



Type of law:  
**CIVIL LAW**

A 2020 Alberta Guide to the Law

# Citizenship



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# Pathway to Canadian Citizenship



**Be a permanent Resident**



**Be 18 or older, apply with a parent, or obtain a waiver**

**3+**

**Live in Canada for at least 3 of the last 5 years before applying**



**Apply to become a citizen**



**Be able to speak/write in English or French if between 18-54 years old**



**Write the citizenship exam if between 18-54 years old**



**If approved take oath of citizenship if older than 14**



**Congratulations you are now a Canadian!!!**

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**\*\*Please note: immigration rules change often. The information in this pamphlet is correct as of July 2020. Please contact a lawyer for rules specific to your situation.\*\***



## Citizenship

People born in Canada (to parents who are not foreign diplomats) are citizens of Canada. People born outside of Canada with at least one parent who was born or naturalized in Canada before their birth are likely Canadian Citizens. If this situation applies to you, you should apply for a citizenship certificate and not for citizenship itself.

A permanent resident may apply to become a Canadian citizen. To do so, you must meet the following requirements:

- You must be a permanent resident of Canada in good standing.
- You must have been physically present in Canada for at least 3 years within the last five years immediately prior to the date the application is signed.
  - Time spent as a temporary resident or protected person may qualify as ½ a day, up to a maximum of 365 days.
    - This includes time as a visitor, student, worker, temporary resident holder, protected person (someone found to be in need of protection or a convention refugee by the Immigration and Refugee Board); or someone who has received a positive decision on a Pre-Removal Risk Assessment from Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada
  - The physical presence requirement does not apply to children under 18 whose parent or guardian is already a Canadian citizen or is applying for citizenship at the same time.
  - If you or your family members are Crown Servants for the Canadian Armed Forces, members of the Federal Public Administration, or in public service of a province or territory, time spent abroad may count towards the physical presence requirement.
- You must have met your personal income tax filing obligations in three taxation years that are fully or partially within the five years immediately before the date you apply.
- You must be able to prove that you can speak and listen in either English or French if you are between the ages of 18 to 54,
- You must pass the citizenship test to show that you know about your rights and responsibilities as a Canadian citizen, and
- Take the oath of citizenship at a citizenship ceremony if you are over 14 years old.

A permanent resident under the age of 18 (minor) may become a Canadian citizen if their parent or guardian who is already a Canadian citizen applies on their behalf or if their family is applying for citizenship together. A minor may also ask for a waiver for this requirement. If this is the case, then they may apply on their own and must meet the physical presence requirement and most other requirements that apply to adults.

Only applicants between the ages of 18 and 54 have to write and pass the citizenship test. The citizenship test covers various topics about Canada, including its history, geography, and political and justice systems, as well as the rights and responsibilities of a Canadian citizen. Everyone over the age of 14 will have to take the oath of citizenship.

## **Barriers to Citizenship**

Certain people cannot become Canadian citizens. This includes people who:

- Are currently charged with an indictable (serious) criminal offence or an offence under the *Citizenship Act*,
- Have been convicted of an indictable (serious) criminal offence or an offence under the *Citizenship Act* in the past four years,
- Are now in prison, on parole, or on probation,
- Are being investigated for or have been convicted of war crimes or crimes against humanity,
- Have had their citizenship revoked because of fraud in the past 10 years,
- Have had a citizenship application refused for misrepresentation in the past 5 years,
- Are under review for immigration or fraud reasons,
- Have certain unfulfilled conditions related to your permanent resident status, or
- Are under a removal order.

In some instances, the barrier to citizenship might be temporary. For example you might qualify for citizenship after you are released from prison.

## **Other Topics**

### **Dual Citizenship**

When a person is recognized as a citizen in more than one country, they have what is called dual citizenship. Canada has allowed Canadian citizens to take on additional citizenship since February 14, 1977. A Canadian citizen who became a citizen of a foreign country before that date should contact Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada. Permanent residents

applying for Canadian citizenship should check the rules of their country of origin concerning dual citizenship. Some countries do not allow you to keep citizenship when you obtain Canadian citizenship and may revoke your original citizenship if you obtain Canadian citizenship. Contact a lawyer if you think this applies to you.

You must also have a valid Canadian passport to travel to Canada by air if you hold dual citizenship from any country other than the United States. That is, you will not be allowed to enter Canada on the passport from your other nationality and must use a Canadian passport.

### **Having Your Citizenship Taken Away**

Generally, citizenship is permanent and cannot be revoked. There are however exceptions to this: if the citizenship was obtained by fraud, hiding information, or misrepresentation; or if you have dual citizenship, your Canadian citizenship may be revoked if you are convicted of terrorism, treason, or espionage, or if you served in the armed forces of a country engaged in military conflict with Canada.

You may also be barred from reapplying for citizenship.

### **Citizenship Certificate**

A citizenship certificate acts as proof of citizenship. New Canadians are automatically granted a certificate and any other citizen can apply for one from Citizenship Services. This office can also search for records of citizenship.

You should also apply for a citizenship certificate if you are unsure if you already have Canadian citizenship – for example, if one of your parents was a Canadian citizen at the time you were born. This will help you to confirm whether or not you already hold Canadian citizenship or if you have to apply for it.

## **Who Can I Call For More Help Or Information?**

### **Government Agencies**

<b>Citizenship and Immigration Canada</b>	<b>Ph: 1-888-242-2100</b> <b>Or TTY: 1-888-576-8502 (8 am to 4 pm your local time) - Call the TTY service if you:</b>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• are deaf, hard of hearing or have a speech impairment</li> <li>• use a text telephone</li> </ul> <p><b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.cic.gc.ca">www.cic.gc.ca</a></p>
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Apply to visit, study, work or immigrate to Canada, apply for citizenship, a permanent resident card or refugee protection, check the status of your application or find a form.

<b>Alberta's Provincial Nomination Program</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Toll-free in Alberta:</b> 1-877-427-6419</li> </ul> <p><b>Ph:</b> 780-427-6419  <b>Website:</b>  <a href="http://www.albertacanada.com/opportunity/immigrating.aspx">http://www.albertacanada.com/opportunity/immigrating.aspx</a></p>
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Information on applying to immigrate to Canada through Alberta's nomination program.

<b>Government of Alberta Temporary Foreign Worker Helpline</b>	<p><b>Toll-free in Alberta:</b> 1-877-944-9955  <b>Ph:</b> 780-644-2584  <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.cic.gc.ca">www.cic.gc.ca</a></p>
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Contact for information on temporary foreign worker rights and to report suspected abuses.

<b>Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (Edmonton office)</b>	<p><b>Ph:</b> 1-866-787-7472  OR  604-666-5946  <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca">www.irb-cisr.gc.ca</a></p>
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Information on refugee claims and appeals.

<b>Immigration Appeal Division</b>	<p><b>Ph:</b> 780-427-6419  <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/Eng/ImmApp/Pages/ImmApp.aspx">http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/Eng/ImmApp/Pages/ImmApp.aspx</a></p>
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Information on sponsorship, removal order and residency obligation appeals.

### International Adoption

<b>Alberta's Children's Services, Adoption Services</b> 9940 106 Street, Edmonton, AB	<p><b>Ph:</b> 780-422-5641  <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.child.alberta.ca/home/606.cfm">www.child.alberta.ca/home/606.cfm</a></p>
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Information on adopting a child from a foreign country and bringing the child back to Alberta.



## Immigrant-Serving Organizations in Edmonton

<b>Catholic Social Services</b> 8212 118 Avenue, Edmonton, AB	<b>Ph:</b> 780-424-3545 <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.catholicsocialservices.ab.ca">www.catholicsocialservices.ab.ca</a>
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Find programs and supports for immigrants offered by the Catholic Church.

<b>Changing Together – A Center for Immigrant Women</b> 9538 107 Avenue, Edmonton, AB	<b>Ph:</b> 780-421-0175 <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.changingtogether.com">www.changingtogether.com</a>
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FREE Services for Immigrant Women

<b>ASSIST Community Services Centre</b> 9649 105A Avenue, Edmonton, AB 810 Saddleback Road, Edmonton, AB	<b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.assistcsc.org">www.assistcsc.org</a> <b>Downtown Ph:</b> 780-429-3111 <b>Southwest Ph:</b> 780-429-3119
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Provide practical & useful resources to help new immigrants to better cope with everyday living.

<b>Edmonton Immigrant Services Association</b> 10720 113 Street, Edmonton, AB	<b>Ph:</b> 780-474-8445 <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.eisa-edmonton.org">www.eisa-edmonton.org</a>
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Provide services to new immigrants, refugees, and first generation Canadians.

<b>Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers</b> 11713 82 Street, Edmonton, AB	<b>Ph:</b> 780-424-7709 <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.emcn.ab.ca">www.emcn.ab.ca</a>
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Immigrant settlement agency whose focus is the successful and integrative settlement of newcomers to Edmonton

<b>Millwoods Welcome Centre for Immigrants</b> 7609 38 Avenue, Edmonton, AB	<b>Ph:</b> 780-462-6924 <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://wciedmonton.ca/">http://wciedmonton.ca/</a>
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## Language Classes in Edmonton

<b>Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks</b>	<b>Ph:</b> 613-230-7729 <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.language.ca">www.language.ca</a>
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Centre of expertise in support of the national standards in English and French for describing, measuring and recognizing second language proficiency of adult immigrants and prospective immigrants for living and working in Canada.

<b>Language Assessment Referral and Counselling Centre (LARCC)</b> 8212 118 Avenue, Edmonton, AB	<b>Ph:</b> 780-424-3545 <b>Website:</b> <a href="https://larcc.cssalberta.ca">https://larcc.cssalberta.ca</a>
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Helps adult immigrants and refugees determine their current level of English language proficiency, presents options for ESL training, and assists newcomers to explore their educational and career goals/opportunities.

<b>Changing Together – A Centre for Immigrant Women – English as a Second Language (ESL)</b> 9538 107 Avenue, Edmonton, AB	<b>Ph:</b> 780-421-0175 <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.changingtogether.com/">http://www.changingtogether.com/</a>
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Helps immigrant women and their families participate fully in Canadian society. Offers English as a Second Language (ESL) classes and prevention of family violence workshops.

<b>Norquest College, CLBA/LA</b> 11140 131 Street, Edmonton, AB	<b>Ph:</b> 780-422-9061 <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.norquest.ca">www.norquest.ca</a>
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Provides English as a second language classes

<b>University of Alberta – Faculty of Extension</b>	<b>Ph:</b> 780-492-3116 <b>Website:</b> <a href="https://www.ualberta.ca/extension">https://www.ualberta.ca/extension</a>
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Provides English as a second language classes

### Family Violence Resources

<b>Changing Together – A Centre for Immigrant Women – Family Violence Prevention Workshops</b>	<b>Ph:</b> 780-421-0175 <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.changingtogether.ca">www.changingtogether.ca</a>
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Helps immigrant women and their families participate fully in Canadian society. Offers English as a Second Language Classes (ESL) and family violence workshops.

<b>Government of Alberta Family Violence Information Line</b>	<b>Ph:</b> 780-310-1818 <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.humanservices.alberta.ca/abuse-bullying/15666.html">http://www.humanservices.alberta.ca/abuse-bullying/15666.html</a>
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Talk to trained staff over the phone 24 hours a day, seven days a week, in more than 170 languages. Chat anonymously online with staff from noon to 8:00pm daily.

{350-20-021;00373414;1}

<b>Islamic Family and Social Services Association</b> 4003 98 Street, Edmonton, AB (South) 12811 58 Street, Edmonton, AB (North) 10205 111 Street, Edmonton, AB (Central)	<b>Ph:</b> 780-430-9220 <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.ifssa.ca">http://www.ifssa.ca</a>
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Non-profit registered charity dedicated to providing services in response to the social needs of the Edmonton community within an Islamic context.

<b>Multicultural Women and Seniors Services Association (MWSSA)</b> 329 Woodvale Road, Edmonton, AB	<b>Ph:</b> 780-465-2992 <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.mwssa.org">www.mwssa.org</a>
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One on one support, outreach services, help victims to navigate the system.

<b>WillowNet: Law and Abused Immigrant Women</b>	<b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.willownet.ca/rose">www.willownet.ca/rose</a>
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Legal information that may help you if you are an immigrant woman experiencing abuse in an intimate relationship.

<b>The TODAY Family Violence Help Centre</b>	<b>Ph:</b> 780-455-6880 <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.thetodaycentre.ca">www.thetodaycentre.ca</a>
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Non-profit organization that offers a safe place for individuals victimized by family violence to access free, confidential, emotional, and practical support.

<b>Provincial Abuse Line</b>	<b>Ph:</b> 1-855-443-5722
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## Legal Resources

<b>Edmonton Community Legal Centre</b> Second floor 10020 – 100 Street, Edmonton, AB	<b>Ph:</b> 780-702-1725 <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.eclc.ca">www.eclc.ca</a>
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Free legal information, free presentations on family law topics every Thursday evening at the Stanley Milner Library from 6:30-8:30, possibility to consult with a family lawyer for approximately 30min if you have attended a lecture.

<b>Legal Aid Society of Alberta</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> floor 10320 102 Ave NW, Edmonton, AB	<b>Ph:</b> 1-866-845-3425 <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.legalaid.ab.ca">www.legalaid.ab.ca</a>
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Free legal information lawyers who may represent you for a reduced rate.

<b>Lawyer Referral Service</b>	<b>Ph: 1-800-661-1095</b>
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Referrals to up to 3 lawyers that may be able to help you.

<b>Student Legal Services of Edmonton</b> <b>11036 88 Ave NW, Edmonton, AB</b>	<b>Ph: 780-492-2226</b> <b>Website: <a href="http://www.slsedmonton.com">www.slsedmonton.com</a></b>
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Law students able to provide free legal information and assistance with child support applications in the Provincial Court of Alberta.

<b>Dial-A-Law (Legal Information on Tape)</b>	<b>Ph: 1-800-332-1091</b>
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<b>Alberta Law Line</b>	<b>Ph: 780-644-7777</b>
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Legal Aid Alberta telephone-based program providing free legal information, referrals, and advice province-wide.

<b>A-Link (Law Central Alberta)</b>	<b>Ph: 780-451-8764</b> <b>Website: <a href="http://www.lawcentralalberta.ca">www.lawcentralalberta.ca</a></b>
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Online directory and is designed to provide quick and easy access to information on law-related programs and services in Alberta.