

**Been There, Done That:
Canada Newcomer Basics –
Arrive & Thrive**



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Contents

Important Notice

About the Authors

Acknowledgment

Introduction

Disclaimer

Chapter 1: Arriving at the Airport

Final Processing as Landed Immigrant

Customs Paper Work

Chapter 2: First Day in Canada

Transportation And A Place To Stay

Canadian Money

Overcoming Jet Lag

Four Seasons in Canada

Shopping

Chapter 3: Moving Around

Using the Transit

 Fare

 Transit Stops

 Transit Schedule

Taxi, Bicycle, Walking

Finding an Address

Chapter 4: One Week After Arrival

Staying Informed

Getting Connected

 Telephone

 Canada Post

Looking for Work

Applying for a Social Insurance Number

 How to Apply

 SIN and Your Privacy

 Fraud or Misrepresentation

 Lost or Stolen SIN

Banking

- Opening an Account
- Most Common Accounts
- ATM
- Bank Statements

Applying for a Health Card

- How to Apply
- Use of Health Card
- Patients' Rights

Connecting with Immigrant-Serving Organizations

Chapter 5: Two Weeks After Arrival

Renting a Mailbox

Finding a Home

- Information Source
- Types of Rental Accommodation
- What to Look for in a Rental House
- Rental Price
- Utilities: How Much?
- Tenancy Agreement
- Other Important Details

Chapter 6: In Your First Few Months

Moving in Your New Home

- Before Moving
- Tenant and Landlord Responsibilities
- Heads Up: When You Move Out

Applying for a Driver's License

- How to Apply
- Steps in Securing a License

Driving in Canada

- Pointers
- Driving in Winter
- Driving while Impaired
- Car Accidents
- Traffic Tickets

Demerit Point System
Buying Your First Car
New Car?
Used Car?
Imported Car or North American car?

Getting Insured
Automobile Insurance
Tenant Insurance
Homeowner's Insurance
Life Insurance

Staying Healthy

Going to School

Chapter 7: Settling in Canada

Getting Involved and Knowing Your Rights

Making the Library Work for You

Improving Language Skills

Registering for Adult Education Classes

Avoiding Embarrassment

There's More to Know

Finding Help When You Need It

Family Benefits and Welfare

Appreciating the RCMP

In Case You Need A Lawyer

Preparing for Winter

Statutory Holidays

Enjoying Canada

Chapter 8: Postscript

Ant Philosophy

Noah's Ark

Why you need this eBook:

➤When you arrive at the airport what will happen? – We went through this so we'll tell you what to expect.

➤Forearmed is forewarned – Inadequate information can make life difficult for a newcomer -- we know just what you need & sum it up in easy to read format.

➤Even if you have relatives or friends in your destination city, they have their own lives -- busy at work on weekdays, busy with housework on weekends. When you have the information you need to move around and survive, you'll get by on your own – we'll give you this important information.

Chapter 1: Arriving at the Airport

A new beginning in the making ...another season is in store. From my window I can see it and more.

- From the song: A New Beginning

Final Immigration Processing

The visa issued by the Canadian Embassy allows you to move on to the final processing phase before admission to Canada as a landed immigrant. This is done at the first Canadian port of entry.

Remember: The examining officer at the Canadian port of entry has the final responsibility in determining your admissibility for permanent residence. Relax ... be confident and enthusiastic. If you are asked questions, be truthful with your answers.

Entry documents for the final phase of the immigration process include:

Chapter 2: First Day in Canada

Today is the first day of the rest of my life.

Once you are finished with the immigration and customs procedures and leave the airport - you have legal status as a permanent resident of Canada.

Chapter 3: Moving Around

Enthusiasm is a telescope that yanks the misty, distant future into the radiant, tangible present.

- Anonymous from *Leaves of Gold*, p.56

As newcomers we were eager to discover and explore our new surroundings and community.

....

Using the Transit

Major cities in Canada have a [subway/sky train, buses/streetcars and ferry system](#).

Chapter 4: One Week After Arrival

Watch your way then as a cautious traveler; and don't be gazing at the mountain or river in the distance, and saying "How shall I ever get over them? But keep to the present little inch that is before you, and accomplish that in the little moment that belongs to it.

- M.A. Kelly from *Leaves of Gold* p 172.

Getting Connected

The two main systems of public communication in Canada are....

Chapter 5: Two Weeks after Arrival

A comfortable house is a great source of happiness. It ranks immediately after health and a good conscience.

[Sydney Smith](#)

.....

Finding a Home

Information Source

You can find rental homes through referral from community service agencies and organizations

(housing registry services and home sharing programs), relatives and friends; classified section of major newspapers, community newspapers and renters magazine; rental signs posted in front of buildings or houses and on bulletin boards in community centers, supermarkets, Laundromats, libraries, and university and college campuses; or by talking to people. The Internet is also a source.

..... Getting an assisted housing unit or getting into a co-op can take a long time. If you're interested, find out when the next public information meeting takes place.

Chapter 6: In Your First few Months

Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow.

[Source Unknown](#)

Moving in Your New Home

..... *To do* list before moving into your permanent home

Chapter 7: Settling in Canada

We must learn to tailor our concepts to fit reality, instead of trying to stuff reality into our concepts.

Victor Daniels

..... As newcomers we had to come to terms with our own culture and examine it in relation to Canadian culture to avoid cultural misunderstandings and create a healthy balance between the two.

Chapter 8: Postscript

He who can take advice is sometimes superior to him who can give it. - Karl Von Knebel

Before you close the pages of this book, take this simple yet powerful philosophy with you:
never quit, look ahead, stay positive, do all you can.

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