

What to Do as Soon as You Arrive in Canada



Of course you need a job and a place to live.

For work, be sure to see the resume sample on our Essential Guides page (www.irishcdn.org); to review our networking guide; and to check www.irishjobs.ca regularly (although this is a small site, there are a few gems that get posted here). Also note that our website has all of the major jobsites in Canada listed by province. We frequently post employment tips on our FB page: Irish Canadian Immigration Centre.

For accommodation you will find major rental sites listed by province on our website. Keep in mind that getting your first apartment may be a challenge—Canadian landlords want to see Canadian references and Canadian credit checks which you will not have. It may be easier to go into an apartment where other Irish are already renting as they will have already negotiated credit checks etc. with the landlord. You can also consider sharing an apartment with Canadians. You need to persevere until you find a landlord who will accept your situation. See our Cost of Living guide for more insights.

There are a few key things to consider upon arrival:

- 1. Apply for your Social Insurance Number (this can be done a Service Canada kiosk). A S.I.N allows you to work legally in Canada—you can only get this with a valid**

work permit. Take your work permit and passport to the nearest Service Canada office. See our SIN guide for more details.

- 2. Get a mobile phone with a Canadian number so that potential employers may contact you.**
- 3. Get a bank account (this will help you when interviewing for accommodation). Remember that Scotiabank is one of our sponsors.**
- 4. Update your resume with your Canadian address and phone numbers. Canadian employers are not likely to reach out if your address and phone are not Canadian.**
- 5. Read our Coming to Canada: Expectations and Realities guide and pay close attention to the employment tips.**
- 6. Apply for a provincial photo ID card (so that you have government issued photo ID and do not have to carry your passport with you). See the links on our website for the provincial office nearest you. Take your passport and work permit.**
- 7. Apply for your provincial health card –each province has rules as to when you can apply for this: standard is 3 months into full-time work with a letter from your employer that you will be employed for at least an additional six months. See our Health Cards guide for more info. Provincial health care gives you free access to doctors and hospital care.**
- 8. Join our FB page for regularly immigration updates: Irish Canadian Immigration Centre.**

