

## Coming to Canada



Approximately 16% of Canada's population is made up of Immigrants from all parts of the world.

It is important to apply for permanent resident status while you are **outside** of the country, if you would like to immigrate to Canada. Permanent residents are able to live, study and work anywhere in Canada but are not eligible to vote. They must pay taxes and are subject to Canadian laws.

Before you apply for permanent resident status, you must decide where in Canada you would like to live. Canada is a very big country with many wonderful opportunities.

Visit the Canadian embassy, consulate or visa office in your area before you leave and find out all of the details in becoming a permanent resident, or if you are eligible to come to Canada as a refugee. You can visit [www.cic.gc.ca](http://www.cic.gc.ca) for more information and to access useful guides to assist you in your preparation and arrival. [www.OntarioImmigration.ca](http://www.OntarioImmigration.ca) is also a very useful site to help you prepare for arrival in Ontario.

If you decide to live in beautiful Kingston, visit **Immigrant Services Kingston and Area** when you arrive. We would be happy to see you and help you discover the wonderful resources and support available to you as you make Canada your new home.

## Settlement Steps



### Step 1: Find a Place to Stay

Home Base Non-Profit Housing, Housing Help Centre, Social Housing Registry Program and Town Homes Kingston are places to look for affordable housing. Visit the [www.cityofkingston.ca](http://www.cityofkingston.ca) web site for more information on some of these options.

Remember to ask if you have to pay for electricity, heating, water and sewer in addition to the monthly rent.

Many landlords in Kingston require a "down payment" and/or a "damage deposit". He or she will hold the deposit as a security to help cover the cost of any property damage that might happen while you live there.

To learn more about landlords and tenants in Ontario visit [www.ontariotenants.ca](http://www.ontariotenants.ca).

## Step 2: Get a Social Insurance Number

A Social Insurance Number is needed for identification and to work in Ontario. You can apply for a Social Insurance card at any office of the Service Canada department of the federal government. For more information, contact the Regional Call Centre for Employment Insurance and Social Insurance Numbers at 1-800-206-7218.

## Step 3: Get Medical Insurance

Within three months of arrival, you must apply for Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP). For more information:

Call the ministry **INFOline** at 1-800-664-8988  
(Toll-free in Ontario only)  
TTY 1-800-387-5559  
Hours of operation : 8:30am - 5:00pm

## Step 4: Open a Bank Account

You will need at least two pieces of identification, preferably with your photo, to open a bank account. A permanent resident card, social insurance number card and passport are some of the identification you can use to open a bank account.

## Step 5: Plan for Your Children

If you have children under the age of 18, you may be eligible for the Canada Child Tax Benefit. If you'd like more information on about the Canada Child Tax Benefit, call 1-800-959-1193.

If you need information on registering your child for school, you can visit the Limestone District School Board at [www.limestone.on.ca](http://www.limestone.on.ca), the Algonquin & Lakeshore Catholic District School Board at [www.alcgsb.on.ca](http://www.alcgsb.on.ca), the Conseil des écoles publiques de l'est de l'Ontario at [www.cepeo.on.ca](http://www.cepeo.on.ca) or the Conseil scolaire de District Catholique du Centre-est de l'Ontario at [www.ceclf.edu.on.ca](http://www.ceclf.edu.on.ca) .

## The Beauty of Kingston

If you are interested in visiting Kingston, you might want to check out the following websites to see the beauty of Kingston and the many festive events that take place in this wonderful city:

<http://tourism.kingstoncanada.com>

[www.kingstoncanada.com](http://www.kingstoncanada.com)

[www.whatsonkingston.com](http://www.whatsonkingston.com)

## **Local Service Providers and Cultural Organizations**

Kingston has a diverse and ethnically rich population. The following websites will help you to find the organization you may be looking for.

Kingston Community Health Centres [www.kchc.ca](http://www.kchc.ca)

Association canadienne-française de l'Ontario Region Milles-Iles [www.acfomi.org](http://www.acfomi.org)

Centre Culturel Frontenac <http://centreculturelfrontenac.com>

KEYS [www.keys.ca](http://www.keys.ca)

Limestone School Board [www.limestone.on.ca](http://www.limestone.on.ca)

Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board [www.alcdsb.on.ca](http://www.alcdsb.on.ca)

Kingston Jewish Community Council [www.kjcc.on.ca/index.htm](http://www.kjcc.on.ca/index.htm)  
(Hadassah Wizo)

Italo-Canadian Club [www.italo.canadianclub.com](http://www.italo.canadianclub.com)

Islamic Society of Kingston [www.kingstonmuslims.net](http://www.kingstonmuslims.net)

India Canada Association [www.icakingston.com](http://www.icakingston.com)

Danish Orthodox Community of Kingston [www3.sympatico.ca/mbes/](http://www3.sympatico.ca/mbes/)

Canadian Cuban Friendship Association of Kingston [www.geocities.com/ccfakingston](http://www.geocities.com/ccfakingston)

Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann Harp of Tara Branch [www.srayner.ca/comhaltas](http://www.srayner.ca/comhaltas)