

Welcome to Canada



IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO AFTER YOU ARRIVE IN CANADA



Shortly after you arrive in Canada, there are important things you need to do.

IN YOUR FIRST 2 WEEKS

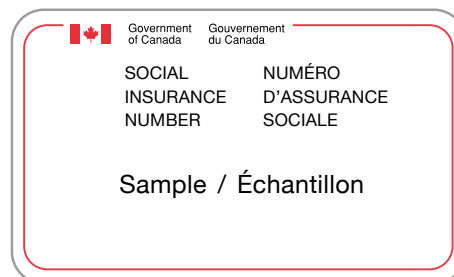
Provide Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) with your Canadian address. You have 180 days to update your address online. Your permanent resident card will arrive at your home in the mail.

Apply for your [Social Insurance Number \(SIN\)](#), which is an important number that allows you to work in Canada and access certain government services.

Open a bank account. Canada has many different types of banks. Visit a bank to learn more about their services and packages for newcomers or search online for the bank that best fits the needs for you and your family. To learn more about banking, visit the [Financial Consumer Agency of Canada](#).

Apply for a government health insurance card as soon as you arrive in Canada. [Provincial and territorial governments](#) have different health insurance plans and waiting periods. If your province or territory requires you to wait before you are covered under their health insurance plan, it is a good idea to have private medical insurance to protect you and your family.

Memorize the telephone number 911. This is the national hotline for emergencies that connects to local police, firefighters, and ambulances. Almost all areas of Canada are covered by this emergency help line, except for some remote and rural areas where you must call a local number. If you have an emergency and someone needs help right away because of an injury or immediate danger, this is the number to call.



IN YOUR FIRST 2 MONTHS

Find a place to live. The [Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation](#) website helps newcomers with useful housing information in different languages. There are also real estate agencies that can help you buy or rent a house or an apartment.

Register your children in school. Depending on the province or territory, children start school at age 5 or 6 and attend until age 16 to 18. This is required by law.

Find a doctor and a dentist. Many Canadians have a family doctor they go to when they need medical care. You can find a doctor and a dentist by asking someone you know, asking your settlement service provider, looking online or contacting a community health centre.

Explore your community. Get a local map and explore your new neighbourhood. Go to your local library, community centre or health care centre to find out what services they offer. Learn about public transportation options.

To improve your English or French, visit a local settlement service provider that helps newcomers with no-cost language training. There are many language training options to explore.

Make connections and build your community. A great way to settle in Canada is to start forming relationships and building networks in your community. Schools, community centres, libraries and places of worship are great places to meet people, make friends and possibly get involved by volunteering.

Locate your local settlement service provider. They can provide advice on many things, like improving your skills and qualifications, finding work or housing, and improving your English or French language skills.

If you plan to drive in Canada, learn provincial or territorial laws to get your driver's licence, or get an International Driving Permit.

Learn about Canadian laws and your rights and civic responsibilities as a resident of Canada.



MORE INFORMATION



For more info about important things to do after you arrive, visit [canada.ca/welcome-newcomers](#).



To find newcomer settlement services in your area, visit [canada.ca/find-newcomer-services](#).

