



Your  
relocation  
guide  
to  
Canada



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**MOVING LIVES** *Not just boxes*





<b>TELEPHONE:</b>	Country code (001) + Area Code
<b>STANDARD TIME:</b>	Varies over 6 time zones which cover four and a half hours from GMT.
<b>WEIGHTS &amp; MEASURES:</b>	Metric
<b>ELECTRICITY:</b>	120v AC, 60Hz
<b>INOCULATIONS/VACCINATIONS:</b>	No vaccinations or inoculations required if EU citizens.
<b>NATIONAL PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:</b>	National Holidays are January 1st, Good Friday/Easter Monday, Canada Day 1st July, National Day first Monday in September 25th December Christmas Day. There are numerous other public holidays which relate to certain Provinces only.
<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	Normally a 35 to 40-hour week and there is now flexibility in start and finish times.
<b>BANK HOURS:</b>	Normally open Monday to Thursday 10am to 16.00 hours and to 18.00 hours on a Friday.
<b>EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:</b>	911 - Police/Ambulance and Emergency
<b>BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION:</b>	80 Elgin Street Ottawa, ON K1P 5K7 Tel +1 613 237 1530
<b>CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSION IN LONDON:</b>	Canada House Trafalgar Square London SW1Y 5BJ



## Part 1 – Background Information on Canada

### Background

A land of vast distances and rich natural resources, Canada became a self-governing dominion in 1867 while retaining ties to the British crown. Economically and technologically the nation has developed in parallel with the US, its neighbour to the south across an unfortified border. Canada faces the political challenges of meeting public demands for quality improvements in health care and education services. Canada also aims to develop its diverse energy resources while maintaining its commitment to the environment.

### Geography

The world's second largest country, Canada covers the northern two fifths of North America and has coast lines on the Atlantic, Arctic and Pacific Oceans. Terrain on the west coast, mountain ranges include the Coast Mountains, interior plateaus and the Rocky Mountains. In the centre lie the fertile prairies. Further east, covering about half the total land area, is the Canadian Shield, flat lowlands around the Hudson Bay extended to Labrador. To the south by the fertile Great Lakes, is the St Lawrence lowlands.

Canada is rich in mineral energy resources. It is a top producer of nickel, uranium, copper, iron ore, zinc and other minerals as well as oil and natural gas. Its abundant raw materials are the basis for its manufacturing industries, main exports are machinery, motor vehicles, oil, timber, newsprint and paper, wood pulp and wheat.

Arable farming amounts for only five percent of land, but this is still a large area for producers of wheat. A leading exporter of wood from its vast coniferous forests, fish and seafood from its rich Atlantic and Pacific fishing grounds.

Managed maritime boundary disputes with the US at Dixon Entrance, Beaufort Sea, Strait of Juan de Fuca, and the Gulf of Maine including the disputed Machias Seal Island and North Rock; Canada and the United States dispute how to divide the Beaufort Sea and the status of the Northwest Passage but continue to work cooperatively to survey the Arctic continental shelf; US works closely with Canada to intensify security measures for monitoring and controlling legal and illegal movement of people, transport, and commodities across the international border; sovereignty dispute with Denmark over Hans Island in the Kennedy Channel between Ellesmere Island and Greenland; commencing the collection of technical evidence for submission to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf in support of claims for continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles from its declared baselines in the Arctic, as stipulated in Article 76, paragraph 8, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

### Population

As at November 2017 the population was recorded at 36,742,677.

### Climate

The climatic conditions in the North are sub arctic and arctic, the rest of Canada are temperate. Winters are long and cold with heavy snowfalls, while summers are hot with light to moderate rainfall.

Natural hazards are continuous permafrost in the north causing a serious obstacle to development. Cyclonic storms from east of the Rocky Mountains, a result of the mixing air masses from the Arctic, Pacific and North American interior, and produce most of the country's rain and snow east of the mountains.

### Economy

As a high-tech industrial society in the trillion-dollar class, Canada resembles the US in its market-oriented economic system, pattern of production, and high living standards. Since World War II, the impressive growth of the manufacturing, mining, and service sectors has transformed the nation from a largely rural economy into one primarily industrial and urban. In addition, the country's petroleum sector is rapidly expanding, because Alberta's oil sands significantly boosted Canada's proven oil reserves. Canada now ranks third in the world in proved oil reserves behind Venezuela and Saudi Arabia and is the world's fifth-largest oil producer.

The 1989 US-Canada Free Trade Agreement and the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement (which includes Mexico) touched off a dramatic increase in trade and economic integration with the US, its principal trading partner. Canada enjoys a substantial trade surplus with the US, which absorbs about three-fourths of Canadian merchandise



exports each year. Canada is the US's largest foreign supplier of energy, including oil, gas, and electric power, and a top source of US uranium imports.

Given its abundant natural resources, highly skilled labour force, and modern capital plant, Canada enjoyed solid economic growth from 1993 through 2007. Buffeted by the global economic crisis, the economy dropped into a sharp recession in the final months of 2008, and Ottawa posted its first fiscal deficit in 2009 after 12 years of surplus. Canada's major banks, however, emerged from the financial crisis of 2008-09 among the strongest in the world, owing to the early intervention by the Bank of Canada and the financial sector's tradition of conservative lending practices and strong capitalization. Since the fall in world oil prices in 2014, Canada has achieved modest economic growth. It is forecast for 2017 Canadian GDP is expected to grow at 2.5%.

### **Language**

Canada has two official languages namely English and French.

### **Religion**

Canada has a vast multinational culture and all religions are represented.

### **Education**

By law, children in Canada must go to school. Depending on the province or territory, children may start at the age of **5** or **6**

Education is compulsory up to the age of **16** in every province in Canada, except for Manitoba, Ontario and New Brunswick, where the compulsory age is **18**, or as soon as a high school diploma has been achieved. In some provinces early leaving exemptions can be granted under certain circumstances at **14**.

It's up to parents to choose the type of schooling for their children, such as:

- free public schools
- paid private schools
- at-home education
- English or French schools (in many areas)

### **Currency**

There are no currency restrictions for entry into Canada. The unit of currency is the Canadian dollar, written \$ within the country and the CAD internationally. The dollar is divided into 100 cents. Denominations available:

- Notes, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100
- Coins: 5c, 10c, 25c, 50c, \$1, \$2

### **Health and Medical Care**

Health Insurance is required prior to your arrival.

### **Utilities**

Whilst the power source of Canada is 110v, the power source in the UK is 220v.

As a lot of UK electrical goods are dual voltage, they can be used with a travel adapter in Canada. (An adapter does not change the voltage, it only provides a way of plugging a device into a Canadian-style electrical outlet.)

Many (but not all) small electronic items are dual voltage. You can check by reading the rating label on the device. Items labelled '110-220V 50-60Hz' are dual voltage and can be used with a simple adapter. Those labelled '220V 50Hz' or similar are single voltage and would need a transformer.

Goods that are 220v theoretically can be used in Canada but will have to be used with a "down converter" or a transformer (depending on the size of the appliance).

The word "theoretically" is used because, it is not always convenient or prudent to use some British appliances with transformers in Canada.



## Television

Check the TV's power rating, if it covers 110 - 230/240 V 50/60 Hz then you will be able to plug into the mains via a simple travel adapter (if the power cable is removable you will be able to buy a North American replacement). If the device's power input does not cover 110 V then you will have to purchase a step up voltage transformer which converts 110 V to 230 V ensuring the transformer has a higher wattage than the TV.

*Although every care is taken to ensure that all information in the Atlantic Relocation Guide is accurate and up to date Atlantic cannot accept liability for any inaccuracy.*

## Part 2 – Canada Import Customs Regulations

**To the best of our knowledge, the following applies for the importation of household and personal effects into Canada. However, regulations are subject to change without notice.**

### Import of Personal Effects and Household Goods into the UK

#### First report at customs

All shipments must be declared to customs at your first entry point i.e. port/airport/border crossing. If entering through an airport you will have to complete the e311 Declaration Card, and please ensure you have ticked the section declaring you have goods to follow. You will also need to complete the Form B4Ee which can be obtained online, or we can supply.

Failure to report you have effects following will result in you having to return to your point of entry to obtain the necessary permission to import.

Shipments of personal and household effects can be subject to a thorough inspection by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).

Please make sure all items which have meet soil have been thoroughly cleaned, this includes shoes, golf clubs, bicycles etc.

Any single items of personal or household effects, that were acquired after March 31st, 1977 and are valued at more than C\$10,000 are subject to regular duty and taxes on the excess amount.

For duty free entry the following documentation is required.

Landed Immigrant (Settlers, Students, visitor or work visa).

- Copy Passport
- Detailed Inventory
- Advice notice / customs manifest obtained in Canada. Our agent will supply this
- Detailed valued list of items included in shipment
- Ownership, possession and proof of use
- Receipt for any new items
- Your Declaration Form B4Ee
- Immigration papers (if applicable)
- Landed Immigrant Application (if applicable)
- Visa (if applicable)
- Work Permit (if applicable)
- Letter of Undertaking (not always necessary)
- Liquor import declaration (if applicable)



Duty free under the following conditions:

#### **Student – Visitor – Work Visa:**

- All items imported must be for personal use during the stay
- All goods must be exported when importer's temporary residency status expires
- The goods may not be sold off in Canada without customs authorisation

#### **Returning Canadian**

Returning Canadians will also need to provide the following documents:

- Proof of Residency outside of Canada for at least one year (e.g. Monthly statements, letter from employer, rent receipts, Income Tax)

Duty free if you resume residence after an absence of not less than one year.

#### **Seasonal Residents**

- Passport for all family members
- Detailed list of all items in English / French
- Copy of the deed to the property or copy of sales agreement for the property

Duty free if:

- Import of used household and personal effects on a ONE-time entry basis
- Goods cannot be sold for at least one year

A proof of purchase/copy of lease agreement is required for any person who is not a resident of Canada but owns a residential property or has leased a residence for at least 3 years for his/her personal use.

#### **Diplomatic Removals**

Documents Required:

- Obligation for privilege to be lodged by the Canadian Ministry of External Affairs
- Passport, inventory, arrival notice

Duty free entry, but there are restrictions regarding alcohol

#### **Wedding Trousseau**

Document Required:

- Inventory in English or French, Marriage certificate

#### **Inheritance**

Documents Required:

- Personal identification
- A detailed list of all items (English / French) including values in Canadian dollars
- Advice notice obtained from moving company
- Copy of the Death Certificate, copy of the will or a letter from the Executor of the Estate stating you are a beneficiary
- A previously signed statement from the donor giving reason for the gift or a statement from the Executor of the Estate (gifts could be subject to import duties and taxes)



Duty free entry if the imported items have been owned and used by the deceased for at least six months prior to entry, although please note the Canadian Customs Authorities may make a charge to clear the effects.

### **Food**

Prohibited with household and personal effects.

### **Alcohol**

Alcohol is allowed into Canada, but duty and tax will apply, and each Province has its own process for importation. Duties will be assessed against valuations calculated by the Provincial Liquor Board levies, and the Canada Customs tariff. Please note a Permit is usually required prior to importation. **We must also point out that shipping alcohol with your household and personal effects will probably result in delays in clearance, and additional clearance costs.**

### **New furniture, household items, presents and souvenirs**

#### **Settlers & Immigrants**

New furniture and household furniture are liable to payment of customs duties if they have not been in the owners' previous use prior to their arrival in Canada.

Canada Customs require invoices and inventory of new goods.

If duty and taxes are paid at time of import the goods may be sold at any time. If the goods are brought in and no duty or taxes are paid then they cannot be disposed of within one year of import. Please note the Canadian Customs Authorities may make an additional charge to clear the effects.

#### **Works of Art, Antiques if not part of household effects**

Proof of age will be required if item is over 100 years old.

Duty free entry if:

- Articles are over 100 years old (proof required)
- Are not for sale or another disposal

Antiques and works of art imported into Canada as a commercial shipment, are subject to different regulations.

### **Motor Vehicles**

**Used or second-hand vehicles are generally prohibited from importation into Canada.** However, there are some exceptions to these rules.

Documents Required for Permitted Vehicles

- Passport
- Proof of ownership and previous registration
- Insurance documents to be presented at time of clearing
- The car must comply to Canadian Standards
- All vehicles will be inspected by the Canadian Agricultural Inspection Agency upon arrival into Canada

If on a work visa, then the rules for importing a car are more relaxed. The vehicle will be imported on a temporary basis for the duration of the work visa. When your work visa expires, or you obtain permanent residence the vehicle will need to be re-exported.

### **Firearms**

Please do not include with household and personal effects. All firearms coming into Canada are taken for detailed inspection and could be refused entry. Import licence has to be obtained prior to shipping and including firearms in your shipment will cause long expensive delays in clearance.



## Hunting Trophies, Narcotics, Drugs and Incitements - Importation prohibited

The Canadian government has a policy of random checks for drugs.

### Plants

Prohibited with household and personal effects.

### Other Prohibited Items

- Baby walkers
- Infant self-feeding devices
- Jequirity beans
- Lawn dart with elongated tips
- Relight candles
- Yo-yo balls with long cords
- Balloon blowing kits

### Endangered Species

Canada is a signatory to an international agreement that controls the trade or movement of many animals, their fur, skin, bone, feathers etc.

A CITES certificate is normally required. There is a worldwide ban on the movement of Ivory without a CITES certificate. **Please note old pianos usually have ivory keys and a CITES certification will be required.**

For Information on obtaining a CITES certificate then please visit <http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/endangered-species-application-for-import-and-export-permit>

### Pets

Please see further information for relocating your pets to Canada:

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/terrestrial-animals/imports/policies/live-animals/pets/eng/1326600389775/1326600500578>

### Fumigation of imported Wooden Crates

The Canadian Government adopted ISPM-15 (International standards for Phytosanitary Measures Publication 15) Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Material in International Trade (aka NIFM-15) to standardise the treatment of wood packing materials used for the transport of goods.

ISPM No. 15 requires that wood packaging either be heat-treated or fumigated with methyl bromide and marked with the internationally recognized International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) mark, or in lieu of the mark, the consignment must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate specifying the treatment used.

For more information on rules and regulations governing the Import Policy and Export Program for Wood Packaging, please visit the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) Website: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca>