

Welcome to Canada

Checklist for Newcomers

Government Support

The federal, provincial, and territorial governments offer a wide range of services and supports for newcomers to Canada.

In your first two weeks in Canada:

- Call or visit an Immigrant-serving organization ([Find newcomer service near you](#))
- Apply for a Social Insurance Number (SIN) – in person at a [Service Canada Centre](#) by scheduling an appointment via the [eServiceCanada request form](#), or [online](#) (a proof of address will be required if you apply online)
- Apply for a government health insurance card
- Open a Canadian bank account
- Provide [Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada](#) with your Canadian address, once you have one
- Learn the best ways of making phone calls and accessing the Internet
- Obtain a map and familiarize yourself with your new neighbourhood and city and the local services available
- Research the public transportation options in your neighbourhood
- Memorize the emergency telephone number: **911** for police, ambulance and fire
- Enrol your children in school
- Get your [credentials accredited](#) (if necessary)

In your first two months in Canada:

- Plan to learn or improve your English or French by enrolling in free language classes
- Apply for the [Canada Child Benefit](#) (if you have children under 18 years old)
- Get your Canadian Driver's Licence if you plan to drive in Canada ([Driving in Canada](#))
- Learn about Canadian laws and your [rights and responsibilities](#) as a resident of Canada
- Search for a home to rent or buy. Learn your rights as a tenant
- Begin to search and [apply for job opportunities](#). Learn your rights as an employee
- Learn about the education options available to improve your qualifications
- Find a family doctor or health-care centre where you can go for your medical needs. Information on [health care in Canada](#)
- Make sure you have received your Permanent Resident Card from [Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada](#) (IRCC) within two months of your arrival (if not, contact the IRCC office) [Check processing time](#)

Resources and sources of information available to help you settle in Canada.

- [Find newcomer service near you](#)
- [Living in Canada tool](#)
- [Canada.ca](#)
- [Welcome to Canada](#) (IRCC Publication)
- [Newcomers to Canada: Connecting with your community](#)
- [Start your life in Canada](#) Visit Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada for more information and videos on starting your life in Canada