on 12% of the country's land. The indigenous Canadians (Inuit, North American Indian and Métis) make up only 4.4% of the population. In recent years there has been a substantial change in the countries from which immigrants have come. An increasing proportion is from non-European countries, with those from Asia accounting for the largest share of recent arrivals. Immigrants, representing about 17.5% of the population, are not evenly dispersed with most living in just four provinces - Ontario, British Columbia, Quebec and Alberta.

## LANGUAGE

English and French are the official languages of Canada. However, 61% of Canadians consider English their first language and it is the principal language in most provinces and territories with the exception in the province of Quebec, where French is predominantly used.

## RELIGION

Christianity is the faith most widely professed, with Roman Catholic and Protestant the most common denominations.

## POLITICAL SYSTEM

In 1867 the provinces now known as Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia joined together in Confederation to create the new country of Canada. Further provinces joined later, and Canada as we know it has only existed since 1949, when Newfoundland voted to join.

The federal system of government means that powers and responsibilities are divided between the federal government and the 10 Canadian provincial governments. Canada also has territorial jurisdictions in the far north of the country. The provinces are largely self-governing and are presided over by premiers elected within each province.

The form of government in Canada is a constitutional monarchy. A parliamentary system with the official head of state being Queen Elizabeth II, whose representative within Canada is the Governor General. The Canadian Parliament consists of the House of Commons and the Senate and the Parliament buildings are located in Ottawa. The House of Commons is the national legislature elected by Canadian citizens. It is made up of 301 members. Members of parliament are usually associated with a political party, although some members do sit independently. The Senate is the Upper House of Parliament. Members of the Senate are appointed by the Governor General upon recommendation by the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister, who is the head of the political party with the most elected representative seats

in the House of Commons, leads the ruling government of Canada. The Prime Minister selects Ministers to form the Cabinet, who in effect run the country and initiate legislation.

Federal elections occur once every five years and the party with the most seats from 301 constituencies becomes government. Within each constituency, the candidate with more votes than any other single candidate (not necessarily 50%) wins the seat. All Canadians aged 18 and over may vote.

For further information please visit [www.canada.gc.ca](http://www.canada.gc.ca)

## LAW AND JUSTICE

Canada's Constitution Act, 1982, forms the basis of the country's legal system, by listing the jurisdictions over which federal and provincial governments have exclusive lawmaking authority. The Criminal Law is a federal body of law that prohibits certain kinds of conduct and actions that are considered to be an offence against society as a whole. The Civil Law governs conflict between the individual and other private parties such as contract disputes, property, wills, certain areas of family law and civil rights.

In most of Canada, civil law is based on common law, which originated in England. This law is based on tradition: a legally binding judicial decision which sets a precedent which is then followed in similar cases in future. Quebec, however, is governed by le droit civil which has its roots in France and involves consultation of a written code first and then considers precedents set by earlier decisions.

## ECONOMY

Canada has one of the largest and fastest growing free-market economies in the industrialised world. In the second quarter of 2007 real gross domestic product (GDP) grew 3.4%, down from 3.9% in the first quarter but more than double the average pace of growth in the last three quarters of 2006.

Service industries now employ three out of four Canadians and generate two thirds of the gross domestic product. More and more, Canadians work in offices, stores or warehouses rather than farms, mines, mills or factories. Canada's economic well-being is tied to many factors: the wealth of natural resources; the strength of its manufacturing and construction industries; the health of the financial and service sectors; the ability to span distances using communications and transportation technologies; dynamic trade relationships with other nations; and the ability to compete in a global marketplace.

Advances in technology, the increased globalisation of markets and the emergence of liberal trading regimes are fundamentally changing the way Canada conducts business. Long removed from an economy based almost exclusively on natural resources, Canada is rapidly moving toward a knowledge-based economy built on innovation and technology. Canada's knowledge-intensive industries are generating



advances in its ability to produce high-tech machinery and equipment, and encouraging industrial innovation as a result.

Canada actively participates in international trading and through the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) Canada is a vital part of the huge integrated North American market of almost 400 million consumers. As such the United States is Canada's largest trading partner, accounting for more than 80% of exports. Canada also enjoys ongoing trading relationships with many other countries, due to strong historical trade ties with Europe and unique access to Asian economies.

For more information please visit [www.canadianeconomy.gc.ca](http://www.canadianeconomy.gc.ca)

## TAXATION

To support a generous health and social security service, Canadians have to pay high income taxes. Income tax includes Federal and Provincial taxes, of which a certain percentage is first paid to the Federal government and then a percentage of that again to the Provincial government. Canada has a graduated system of income tax. There are four levels of Federal tax and the income levels these are based on change annually. Provincial taxes vary greatly between the states, for example, Alberta has a flat 10% provincial tax on income, whereas British Columbia has five levels of provincial income tax. The average home owning Canadian family can pay up to 44% of its annual income in taxes. These include a variety of taxes such as income tax, sales tax, property tax, automobile, social security, and medical taxes. Local taxes include property taxes based on the value of your property and are used to fund public schools, the local police and other services. The Excise Tax Act (the ETA) imposes the goods and services tax/harmonized sales tax (GST/HST) on most goods and services consumed in Canada, at the rate of 6%, and in the participating provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland and Labrador, at the rate of 14%.

For more information please visit [www.ccr-aadrc.gc.ca](http://www.ccr-aadrc.gc.ca)

## SOCIAL SECURITY

Canada has a comprehensive social security network for families, the elderly, aboriginal peoples and for virtually anyone in Canada who may need it. Social security is provided through both federal and provincial programs. Many young families are entitled to the Canada Child Tax Benefit (CCTB), which is a tax-free monthly payment made to eligible families to help them with the cost of raising children under age 18. The Old Age Security program is one of the cornerstones of Canada's retirement income system and provides a modest pension for people at age 65 if they have lived in Canada for at least 10 years. Though Canada has a generous social security system, it comes at high cost to employees. Unemployment insurance and pension plan contributions are deducted from an employee's pay cheque.

For more information visit [www.sdc.gc.ca](http://www.sdc.gc.ca)

## POPULATION

Ontario	12,803,861	Newfoundland and Labrador	506,275
Quebec	7,700,807	Prince Edward Island	138,627
British Columbia	4,380,256	Northwest Territories	42,637
Alberta	3,473,984	Nunavut	31,113
Manitoba	1,186,679	Yukon	30,989
Saskatchewan	996,869	Canada	32,976,026
Nova Scotia	934,147		
New Brunswick	749,782		

Source: Statistics Canada - July 2007 (estimates)



## WEATHER

Annual Average Maximum Temperatures °C

	January	July	Snowfall (cms)
Vancouver, BC	5.7	21.7	54.9
Calgary, AB	-3.6	23.2	135.4
Toronto, ON	-1.3	26.5	135.0
Montreal, QC	-5.8	26.2	214.2
Halifax, NS	-1.5	23.4	261.4
Yellowknife, NT	-23.9	20.8	143.9
Regina, SK	-11.0	26.3	107.4
Winnipeg, MB	-13.2	26.1	114.8
Fredericton, NB	-4.0	25.6	294.5
St Johns, NF	-1.4	20.2	322.1
Whitehorse, YT	-14.4	20.3	145.2

Source: Statistics Canada

## HEALTH CARE

Canada's health system is the responsibility of the provincial governments but the federal government also contributes funds. The health system is funded through taxes and residents don't have to "pay" directly for most health care services. Access to healthcare is guaranteed to all, however, most provinces will not cover newly landed migrants for the first three months, during which time private insurance should be taken. In most provinces, the health system does not cover the cost of prescription drugs, dental care, ambulance services and prescription eyeglasses. To access the benefits of the health system, you need to apply for your Health Insurance Card as soon as you are eligible. Application forms can be obtained from any doctor's offices, hospitals, pharmacies or the provincial ministry responsible for health. Each member of a family needs his or her own card.

For more information visit [www.chp-pcs.gc.ca](http://www.chp-pcs.gc.ca)

## EDUCATION

Canada has excellent and fully funded public and independent schools and a network of acclaimed private schools. Education is a provincial responsibility under the Canadian constitution which means there are significant differences between the education systems of the different provinces. However, standards across the country are uniformly high. French speakers have the right to be educated in French anywhere in Canada, but in Quebec all children must attend French school. Education is a priority and Canada spends more per capita on its education system than any other country in the G8. Currently just under one quarter of the population is enrolled in an education programme.

Children under five can attend licensed day-cares or nursery schools to learn basic social and reading skills but these are not publicly funded. Children can attend kindergarten for one or two years at the age of four or five on a voluntary basis. All children begin Grade One at an elementary or primary school at about six years of age. The school year normally runs from September through the following June but in some instances, January intake dates are possible. From grade 8 or 9 up to grades 11, 12 or 13 (depending on the province), students attend secondary or high school. Progress from one grade to another is determined by standards set by each individual school. Secondary schools can be either academic (preparing students for university) or vocational (those not opting for post secondary education). Private

schools must meet provincial guidelines, though they receive little provincial funding and fees are usually high. Fees vary considerably between schools and must be obtained from the institutions directly.

From secondary school, students may attend university, college or Cégep studies. Cégep is a French acronym for College of General and Vocational Education, and is two years of general or three years of technical education between high school and university. The province of Quebec has the Cégep system. Fees for tertiary studies differ depending on the province, institution and program of study but most courses are partly subsidised through taxes.

For more information visit [www.cmec.ca/educmin.stm](http://www.cmec.ca/educmin.stm)

## DRIVING

Canadians drive on the right. The road system is very extensive and well maintained. Snowy and icy roads can be a hazard for unaccustomed drivers, so it is advisable to seek instruction in steering and braking techniques useful on snow and ice. Foreign driving licenses are valid for anywhere between 30 days and six months, depending on the province. Before this time all drivers must go to their local Driver Examination Centre for a vision, written and road test.

For more information visit [www.tc.gc.ca](http://www.tc.gc.ca)

## TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS, MEDIA

A widely dispersed population across an enormous country means Canadians have to rely on transport to get anywhere. Generally the roads are very good and the bus network is the most extensive public transport system available. Air travel within the country links most of the large towns and centres with smaller regional airlines covering small specialised areas and remote regions. International air services operate out of Vancouver in the West or Montreal, Toronto and Halifax in the East. Ferries provide services for the many lakes, islands and offshore provinces which are so much a part of Canada. Telephone services are efficient and relatively inexpensive. Telephones can be installed within days by contacting Bell Canada and there is no wait for numbers or exchanges to become available. Telephones can be rented or purchased. Pay phones are common and virtually every phone takes coins in addition to billing cards and credit cards. The Canadian postal system is not particularly efficient and next-day delivery is not uncommon, even in the same region. Canada has two national newspapers, The National Post and The Globe and Mail. Most large cities offer two or more daily papers. Canadians have access to a wide range of television channels as part of their basic cable arrangement, and there are over 900 radio stations.

## ELECTRICITY

Canada uses the AC 110 volts 60 cycle electrical system.

## LICENSING LAWS

Eating and drinking are central to Canadian social life. Beer and alcohol are sold in special government stores and consumed in abundance. British-style pubs are very common but Canadians like to eat while they drink, and pubs and bars alike offer snack menus right up to closing time. Bars are generally open from late morning to about 1.00 a.m. The minimum drinking age is 19 years in most provinces but 18 years in Alberta, Manitoba and Quebec.

## HOUSING

Single detached homes are the most common building type in rural and suburban areas, accounting for over one half of all housing in Canada. Predominantly wooden, these large homes generally include three or four bedrooms, kitchen, dining room, separate toilets, bathrooms and living room. Most houses have a garden or yard and also a garage. In larger urban areas apartments or multiple-unit dwellings are more popular. Prices depend on the location, age and condition of the property,



**AVERAGE HOUSE PRICES** August 2007 (C\$)

British Columbia	\$439,939	Newfoundland and Labrador	\$154,595
Ontario	\$289,154	Manitoba	\$165,601
Northwest Territories	\$300,876	Saskatchewan	\$184,445
Alberta	\$361,809	New Brunswick	\$134,106
Yukon	\$244,344	Prince Edward Island	\$139,845
Quebec	\$204,710	Nova Scotia	\$177,136
Nova Scotia	\$177,136	National	\$305,823

Source: The Canadian Real Estate Association

and the local housing market. When you are budgeting for your housing costs, you may have to allow as much as 35 to 50 per cent of your income. This should include the costs for such things as heating, utilities and laundry. Two-thirds of Canada's housing is owner occupied. Mortgage down payments range from 10% through to 25% depending on whether you opt for a government insurance policy that protects the lender.

Renting a house or apartment is also no problem and accommodation is advertised in newspapers and special publications. Real estate agents can also help individuals to locate properties. Homes are available either furnished or unfurnished but the latter will still include a refrigerator and stove. Some cities and provinces control how much landlords can charge for rent, thereby protecting the tenant. Rental conditions are heavily regulated and tend to favour the tenant. Leases are of no strict

length of time and conditions are agreed upon between the landlord and tenant. Federal government policy allows for all Canadians to have assistance in finding affordable housing, specifically providing for loans at lower interest rates for low to mid income families or the elderly.

For more information visit [www.crea.ca](http://www.crea.ca)

**IMPORTING PERSONAL EFFECTS**

Household and personal effects imported for your own use and owned and used by you previously do not attract duty or other taxes on arrival. The cost of moving can be high, and household items vary greatly in replacement value, so it is worth doing some research before deciding what to take and what to leave behind. In the case of many electrical and electronic items, differing standards may make it more worthwhile to purchase new ones.

**IMPORTING MOTOR VEHICLES**

The total cost of importing a car to Canada, including compliance (ensuring the vehicle meets Canadian standards) and re-registration is so high that unless your vehicle is very special it is seldom worthwhile. No import duty will be levied on a car, motorcycle or boat brought in as part of your one-time settler's effects.

For more information visit [www.tc.gc.ca](http://www.tc.gc.ca)

**IMPORTING CATS AND DOGS**

Dogs and cats will be allowed in to Canada upon proof of rabies vaccination. To bring birds or other animals in it is necessary to obtain a certificate of good health.

For more information visit [www.inspection.gc.ca](http://www.inspection.gc.ca)

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# CALLING CANADA HOME



Rachel, Kerry & Jack Wallace enjoying the Nova Scotia morning light.

**Rachel Wallace, husband Ian and children Kerry and Jack had never thought of emigrating until Rachel's sister informed them that their family were emigrating to Canada. After talking with her sister about her reasons for wanting to live in Canada, the Wallace family looked into migrating as well – the temptation of a better lifestyle was too strong to resist!**

Firstly though, they planned a trip to Halifax which was where Rachel's sister was going to live. They needed to relocate near a port as Ian works on tug boats and Halifax would be ideal. Although it rained for a week during their holiday they were not put off and on their return to the UK they contacted an agency to enquire about applying for a Skilled Worker visa but neither Rachel nor Ian qualified. A year later they contacted another agency and were told that Ian had had enough points all along so as Rachel says, "It certainly pays to double check with different agencies".

They applied under the Trade Certificate category and put in their application during April 2004. Then the wait began! Two years later in March 2006 they received a letter telling them to go for their medicals and two months later they had their visas. Rachel says, "Then began the process of organising. Things were rather hectic to say the least.

During the last week the house looked like a bomb had hit it and the contents of cupboards and wardrobes were scattered everywhere."

As there were rumours that Ian's job was going to be redundant they tried to hang on for as long as possible but finally decided to leave late October. However, Ian had to leave just over a week later as he had still not given up work wanting to hang on for the redundancy.

Rachel says that the worst part was saying goodbye to everyone but they had lots of things to look forward to and were excited about their new life. Ian finally joined them a couple of months later and found a job by visiting companies and asking to speak to the person in charge. Ian found that this direct approach was much more successful than sending in his CV.

The children are also settling in well despite have initial reservations about emigrating. Rachel was more nervous than Kerry and Jack on their first day of school in Canada but by lunchtime they had made lots of new friends.

They have found their dream house but Rachel advised that it is important to not overstretch yourselves straightaway. "You need to take a step back and think about what you really want. You also need to drive around and look at all the areas which you like", comments Rachel.

## SEE THE LIFESTYLE YOU CAN BUY IN CANADA!

### Now you too can live a millionaire's lifestyle in Canada

For C\$628,870/€453,020/US\$643,527/£314,925 you could buy a large executive property, a new car, a holiday home and a boat for relaxing on the weekends.

Add it all up and this is what your new lifestyle in Canada could cost!

The House	C\$ 324,500
The Car	C\$ 26,870
The Holiday Home	C\$ 265,000
The Boat	C\$ 12,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>C\$ 628,870</b>



#### THE HOUSE

4 bedroom executive home located in Port Alberni, British Columbia.

**C\$324,500**      € 250,500      US\$354,845      £174,335



#### THE CAR

Brand new Chevrolet Equinox SUV, 3.4L, V6 engine, 4WD.

**C\$26,870**      €19,485      US\$27,600      £13,565



#### THE HOLIDAY HOME

The amazing ocean view from a cosy cottage on Vancouver Island, British Columbia.

**C\$265,000**      €190,900      US\$271,140      £132,720



#### THE BOAT

1988 Doral Citation 26 ft cruiser. A great way to relax at the weekend.

**C\$12,500**      €9,060      US\$12,840      £6,300

# EDMONTON

Whether Edmonton is your intended destination or just a brief stopover on the way to your new home, we have compiled this guide to help you get your bearings on arrival. To obtain more details about the city check out the websites listed at the end of this profile.

## POPULATION

The municipality of Edmonton is Canada's fifth largest with a population of 712,391 based on the 2005 Civic Census.

## GEOGRAPHY

The city is located 668 metres above sea level, in the centre of Alberta. The North Saskatchewan River cuts the city in half and it runs all the way into Hudson Bay. It runs from the southwest to the northeast through the city and is fed by numerous creeks throughout the city, such as Mill Creek and Whitemud Creek. This creates numerous ravines, many of which have been incorporated into the urban parkland. Edmonton is situated at the boundary between prairie to the south and boreal forest to the north, in a transitional area known as aspen parkland.

## CLIMATE

Edmonton has a northern continental climate with extreme temperatures, the summers are brief but warm, and the winters are extremely cold. The wettest month is July, while the driest months are October and November.

## ECONOMY

Edmonton, like the rest of Alberta, is experiencing an economic boom due to high energy prices. Oil and other natural resources are Alberta's primary industries, and Edmonton companies are benefiting by supplying these projects with workers, supplies, and services. This also increases jobs in the construction and retail industries to build homes and supply furnishings for workers moving to Edmonton to fill those jobs.

On top of that, further growth in non-resource based industries, such as software development, technology, and biomedical research, continues to diversify the economy.



## DINING OUT

Whether you are looking for the best restaurants in town, intimate eateries or just tasty bites around town, you can find it all in Edmonton. The city offers you the best cuisines from all around the world.

## SHOPPING

The main attraction in town is the West Edmonton Mall, the world's largest shopping mall which also houses the world's largest indoor amusement park. There also is a great variety of shopping in downtown Edmonton, on Whyte Avenue and in neighbourhoods and malls throughout the city.

## LOCAL TRANSPORT

Edmonton Transit offers extensive bus and light rail transit (LRT) services but if you prefer walking or cycling, you'll love getting around in Edmonton! The city has over 200 kilometres of bike and walking trails for you to enjoy. There's also an indoor pedway system that connects many downtown stores, attractions and restaurants.

## PERFORMING ARTS

The city has always been a city proud of its cultural accomplishments. Edmonton is, with its many art galleries, pretty little boutiques, thirteen festivals a year and more than 2000 restaurants a very cosmopolitan city. The city is well known for its festivals – more than 40 festivals take place throughout the year.

This includes the world-renowned Fringe Theatre festival, one of the largest theatre events in North America, to the ever-popular Edmonton Folk Music Festival. Small festivals join in to celebrate



everything from modern dance to visual arts to street performers and rodeo. For this reason, Edmonton is called Festival City.

## LIFESTYLE AND OUTDOOR RECREATION

To get back to nature you don't even have to leave the city. The North Saskatchewan River Valley is one of Edmonton's greatest attractions. Walking through the city centre, the green park provides you for a natural all-season recreation and relaxation. Escape the city centre with its bustle and adore the beauty of the park.

## EDUCATION

There are many schools, several community colleges, and two universities in Edmonton. The city has become one of Canada's major educational centres with more than 60,000 full-time students.

## EDMONTON ON THE NET

Edmonton City Council  
[www.edmonton.ca](http://www.edmonton.ca)

Guide to Living and Working in Edmonton  
[www.movetoedmonton.com](http://www.movetoedmonton.com)

Greater Edmonton  
[www.edmonton.com](http://www.edmonton.com)



## WEATHER

Average maximum temperature in summer  
**22 degrees Celsius**

Average maximum temperature in winter  
**-13.1 degrees Celsius**

Average bright sunshine hours per day  
**6.3 hours**

Mean annual rainfall  
**476.9mm**

## TIME

Edmonton is **7 hours** behind GMT.



Photos courtesy of [www.edmonton.com](http://www.edmonton.com)

Canada welcomes new migrants with valuable skills and qualifications, however searching for employment will be a challenge. It is important to be realistic and understand that you may not be able to find your 'dream job' straightaway.



# HOW TO GET A JOB IN CANADA

## DO'S AND DON'TS

It is never easy searching for a job from overseas. Here is a summary of the do's and don'ts for overseas jobseekers in the Canadian employment market place.

### DO

- Do visit the various Canadian job websites BEFORE deciding to emigrate to familiarise yourself with the job opportunities in your field.
- Do apply for your permanent residence visas. Very important. Prospective employers will ask about your immigration status and having your residence visas (or at least being in the application process) is a prerequisite for most Canadian job vacancies.
- Do start applying for advertised job vacancies from OVERSEAS, but only 1 to 12 weeks before a possible start date or a visit to Canada.
- Do send a "cold" letter of application and CV to EVERY potential employer and recruitment agent in the region of Canada you intend settling in to let them know that you are available. Use [www.yellowpages.ca](http://www.yellowpages.ca) to locate details.
- Do prepare your CV in the Canadian style and write a short but clear covering letter confirming that you have been granted permanent residence visas (or that you have been assessed as eligible and are in the visa application process). Visit [www.migrationnews.com](http://www.migrationnews.com) for tips on how to put your CV together for the Canadian market.

- Do provide a Canadian postal address and Canadian mobile/email address in your CV where possible.
- Do visit Canada or arrive permanently (once your visas have been approved) to attend job interviews, as very few employers will engage candidates on a "sight unseen" basis.
- Do make a positive impression in the interview, be flexible and have copies of your residence visas and references available for employers to sight.

### DON'T

- Don't apply for job vacancies OR visit Canada for job interviews more than 1 - 12 weeks away from a possible start date. Employers will not be interested.
- Don't expect everything to work like home. Be flexible and willing to fit in with local ways of doing things.
- Don't expect a job at the same level or higher than you had overseas. You may lack Canadian local knowledge and may need to take a step back in order to advance later. Wait one year.
- Don't expect the same salary or more than you had overseas. The cost of living and income tax rates are lower in Canada than many other western developed nations, so look at your NET INCOME not the gross amount.
- Don't expect a job offer in the first week. On average, it can take native Canadians 1 - 8 weeks to find a new job.
- Don't "over negotiate" the contract with your first employer. Be flexible and understand that employment law and contract terms may be different in Canada.



### JOB VACANCY WEBSITES

[www.monster.ca](http://www.monster.ca)  
[www.canadajobs.com](http://www.canadajobs.com)  
[www.workopolis.com](http://www.workopolis.com)



## HOW TO PREPARE YOUR CV/RESUME

For FREE instructions, example format, wording, and a CV template that you can use yourself, please visit [www.migrationnews.com](http://www.migrationnews.com) under the Employment Guide section.

## KEY EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION AND STATISTICS

**Holiday Entitlement**  
10 days after 12 months of employment

**Average Hourly Wage**  
C\$19.09 (July 2007)

**Average Weekly Hours**  
31.2 (July 2007)

### ANNUAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

as at July each year			
2000	6.8%	2004	7.2%
2001	7.2%	2005	6.8%
2002	7.7%	2006	6.4%
2003	7.7%	2007	5.9%

(Sept 07)

### INCOME TAX (FEDERAL) IN CANADA

Taxable income	Tax payable
C\$1 – C\$33,178	15.5%
C\$33,179 – C\$74,357	22%
C\$74,358 – C\$120,887	26%
C\$120,888+	29%

### GUIDE TO AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS

(September 2007/CAN\$)

Management	34.68
Finance	21.29
Science	31.41
Health	27.23
Education	26.86
Manufacturing	21.55
Trades/Transport	22.93
Sales/Service	15.76



## Job Opportunities for New Settlers

**ODG Recruitment International is dedicated to helping prospective migrants commence the search for employment BEFORE leaving home.**

Our services are tailored to the unique needs of migrant jobseekers and are designed to work on your behalf. You will be guided on effective ways in which to access job vacancies and prepare for job interviews.

We are currently assisting migrants in the following professions:

Plumber/Gasfitter  
Carpenter/Bricklayer  
Motor Mechanic/Panel Beater  
Computer Professional (various fields)  
Refrigeration/Air Conditioning Mechanic  
Physiotherapist  
Chef/Baker  
Hairstylist/Barber  
Tailor/Dressmaker  
Optician/Optomtrist  
Physician  
Sheet Metal Worker  
Welder  
Web Designer  
Architect  
Civil Engineer

This list is intended as a summary only so if your occupation is not listed please call us for further information.

If you are applying for a visa to live and work in Canada and require assistance in finding a job then contact ODG Recruitment International today to discuss how we can assist you.

++64 (0)3 353 5757  
info@odgreruitment.com  
www.odgreruitment.com

**odg** recruitment   
passion for people



# BUSINESS MIGRATION REFERENCE GUIDE

Useful websites and information about doing business and investing in Canada

Businesses for Sale

[www.businessexchange.ca](http://www.businessexchange.ca)

[www.businesssellcanada.com](http://www.businesssellcanada.com)

Canadian Franchise Association

[www.cfa.ca](http://www.cfa.ca)

Setting up a New Business

[www.canadabusiness.gc.ca](http://www.canadabusiness.gc.ca)

HELPFUL WEBSITES

Doing Business in Canada

[www.canadainternational.gc.ca](http://www.canadainternational.gc.ca)

Invest in Canada

[www.investincanada.com](http://www.investincanada.com)

Business Start Up Assistance

[www.bsa.cbasc.org](http://www.bsa.cbasc.org)

## TAXES

### Income Tax (federal) in Canada

Taxable income	Tax payable
C\$1 – C\$33,178	15.25%
C\$33,179 – C\$74,357	22%
C\$74,358 – C\$120,887	26%
C\$120,888+	29%

Corporate tax – 22.1%

Goods and Service Tax (GST)/

Harmonised Sales Tax (HST) – 6%

Please visit [www.cra-arc.gc.ca](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca)

for more detailed information on the various tax rates.

## INTEREST RATES

Visit the Bank of Canada for current interest rates.

[www.bank-banque-canada.ca](http://www.bank-banque-canada.ca)

## INFORMATION ON THE STATES / TERRITORIES

Nunavut [www.gov.nu.ca](http://www.gov.nu.ca)

Northwest Territories [www.gov.nt.ca](http://www.gov.nt.ca)

Yukon [www.gov.yk.ca](http://www.gov.yk.ca)

British Columbia [www.gov.bc.ca](http://www.gov.bc.ca)

Alberta [www.gov.ab.ca](http://www.gov.ab.ca)

Saskatchewan [www.gov.sk.ca](http://www.gov.sk.ca)

Manitoba [www.gov.mb.ca](http://www.gov.mb.ca)

Prince Edward Island [www.gov.pe.ca](http://www.gov.pe.ca)

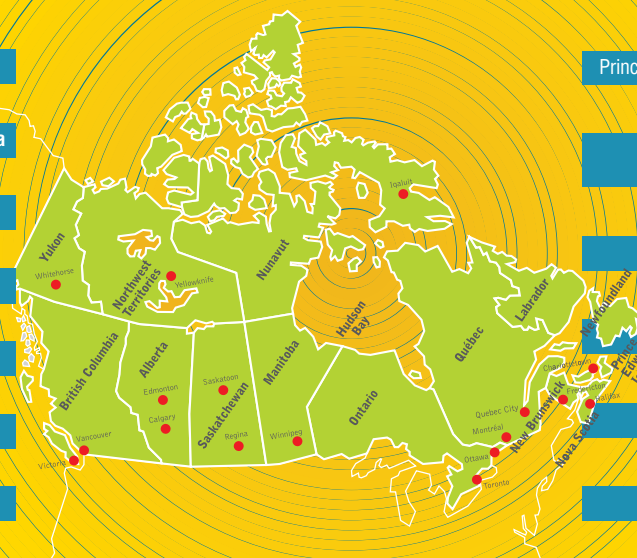
Newfoundland and Labrador  
[www.gov.nf.ca](http://www.gov.nf.ca)

Quebec [www.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.gouv.qc.ca)

New Brunswick [www.gnb.ca](http://www.gnb.ca)

Nova Scotia [www.gov.ns.ca](http://www.gov.ns.ca)

Ontario [www.gov.on.ca](http://www.gov.on.ca)





## PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION BODIES

Occupation	Website	International Telephone Number
Accountant	<a href="http://www.cma-canada.org">www.cma-canada.org</a>	++1 905 949 4200
Banker	<a href="http://www.cba.ca">www.cba.ca</a>	++1 416 362 6092
Chiropractor	<a href="http://www.ccachiro.org">www.ccachiro.org</a>	++1 416 781 5656
Construction	<a href="http://www.cca-acc.com">www.cca-acc.com</a>	++1 613 236 9455
Counsellor	<a href="http://www.ccacc.ca">www.ccacc.ca</a>	++1 613 237 1099
Dentist	<a href="http://www.acfd.ca">www.acfd.ca</a>	++1 613 237 6505
Information Technology	<a href="http://www.cips.ca">www.cips.ca</a>	++1 905 602 1370
Lawyer	<a href="http://www.cba.org">www.cba.org</a>	++1 613 237 2925
Landscape Architect	<a href="http://www.csla.ca">www.csla.ca</a>	++1 613 622 5520
Medical Practitioner	<a href="http://www.cma.ca">www.cma.ca</a>	
Medical Laboratory Science	<a href="http://www.csmls.org">www.csmls.org</a>	++1 905 528 8642
Optometrist	<a href="http://www.opto.ca">www.opto.ca</a>	++1 888 263 4676
Podiatrist	<a href="http://www.cpma.ca">www.cpma.ca</a>	++1 613 226 4187
Pharmacist	<a href="http://www.pharmacists.ca">www.pharmacists.ca</a>	++1 613 523 7877
Physiotherapist	<a href="http://www.physiotherapy.ca">www.physiotherapy.ca</a>	++1 416 932 1888
Surveyor	<a href="http://www.acls-aatc.ca">www.acls-aatc.ca</a>	++1 613 723 9200

### Professional services for new settlers and relocating business persons

**ODG ASSOCIATES is a professional legal advisory and business consulting firm that specialises in assisting new settlers and business persons on the most important aspects relating to the process of moving to a new country.**

ODG ASSOCIATES is a sister division of the MIGRATION BUREAU CONSULTING GROUP, one of the largest and longest-established immigration agencies handling immigration to Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

Our services include assistance with;

- Preparation of a comprehensive business plan that meets the official immigration criteria
- Sourcing an appropriate business for sale that will meet the immigration guidelines
- Guidance on complying with Government overseas/foreign investment regulations when purchasing property or undertaking substantial investments
- Handling company incorporation
- Employment contract advice and preparation

**Contact us today for a free, no-obligation quote or to discuss our services further.**

**Visit our website for details of your nearest office.**

[www.odgassociates.com](http://www.odgassociates.com)

**ODG**  
ASSOCIATES



# NOVA SCOTIA

**Nova Scotia is an ideal place to begin a new life in Canada. It offers a quality of life that blends spectacular natural beauty and wide-open spaces with excellent opportunities, superb education and warm, welcoming people.**



Nova Scotia is a peninsula (about the size of Ireland) found on the east coast of Canada and connected to the province of New Brunswick. It is almost entirely surrounded by water creating a temperate climate with four distinct seasons: spring, summer, autumn and winter.



Nova Scotia is home to approximately 934,000 people and the population is expected to peak at about 990,000 over the next 20 years. With a birth rate of 1.6, most of this population increase will come through immigration.

Most people in Nova Scotia live in urban centres. Halifax Regional Municipality accounts for 40% of the population of Nova Scotia. But the percentage is much lower than in most of Canada and the U.S. Nova Scotia towns and rural communities offer a wonderful quality of life that many immigrants cherish.

## AN AFFORDABLE, EXCELLENT QUALITY OF LIFE

Nova Scotia offers an affordable cost of living. Compared to larger centres such as Vancouver or Toronto, you can have an excellent quality of life. In fact, Nova Scotia's cost of living can be half that of many American, Asian, European and other Canadian centres. For example, a home in Nova Scotia that might cost around \$125,000 could cost \$200,000 to \$300,000 in Vancouver.

Nova Scotia is a haven for leisure and lifestyle activities. Its natural beauty, its many leisure opportunities and outstanding outdoor activities and exciting nightlife attract more than 2 million visitors every year.

## POSITIVE ECONOMIC CLIMATE

Canada leads the G7 countries in low business costs and four centres in Nova Scotia are ranked among the top 10 in the country. Nova Scotia's capital, Halifax, ranks among the top five when compared to large international centres in North America, Europe and Asia-Pacific. This, along with a very competitive tax structure, and a workforce that includes 15,000 post-secondary graduates every year, makes Nova Scotia a very good place to build, or start, a business.

Nova Scotia has one of the fastest growing economies in Canada with smaller businesses leading the way. In fact, small business makes up 92.2% of the provincial economy. The economy is based on traditional sectors such as natural resources, tourism and hospitality, health care and research, manufacturing, as well as the newer fields in information and computer technology.





## BUSINESS COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE

Nova Scotia is closer to Europe than any other east coast port of call. You can be in Boston or New York in less than two hours by air, and London in less than six hours, making the province an ideal location for international trade. By sea, the Port of Halifax is the deepest, ice-free port on the eastern seaboard with direct shipping to Europe, the U.S. and Asia, via the Suez Canal.

With the most widely deployed province-wide broadband fibre optic network in Canada, Nova Scotia has a thriving IT sector and facilitates instant communication around the world. Access to leading-edge research and development in the fields of information technology, medicine, marine science, and security keeps business on the forefront of innovation. With favourable business costs, generous research and development (R&D) tax credits, competitive wages and favourable real estate climate, Nova Scotia is one of the most cost-effective centres in North America to do business.

## EDUCATIONAL ADVANTAGE

Nova Scotia provides employers with a highly-educated workforce and access to world-class research through its 11 degree-granting institutions and 13 community college campuses – the highest concentration per capita anywhere in Canada.

Nova Scotia is recognized around the world by academic institutions, corporations and public and private-sector employers for the quality of education it provides. Receiving an education from a Nova Scotia institution is comparable to the costs of studying in the U.S., Great Britain, Australia and Europe.

## NOVA SCOTIA NOMINEE PROGRAM

Nova Scotia offers skilled immigrants the opportunity to work and live in the region through the Nova Scotia Nominee Program (NSNP). This program offers a quicker entry into Canada for qualified workers and experienced entrepreneurs who wish to settle in Nova Scotia and become permanent residents of Canada.

The program is managed by the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration in partnership with Citizenship and Immigration Canada, the federal department responsible for immigration. It allows Nova Scotia to recruit and select immigrants who can contribute to meeting the labour market and economic needs of the province. Individuals nominated by Nova Scotia, together with their spouse/partner and dependent children, are eligible to apply for a permanent resident visa from Citizenship and Immigration Canada visa under the federal Economic Class known as Provincial Nominee Class.



If you are considering Nova Scotia as your new home visit the following websites for more information.

Government of Nova Scotia  
[www.gov.ns.ca](http://www.gov.ns.ca)

Nova Scotia Tourism  
[www.novascotia.com](http://www.novascotia.com)

Nova Scotia Office of Immigration  
[www.novascotiainmigration.com](http://www.novascotiainmigration.com)

Nova Scotia Economic Development  
[www.gov.ns.ca/econ/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/econ/)

Nova Scotia Business  
[www.novascotiabusiness.com](http://www.novascotiabusiness.com)



# MOVING CHECKLIST

The list of things to organise for your move to Canada can be quite daunting so we have put together a checklist which we hope you will find useful.

## 6 MONTHS BEFORE MOVE

- Obtain quotes from moving company.
- If you are shipping vehicles check legal and customs requirements for your new country.
- Open a bank account in your new country.
- Transportation of pets. Arrange necessary vaccinations and fill out any relevant paperwork e.g. health certificates, immunisations and permits.
- Remember that some items may have restrictions in certain countries. Each country has different rules and restrictions so please check with the customs department of your destination country.
- Make your travel arrangements – make sure you have transit visas etc (if required).
- Begin to inventory and evaluate your possessions. What can be sold or donated to a charitable organisation? What haven't you used within the last year?
- Set up a trading account with a currency broker.

## CLOSE TO THE MOVE

- Notify schools.
- Collect all family medical records. Obtain medical certificates and records for the whole family.
- Transfer funds to your destination. We recommend you use a currency exchange company as they are able to offer a better exchange rate than the high street banks.
- Locate marriage and birth certificates.
- Redirect your mail to a close friend or family member who can then forward to you.
- Inform everyone about your change of address.
- Cancel subscriptions of any magazines, book clubs or satellite TV provider. Remember that sometimes you must give them a month's notice, in writing. (It is good to keep a hard copy of this in case problems occur).
- Arrange travel insurance.
- Confirm shipment dates with moving company.
- Arrange shipment insurance.
- Check with Inland Revenue (or equivalent depending on your home country) that you do not owe any tax or are owed a tax rebate if you have not worked a full tax year.
- Check whether any permits are required, e.g. for vehicles, firearms.
- Are you moving to a country where vaccinations are required?
- Advise your lawyer, bank, doctor, dentist, insurance companies, and the Department of Social Security.
- Obtain invoices for new purchases (for customs import formalities).
- Clear out your loft, attic, garage and shed.
- Contact the chamber of commerce, tourism bureaus, go online or subscribe to the local paper in your community to familiarise yourself with your new location, local government, community and social news and activities.
- Find temporary accommodation in your new destination.
- Request up-to-date statements on any endowments, pensions and investments.

## 3 - 4 WEEKS AWAY

- Conclude any outstanding credit agreements.
- Run down stocks of food and drink.
- Confirm your travel documents and tickets are correct.
- Arrange special transportation for your pets and plants.
- Arrange private health cover, if required.
- Cancel any redundant direct debits or standing orders.

## ONLY ONE WEEK TO GO

- Arrange for main services to be disconnected and meters read.
- Place a stop on the delivery of any newspapers, milk or any other daily services.
- Empty lockers at school/work.
- Drain fuel from any power equipment e.g. Motor mowers.
- Give away any plants and perishable food.
- Make sure any pets have received any necessary immunisations. Get copies of pets' veterinary records.

## DAYS BEFORE (for those shipping personal items)

- Separate all personal items which are to travel with you, e.g. keys, documents, passports, tickets, certificates, currency, clothing, etc.
- Disconnect, clean and dry any electrical appliances that you wish to ship.
- Disconnect lights for shipment and secure wiring.
- Dismantle furniture items.
- Arrange with neighbours to leave sufficient parking space for the removal vehicle.
- Identify those items for air freight as opposed to those being shipped.
- Defrost your fridge and freezer and secure the doors.
- Pack box of personal items that will be needed immediately at your new home. Have this box loaded last or carry it with you.

## REMEMBER TO NOTIFY:

- Insurance Companies.
- House insurance company.
- Car insurance company, ask for written confirmation of no claims bonus (if you have one!)
- Life insurance.
- Health insurance.
- Telephone company, Internet provider.
- Bank/building society – cancel all direct debits/ standing orders.
- Tax office.
- Schools.
- Driving license authority.

# CANADIAN WEB RESOURCES



You may wish to do some research before you arrive in Canada so we hope you will find the websites listed below useful. The links are also available on our website [www.migrationnews.com](http://www.migrationnews.com)

## GENERAL

Federal Government	<a href="http://www.canada.gc.ca">www.canada.gc.ca</a>
Economy	<a href="http://www.canadianeconomy.gc.ca">www.canadianeconomy.gc.ca</a>
Justice & The Law	<a href="http://www.canada.justice.gc.ca">www.canada.justice.gc.ca</a>
Weather	<a href="http://www.theweathernetwork.com">www.theweathernetwork.com</a>
Find a phone number	<a href="http://www.whitepages.ca">www.whitepages.ca</a>
Find a business	<a href="http://www.yellowpages.ca">www.yellowpages.ca</a>
Search Engines	<a href="http://www.google.ca">www.google.ca</a>

## SETTLING IN CANADA

Settlement Information	<a href="http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/newcomer">www.cic.gc.ca/english/newcomer</a>
Services for Business	<a href="http://www.strategis.gc.ca">www.strategis.gc.ca</a>
Taxation	<a href="http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca">www.cra-arc.gc.ca</a>
Social Security	<a href="http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca">www.hrsdc.gc.ca</a>
Health and Safety	<a href="http://www.chp-pcs.gc.ca">www.chp-pcs.gc.ca</a>
Education	<a href="http://www.cmec.ca/educmin.stm">www.cmec.ca/educmin.stm</a> <a href="http://www.canlearn.ca">www.canlearn.ca</a>
Housing	<a href="http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca">www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca</a>
Real Estate	<a href="http://www.realestate-canada.com">www.realestate-canada.com</a> <a href="http://www.crea.ca">www.crea.ca</a>
Importing Motor Vehicles	<a href="http://www.tc.gc.ca">www.tc.gc.ca</a>
Driving	<a href="http://www.tc.gc.ca">www.tc.gc.ca</a>
Banks	<a href="http://www.bankofcanada.com">www.bankofcanada.com</a> <a href="http://www.cibc.com">www.cibc.com</a> <a href="http://www.cwbankgroup.com">www.cwbankgroup.com</a>

## CANADIAN MEDIA

The Globe and Mail	<a href="http://www.theglobeandmail.com">www.theglobeandmail.com</a>
National Post	<a href="http://www.canada.com/nationalpost">www.canada.com/nationalpost</a>
Toronto Star	<a href="http://www.thestar.com">www.thestar.com</a>
Canada Newswire	<a href="http://www.newswire.ca">www.newswire.ca</a>

## EMPLOYMENT

Job Vacancy	<a href="http://www.monster.ca">www.monster.ca</a>
	<a href="http://www.canadajobs.com">www.canadajobs.com</a>
	<a href="http://www.workopolis.com">www.workopolis.com</a>



## migrationnews CANADA

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YOUR VISAS

APPROVED

CANADA

# MIGRATION BUREAU

## Immigration Made Easier

### Success Rate - Close To 100%

Canada operates a proactive immigration policy, but the RISKS and complexities of applying are well known. Every year, the applications of thousands of hopeful migrants are REFUSED or delayed for months, sometimes years, due to errors or mistakes, many of which were avoidable.

PROTECT yourself from unnecessary visa delays and increase YOUR likelihood of SUCCESS.

The MIGRATION BUREAU is one of Canada's LARGEST and longest-established, private immigration consulting groups. We are OFFICIALLY-RECOGNISED SPECIALISTS in obtaining Canadian skills, family and business permanent residence visas.

You will benefit from the complete MIGRATION BUREAU "one-stop" migration service, including full residence visa case management processing, official qualification and trades recognition, job search, business migration and re-settlement services.

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- ▶ NO UNNECESSARY DELAYS: We deal with the immigration authorities on a day-to-day basis and have access to the full library of immigration law and procedures.
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- ▶ Consultants with over 50 YEARS combined EXPERIENCE.
- ▶ MEMBER OF CSIC or relevant Canadian Law Society.
- ▶ REALISTIC FEES: Convenient "pay-as-you-go" payment plans.
- ▶ BUSINESS MIGRATION: All aspects of business plan preparation and state sponsorship handled by our own in-house business migration experts.
- ▶ FREE re-settlement services with special privileges and discounts.

For a FREE initial eligibility assessment, please visit the MIGRATION BUREAU at

[WWW.MIGRATIONBUREAU.COM](http://WWW.MIGRATIONBUREAU.COM)

Or phone your nearest MIGRATION BUREAU office to speak to our experienced consultants.

#### OFFICIALLY RECOGNISED Migration & Visa Consultants

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Migration Agents  
Registration Authority  
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**AUSTRALIA**  
Registered Migration  
Agents (MARIN 9251054,  
0107180, 9791795,  
0533780)

**MINZ**  
IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES  
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Consultants or  
Canadian Law Society



TM

**Migration Bureau**  
CONSULTING GROUP

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AMSTERDAM ++31 (0) 20 6 717017

AUCKLAND ++64 (0) 9 363 3304  
COLOGNE ++49 (0) 221 920 42 468  
WARSAW ++48 (0) 22 629 0729

CHRISTCHURCH ++64 (0) 3 377 4411  
ASIA/PACIFIC ISLAND ++64 (0) 3 377 4411  
ALL OTHER COUNTRIES ++44 (0) 20 7348 6066