

Before you leave for Canada

Document Checklist

Essential documents

When you enter Canada at the airport or port of entry you must have the following documents. (Do not pack these documents; keep them on your person to show customs and immigration officers.)

- √ Canadian immigrant visa and Confirmation of Permanent Residence for you and each family member travelling with you
- √ valid passport or other travel document for you and each family member travelling with you
- √ detailed list of all the personal or household items you are bringing with you into Canada
- √ list of items that are arriving later

These lists should state the value of your personal and household items.

- √ You must also bring with you enough money to cover living expenses such as rent, food, clothing and transportation for six months. You may be asked to show proof of your funds.

Important documents

Gather the following documents that apply to you and bring them with you to Canada.

- √ birth certificates or baptismal certificates
- √ marriage certificates
- √ adoption, separation or divorce papers
- √ school records, diplomas or degrees for you and each family member
- √ trade or professional certificates and licences
- √ letters of reference from former employers
- √ a list of your educational and professional qualifications and job experience (résumé);
- √ immunization, vaccination, dental and other health records for you and each family member
- √ driver's licence, including an International Driver's Permit
- √ car registration documents if you are importing a motor vehicle into Canada

Copies: Make photocopies of all essential and important documents in case the originals get lost (be sure to keep the copies in a separate place from the originals).

Translation: If possible, get all of your documents translated into English or French by a qualified translator before you leave for Canada.

Customs: When you arrive you will be interviewed by an officer of the Canada Border Services Agency. Show him your visa. He will check the list of items you are importing. He will refer you to an immigration officer.

Immigration: The immigration officer will check your visa and travel documents and ask questions to verify that you are of good character and health. If there are no difficulties the officer will authorize your entry by signing your Record of Landing or Confirmation of Permanent Residence.