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# INTRODUCTION

*Welcome to Crosscare Migrant Project's new publication 'Going to Canada'. Ireland has a long history of emigration to Canada. Continuing the work of emigrant Advice, Crosscare Migrant Project will continue to assist intending Irish emigrants. Our extensive experience of working with intending Irish emigrants has shown us the importance of pre-departure information. Therefore when developing this booklet we were very conscious of a number of points.*

The first point was that the information in the booklet could become outdated quickly. At Crosscare Migrant Project, we are committed to providing up-to-date information in a manner that is accessible to all.

In the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of "Going to Canada", you will note some of the numerical figures used in the booklet we have put: (2007 figure). As some of these figures change we will update the "Going to Canada" publication on our website so that you will be able to access the most current up-to-date information.

The second point related to the fact that many people who choose to leave Ireland often feel overwhelmed with the amount of information they have to consider. Our aim is to try to make the information contained in this publication as comprehensive as possible and so we decided to put the information in 'question and answer' format. However, in some cases the booklet will not be enough to answer your query. Please refer to the websites used in the booklet for more detailed information.

This booklet is designed to provide you with accurate information on Canadian immigration procedures, as well as give you an insight into the costs involved in emigrating, for example the cost of medical cover, accommodation etc. By providing you with the pre-departure information it will enable you to make an informed decision, as we feel the more information you have the more prepared you will be. The saying "forewarned is forearmed" will apply to any person who is making a decision to emigrate no matter which destination they choose.



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Fr. Alan Hilliard from the Irish Episcopal Commission for Emigrants (IECE), the Department of Social and Family Affairs and Supporting Irish Abroad SIA/IECE for funding this publication.

## How to use this guide...

This guide gives details of the majority of options open to people wishing to move to Canada to live and work, whether for a year or two or for longer. It is broken into different chapters some of which may not be relevant to you. Make sure to double-check all information before making a final decision.

## What chapters should I look at?

Everyone should read **Chapters 2 - Visiting Canada and Chapter 3 - General Information**. They contain essential information about the pre-entry and entry procedures you will have to go through. Not all the information will necessarily apply to you, but make sure you know what you need to do before you leave Ireland.

Go to **Chapters 4 - Studying in Canada**, or **Chapter 5 - Working in Canada** if you think they might apply to you. You can use the index at the beginning of each chapter to see what section or page has the information you want.

**Chapter 6 - Family Sponsorship** would be important for anyone hoping to go to Canada to accompany or join family members.

**Chapter 7** is very important as it covers Healthcare. You should read this through so you know what you are entitled to and where you should go if you need medical attention.

**Chapters 8-10** cover accommodation, education and employment. They should be useful for everyone, especially families.

**Chapters 11-12** are very important for anyone intending to work in Canada, so read them both to make sure you know what you have to do to get your finances and tax situation organised as soon as possible after arrival.

**Chapter 13** is important to read if you are planning to drive in Canada.

**Chapters 14-15** have all the contact details of organisations you might need to contact. Have a look at these before you go.

**Chapter 16** has information if you are thinking of going to Québec.

Make sure to read **Chapter 17 - Dos and Don'ts!**

With so much to organise and remember below is a list of important things to know before you go.

**Within the first few weeks you will need to:**

- Exchange your money for Canadian currency
- Find or have already found temporary accommodation
- Have some identification with you
- Apply for private health insurance
- Get a map of the area and find out about transportation in your area
- Find the contact details for an immigrant-serving organisation in your community
- Fill out the forms for a Social Insurance Number card and a health insurance card
- Try to find a job.

**Within the first year you will need to:**

- Find permanent housing
- Get a telephone installed
- Register your children in school
- Get a family doctor
- Have your children immunized
- Open a bank account
- Get a Canadian drivers licence
- Practice and improve your language skills
- Take time to relax and participate in community activities
- Understand your rights and responsibilities under Canadian law.

## Québec information

Since Québec looks after many aspects of its immigration program this booklet does not attempt to cover services in that province. Please see the Québec Government website for information on emigrating to Québec at [www.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.gouv.qc.ca). If you are planning to move to, Québec, you may wish to pick up their guide for newcomers, entitled *Vivre au Québec* from the website [www.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.gouv.qc.ca)

To contact immigrant-serving organisations in the province of Québec, contact:

### **The Ministère des relations avec les citoyens et de l'immigration (MRCI)**

The MRCI (Ministry of Relations with Citizens and Immigration) is organised by region.

### **Carrefours d'intégration du Québec**

Website: [www.immigration-québec.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.immigration-québec.gouv.qc.ca)

