




Moving Canada

GETTING STARTED GUIDE





MOVING2CANADA SUCCESS PROGRAM

Thanks for taking the time to download our tips for success. We've formulated proven strategies that will kick-start your move to Canada.

Emigrating to Canada is a big undertaking and Moving2Canada has compiled all the necessary information to contribute to your success. Please familiarize yourself with the website and follow the advice we have gathered from thousands of successful immigrants. Simple things like adapting your resume and showing a willingness to do things the Canadian way will help. Be open to learning about how things are done in Canada. We hope you are excited about the big move.

We provide a wealth of information, so please take the time to read it comprehensively. Immigration professionals are available to help digest information and prepare documents for you, and we recommend seeking such advice once you have conducted your own research.

Our goal is to empower you through access to the relevant information and support your needs and goals in Canada. Though we do not have the resources to provide one-on-one guidance tailored to each individual's needs, we are happy to answer additional queries that may arise after you have put the necessary time into researching and preparing for your new life in Canada.

We want your move to be a great success!

**New country. New beginnings.
New financial future.**

Simplify your move with the *Scotiabank StartRight* program¹.

Get started

You're richer
than you think!

 **Scotiabank®**

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WHY CANADA?



Each person is different. There is no one solution to everyone's scenario, but here are some questions to ask yourself:

Why do I want to move to Canada?

Sometimes the answer can be all of the above, but think about your motives clearly as this will help you make the correct decision:

- » Lifestyle change;
- » Economic necessity;
- » Build your career;
- » Make money and return to your home country.



Will you emigrate with dependents?

The cost of living becomes a much bigger factor when you are supporting a family.

How long do you plan to spend in Canada?

We encourage people to keep an open mind and plan for the long term as once you gain residency in Canada you can always return home.

The remainder of the document focuses on giving you an insight into three key questions you will need to consider before your move.



HOW DO I GET A WORK PERMIT FOR CANADA?



Immigration is not a sexy topic, but don't be intimidated. With a little research, you too can become an expert. Immigrating to Canada does not have to cost you lots of money; many people save thousands of dollars in immigration consultancy fees by completing the process themselves.

With a little research, you can quickly gain the knowledge required to gain control of your immigration process. We strongly encourage you to use the available resources from Immigration Canada and our website to guide you through the process.

Step 1: Come to Canada wizard

Step 2: Research the relevant immigration programs

Step 3: Consult an expert (if required)

Step 1: Come to Canada wizard

Check out the [Come to Canada wizard](#) designed by Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) to assess your suitability under the various immigration programs on offer. Through analyzing your answers to a series of questions, the wizard will advise you on the best option to move to Canada.

Step 2: Research relevant immigration programs

Our [Immigration](#) section goes into all the programs in detail but we provide a brief description below:

IEC WORKING HOLIDAY VISA

The IEC program covers 32 countries and offers applicants the opportunity to live and work in Canada for 1-2 years (depending on your country). It is open



to applicants under a specific age limit (typically 30 or 35) from participating. Arriving on an open work permit will open the door for you to extend your stay via other programs outlined below. Learn more about the [IEC Working Holiday Visa Program](#).



If your country does not participate in the IEC Program with Canada or if you are ineligible for the program due to age or any other requirement, you will either need to apply for residency before coming to Canada or gain a work permit through having employment in Canada.

LABOUR MARKET IMPACT ASSESSMENT (LMIA)

Depending on the demand for your trade/profession on a local level, an employer can apply for a Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) on your behalf and this will provide you with a work permit for 1-3 years. Note that under this option you must have an employer in Canada before you can begin working in Canada.

Learn more about the [Labour Market Impact Assessment \(LMIA\)](#) process.

FAMILY CLASS (FC)

If you are a citizen or permanent resident of Canada, you can sponsor your spouse, conjugal or common-law partner, dependent child or other eligible relative to become a permanent resident under the Family Class (FC). This is a residency program whereby the sponsored person can apply to become a resident of Canada based on a family relationship with a Canadian citizen or permanent resident.

Learn more about the [Family Class Program](#)

EXPRESS ENTRY

From January 1st 2015 onwards, all economic class residency programs will be processed under a new selection system called Express Entry. This will affect the following residency programs: Canadian Experience Class (CEC), Provincial Nominee Program (PNP), Federal Skilled Worker Program (FSWP) and Federal Skilled Trades Program (FSTP).

Read more about the [Express Entry](#) selection process.

CANADIAN EXPERIENCE CLASS (CEC)

This program allows those already in Canada with 12 months of skilled work experience to apply for permanent residency. It is extremely beneficial to those who come to Canada on a working holiday as it allows them the opportunity to accumulate the necessary work experience. The CEC program is part of the *Express Entry* system explained above.

Learn more about the [Canadian Experience Class](#) program.

PROVINCIAL NOMINEE PROGRAMS (PNP)

The PNPs allow Canadian provinces and territories to nominate candidates for permanent residence based on their ability to settle into the provincial labour market. It typically depends on the demand for your profession/trade at provincial level. The PNP program is part of the *Express Entry* system explained above.

Learn more about the [Provincial Nominee Program](#)

FEDERAL SKILLED WORKER PROGRAM (FSWP) & FEDERAL SKILLED TRADES PROGRAM (FSTP)

These are residency programs where you can apply for residency based on the demand for your profession/trade. These programs are part of the *Express Entry* system explained above.

Learn more about the [Federal Skilled Worker Program](#) or [Federal Skilled Trades Program](#)

Step 3: Consult an expert

If required, contact an immigration expert to discuss your options. Many experts provide paid consultations that will allow you to confirm your immigration strategy. See our [Immigration Advice](#) section to view a list of recommended practitioners waiting to help you.



HOW DO I FIND A JOB IN CANADA?

Finding a job in Canada is the end goal. Let's start by telling you how not to find a job. The task of finding a job in Canada is infinitely more complex when you are not located in Canada. You are now competing with candidates all over the world who share the same dream as you. Whether you are in Canada or not, the temptation may be to go to online jobs board and send away as many applications as you can. By adopting the tactic of "The more generic applications I send, the better my chances of success," you're competing with the rest of the herd and haven't taken any action to differentiate yourself. Here are some reasons why this strategy will fail:

- » Ever heard of Applicant Tracking Software (ATS)? More and more companies are using software to scan resumes for keywords so the chances of your resume being read by a human at the company are decreasing dramatically.
- » Companies receive huge volumes of online applications. If someone does read your resume, you typically have 20-30 seconds to impress a reader.
- » As an immigrant, you are competing with local candidates who have much coveted local experience and do not require immigration support in Canada in the future.



To achieve success in your job hunt, you need a process. Below we have shared a simple 6-step process that we guarantee will improve your probability of success. These simple steps have allowed thousands of immigrants to further their careers in Canada.

Step 1: **Canadianize your Resume**

Step 2: **Research the jobs market/Informational interviews**

Step 3: **Build your online presence**

Step 4: **Build your contacts/Networking**

Step 5: **Send targeted applications to open positions**

Step 6: **Adjust/Improve the process**



CANADIANIZE

STEP 1

YOUR RESUME

Your resume is an extremely important document for achieving success in Canada. The simple step of adjusting your resume to Canadian standards is where we see many people succeed or fail. Canadian employers are accustomed to certain practices and formats and it is crucial to take this into account. If you cannot represent your skills in a way they expect, they will not feel you have the ability to adapt to life in Canada.

Your Canadian-style resume is your ticket to success, as this document represents you in your job hunt. Get comfortable with adjusting your resume continuously. You will find a Powerpoint presentation and Microsoft Word resume template included in your download files. See our extensive [Write a Canadian Resume](#) section for more on this topic.



First Impressions Matter!

GET A FREE EVALUATION BY A

Moving2Canada

RESUME EXPERT

Job hunting in a new country can be tough so do not underestimate the challenge ahead. Moving2Canada can help you adjust your skills and experience to the Canadian market. Some facts about your job application:

- The average HR person will spend around 10 seconds reviewing your resume.
- It's likely that your resume may not be read by a human, but by recruitment software (ATS – applicant tracking system).
- Regardless of your industry, first impressions count.
- The objective of your resume is to win an interview. Don't get put in the rejection pile due to mistakes such as poor formatting and grammar.

Ensure you make the right first impression with a clear, concise resume that presents your skills and experience the way Canadian employers expect.

 **Get Started Now**
upload your resume →

RESEARCH THE

STEP 2

JOBS MARKET

Learn more about the jobs market for your role in Canada. Ensure you know the answer to all these questions:

- » Do you need to [get your skills accredited](#) in Canada?
- » How does your experience match up to similar roles in Canada?
- » What provinces/areas in Canada offer better job prospects in your field?

Use job search tools like Monster.ca, Indeed.ca, as well as our own [Moving2Canada jobs board](#), to get a feel for positions in your field.

Our recruitment agency, Outpost Recruitment, matches Canada's leading construction and engineering firms with the best local and international talent. [Explore the Outpost website](#) if you're interested in building a career in these fields.

- » Do companies typically hire from abroad in your field?

Take time to study the requirements for similar positions advertised in Canada. Focus your job search based on the answers to these questions. Instead of the target of your campaign being to find a job, why not make your initial goal to learn more about your industry?

Read more on [Informational Interviews](#)

BUILD YOUR

STEP 3

ONLINE PRESENCE

Use [LinkedIn](#) to ensure your resume can be spotted by people searching for your skill set. Add as much relevant detail as possible as it's crucial to sell your skills to anyone browsing your profile. Incomplete profiles are ineffective, so share your skills and experience and include a professional picture. Join industry groups and associations associated with your profession to help you keep up to date on the jobs market in Canada. Employers and recruiters love using this tool to source talent, so ensure that they can find you.

Learn about [how to be successful with LinkedIn](#)

BUILD YOUR

STEP 4

NETWORK

Did you know that over 60% of positions filled are never advertised? Why waste your time looking through public jobs boards when you can network your way to success?

The goal of networking is to build your own team of people that can help you improve your understanding of the jobs market and ultimately find a job. LinkedIn is a fantastic online networking tool. If you are in Canada, you can attend industry events or networking events to build your contacts.

Learn more about [Networking](#) here

SEND TARGETED

STEP 5

APPLICATIONS

Instead of applying online, if you master steps 3 and 4 you should be able to find a contact at the company of interest to you. It is always better to be referred by an employee of the company.

The job requirements are a set of skills that the candidate must have in order to be considered. Focus your cover letter on highlighting how you can meet these requirements and why you want to work for the company.

Ensure you adjust your resume for each application in accordance with the job requirements; otherwise you are ignoring what the company is looking for.

Remember, five targeted applications are more effective than 10 generic applications. [Learn how to write a targeted cover letter](#). Use the cover letter template in your download files to guide you.

IMPROVE THE

STEP 6

PROCESS

Finding a job is a continuous learning cycle. Prepare to improve the process as you gain advice and feedback along the way. The best things in life never come easy, but job hunting is a life skill.

Explore additional advice on [Finding Employment](#)

"Insanity: doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results"

— Albert Einstein



WHERE IN CANADA SHOULD I LIVE?

Canada is a huge country that offers a very diverse range of cultures, terrain and climates. People incorrectly assume that the most popular cities, Toronto and Vancouver, offer the best opportunities to immigrants.

Canada is very unique in that it is geographically vast and is experiencing labour shortages across Western Canada. Atlantic Canada, Vancouver and Toronto experience higher unemployment. Vancouver and Toronto have a strong supply of immigrants, so competition for employment tends to be lower outside of these two cities.

What factors should influence the location I choose?



YOUR PROFESSION/TRADE

Certain industries are confined to certain areas of Canada. Some research can give you a strong picture of the employment prospects for your profession/trade on a provincial and city level.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN EACH LOCATION

The economy in Canada is currently strong. The provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan are experiencing a boom driven by the Oil & Gas and Mining sectors, which in turn is driving demand for labour across all sectors. Vancouver and Toronto are in the midst of a property boom with an overheating property market and high levels of construction activity.

LIFESTYLE

Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal are typically the most favoured cities in Canada in terms of lifestyle. Each city offers a unique blend, making them the most attractive locations for immigrants. Vancouver has the outdoor lifestyle, Toronto has the big city feel and Montreal is a vibrant cultural hotpot. Canadians are welcoming, friendly and accepting, so start researching the different cities and towns to find an area that suits your needs. Moving2Canada offers information on six of the most popular cities across Canada: Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal, Calgary, Edmonton and Fort McMurray.

COST OF LIVING

Toronto and Vancouver are by far the most expensive large cities to live in Canada. With less employment demand and higher cost of living, it's important to determine whether these cities meet your original objective.



FAMILY

Relocating with a family can be particularly challenging, but the information provided on our website can help you and your family settle into your new home in Canada. Cities with a lower cost of living and strong employment prospects can offer a fantastic gateway into Canadian life. For this reason, cities such as Calgary, Edmonton, Ottawa and Montreal tend to be more popular with immigrant families.



WEATHER

Canada's climate is famous because it typically experiences the four seasons. All the major cities except Vancouver generally contend with snow for at least two months of the year. You are then rewarded with long, hot summers. Vancouver is unique in that it offers a pretty mild climate and temperatures rarely drop below zero. The reality is that people adapt very quickly, so we suggest that you do not let weather strongly affect your decision.

RURAL VERSUS CITY LIVING

While our website focuses on the main cities in Canada, Canada is a vast country with incredible rural communities from coast to coast. Living in a large city is not for everyone. These rural communities love to see immigrants and offer fantastic opportunities to those who do not wish to reside in a city. Smaller cities such as Saskatoon, Ottawa and Prince George tend to offer less of a cultural shock to those who are not used to urban living in large cities.

A horizontal banner advertisement for Car2Go. On the left, a blue box contains the text "FREE REGISTRATION + \$10 CREDIT*" in white. In the center, a woman with blonde hair is smiling, wearing a red jacket. A teal button with the text "JOIN NOW" is overlaid on the image, with the text "*taxes/fees apply" below it. On the right, the Car2Go logo is displayed in a white rounded square.

WHAT SHOULD I DO ONCE I ARRIVE IN CANADA?

SOCIAL INSURANCE NUMBER (SIN)

Getting a Social Insurance Number (SIN) in Canada is among the first things you need to do once you land, as you cannot work in Canada without one. To get your SIN, you need to have a mailing address in Canada. Your SIN is also key to filing a tax return, which you will have to do once you have worked in Canada.

Learn how to [Apply for your SIN](#)👉

BANKING

One of your first tasks in Canada will be setting up a bank account. Thankfully, newcomers to Canada have a number of options for banking. The main banks have special programs, designed with new arrivals to Canada in mind.

There are several things you should keep in mind when you're choosing a bank, and we cover these in our [Banking in Canada article](#). Our article also outlines ways you can open your account before you arrive in Canada, so you can take some of the stress out of your move.



INTERNATIONAL MONEY TRANSFERS

You'll (hopefully!) have some money you'll be looking to transfer into your new bank account. Many people make the mistake of using their banks to transfer these funds, and end up getting an unfavourable exchange rate and high transfer fees.

There are cheaper alternatives, that are regulated and just as safe, that we recommend you use. With [CurrencyFair](#), Moving2Canada readers get their first transfer for free, so you can sample their service without any transaction costs.

Learn more about safe and easy ways to arrange your [international money transfer](#).

FINDING ACCOMODATION

Putting a roof over your head and finding a neighbourhood you find comfortable is essential for your continued happiness and success. To give you peace of mind, we've gathered all the relevant information and links for finding accommodation, both temporary and permanent, on one page.

Learn more about [Finding Accommodation in Canada](#)

CELL PHONES

Contracts for mobile (cell) phones in Canada may be quite different to what you are used to. If you plan on using your phone a lot, it is recommended that you sign up to a plan with data and unlimited texting and calling, at least for local calls.

Learn more about [Cell Phones in Canada](#)

ESSENTIAL LIST

It is a good idea to have a checklist of things you need to get done and items you need to bring with you to Canada. [We provide an example 'essential list'](#). to get you started. Failure to prepare for your move will present obstacles for a smooth transition.



CITY GUIDES

For more information on each city explore our city guides:



[EXPLORE VANCOUVER >](#)



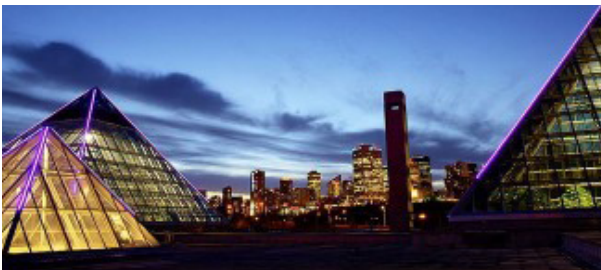
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