

# Welcome to Canada

## Checklist for Newcomers

### Government Support

The federal, provincial, and territorial governments offer a wide range of services and support for newcomers to Canada. Please find below a list of important things to do when you arrive in Canada. Note that some items may not apply to your situation. This information is provided in order to guide you through the different steps.

#### In your first weeks in Canada:

- Call or visit an Immigrant-serving organization** and find out what services are available in your new community: Canada.ca → Immigration and Citizenship → New Immigrants → [Find immigrant services near you](#)
  - Apply for a Social Insurance Number (SIN):**
    - **online**, using the eSIN portal at [sin-nas.canada.ca/en/Sin/](https://sin-nas.canada.ca/en/Sin/) (a proof of address is required when you apply online);
    - **in person** at a [Service Canada Centre](#) by scheduling an appointment via the [eServiceCanada request form](https://eservices.canada.ca/en/service/) (eservices.canada.ca/en/service/); or,
    - **by mail**.
- For more information, visit: Canada.ca → Jobs → Apply for a Social Insurance Number (SIN) → [Apply](#)
- Provide Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada with your Canadian address**, once you have one: Canada.ca → Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada → Contact us → [Find out to contact us](#)
  - Apply for your work permit** (if applicable): Canada.ca → Immigration and Citizenship → Work → [Get a work permit](#)
  - Get your credentials accredited** (if necessary): Canada.ca → Immigration and Citizenship → New Immigrants → Prepare for life and work in Canada → [Get your credentials assessed in Canada](#)
  - Apply for a government health insurance card**
  - Open a Canadian bank account**
  - Search for housing to rent or buy.** Learn your rights as a tenant: Canada.ca → Immigration and Citizenship → New Immigrants → Start your life in Canada → [Find a place to live](#)
  - Enrol your children in school**

## In your first months in Canada:

- Apply for the Canada Child Benefit** (if you have children under 18 years old): Canada.ca → Benefits → Family and Caregiving benefits → [Canada Child Benefit](#)
- Learn about Canadian laws and your rights and responsibilities** as a resident of Canada: Canada.ca → Immigration and Citizenship → New Immigrants → Get to know Canada → [Law](#)
- Get your Canadian Driver's Licence** if you plan to drive in Canada: Canada.ca → Immigration and Citizenship → New Immigrants → Prepare for life and work in Canada → [Get a driver's licence](#)
- Make a plan to learn or improve your English or French** by enrolling in free language classes. Canada.ca → Immigration and Citizenship → New Immigrants → [Find immigrant services near you](#)
- Find a family doctor or health-care centre** where you can go for your medical needs. Information on health care in Canada. Canada.ca → Immigration and Citizenship → New Immigrants → Start your life in Canada → [Learn about health care in Canada](#)
- Begin to search and apply for job opportunities.** Learn your rights as an employee: Canada.ca → Immigration and Citizenship → New Immigrants → Prepare for life and work in Canada → Prepare to work → [Get help finding a job.](#)  
Learn how to use Job Bank: Canada.ca → Jobs → Find a Job → Job Bank → Job Bank → [Newcomers to Canada](#)
- Learn about the education options** available to improve your qualifications

## Important phone numbers and sources of information to help you settle in Canada

- **911** Emergency services (police, ambulance and fire)
- **211** Information and referral service to governmental and community health and social services across Canada (24/7, live answer, confidential service, available 150 + languages, online resources [211.ca](#))
- **1-800 O-Canada (1-800-622-6232)** Toll-free number to access information on the Government of Canada programs and services
- **Welcome to Canada** (IRCC Publication):  
[canada.ca/content/dam/ircc/migration/ircc/english/pdf/pub/welcome.pdf](#)
- **Visit Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada** for more information and videos on starting your life in Canada: Canada.ca → Immigration and Citizenship → New Immigrants → [Start your life in Canada](#)