



I / CAN

BECOMING A CITIZEN

[August 2018]

Effective October 11, 2017 Citizenship Requirement Changes

- Canadian citizenship applicants must be physically present in Canada for **three (3) out of five (5) years** before applying. This is a change from the previous requirement for applicants to be present in Canada four out of six years before applying.
- Time spent in Canada as a temporary resident or protected person before becoming a permanent resident will count towards the physical presence requirement for citizenship, up to a maximum credit of 365 days.
- Applicants under 18 or older than 54 years of age are no longer required to meet language and knowledge requirements for citizenship.
- You have to file CANADIAN INCOME TAXES (if required to do so under the Income Tax Act) for 3 OUT OF 5 YEARS, matching the new physical presence requirement.

See [here](#).

Find out if you are eligible to apply, how to apply, and what to do after you apply: [here](#)

Permanent Resident Status

If you're applying for citizenship, you must have:

- permanent resident (PR) status in Canada
- no unfulfilled conditions related to your PR status

Your PR status must not be in question. This means you must **not**:

- be under review for immigration or fraud reasons
- have certain unfulfilled conditions related to your PR status
- be under a removal order (an order from Canadian officials to leave Canada)

See [here](#) for IRCC details.

Time you have lived in Canada

As of June 19 2017:

- applicants now have to accumulate **1,095 days**, or **three years, within a five-year period**, before being eligible for citizenship
- **DAYS SPENT IN CANADA BEFORE BECOMING A PERMANENT RESIDENT** (as a temporary resident or protected person) within 5 years of applying for citizenship, **COUNT AS ½ DAYS**, up to a maximum of 1 year (365 days).

See [here](#) for IRCC details.

[Physical Presence Calculator](#)

Language Abilities

Canada has two official languages—English and French. To become a citizen, you must show that you have **adequate knowledge of one of these languages**. In general, this means you can:

- take part in short, everyday conversations about common topics;
- understand simple instructions, questions and directions;
- use basic grammar, including simple structures and tenses; and
- show that you know enough common words and phrases to answer questions and express yourself

Depending on your age, you must send documents with your citizenship application that prove you can **speak** and **listen** in English or French at this level.

Do you have the language proof needed to apply?

[Find out here](#)

IRCC will note how well you communicate to staff or a citizenship officer during your interview. A citizenship officer will make the final decision on your application, including how well you can communicate in English or French.

How well you know Canada

To become a citizen, you must understand the rights, responsibilities and privileges of citizenship, such as voting in elections and obeying the law. You must also show, in English or French, that you understand Canada's:

- history,
- values,
- institutions and
- symbols.

Depending on your age, you will need to take a citizenship test to show you have **adequate knowledge** of Canada and the **responsibilities and privileges of citizenship**. It is usually a written test, but it is sometimes taken orally with a citizenship officer. All you need to know for the test is in IRCC's free study guide, Discover Canada: [The Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship](#). Questions in the citizenship test are based on this study guide.

[Prepare for the test](#)

Prohibitions

If you have committed a crime in or outside Canada you may not be eligible to become a Canadian citizen for a period of time. For example if you:

- are in prison, on parole or on probation in Canada, or are serving a sentence outside Canada
- have been convicted of an **indictable offence** in Canada or an **offence** outside Canada in the four years before applying for citizenship, or
- are charged with, on trial for, or involved in an appeal of an **indictable offence** in Canada, or an **offence** outside Canada.

Individuals serving a conditional sentence will not be granted citizenship, take the Oath of Citizenship, or be able to count this time towards meeting the physical presence requirements for citizenship.

See [here](#) for IRCC details.

Fees

If more than one member of your family is applying for Canadian citizenship pay the fees all together. Fees must be included with application.

Adult (18 years of age and over) × \$630
Child (under 18 years of age) × \$100

[See here](#)

[Application Links](#)

[FAQS](#)



Please note IRCC rules and regulations can be updated at any time. Be sure to clear your cookies and cache to get the most up-to-date documents and checklists as you complete your application.

This guide cannot be relied upon from a legal perspective. I/CAN provides information—[not advice](#). This information is gleaned from IRCC's website. Before proceeding, verify all information with IRCC.