

## Citizenship & Immigration

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## CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION

### Citizenship and Immigration Canada

#240, 9700 Jasper Ave. NW T5J 4C3

Phone: 1.888.242.2100

[www.cic.gc.ca](http://www.cic.gc.ca)

#### Services offered:

- Enforce provisions of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*.
- Help reunite families.
- Encourage people with special skills to immigrate to Canada.
- Provide protection for refugees.
- Fund language, learning and skills development services
- Fund settlement services such as information and awareness, employment related and community connection services
- Provide Refugee Resettlement Program that gives financial support to government-assisted refugees in their first year in Canada.
- Provide citizenship education and promotion activities.
- Grant citizenship or verify claims to Canadian citizenship.
- Distribute information about acquiring citizenship.

A new law amending the *Citizenship Act* came into effect on April 17, 2009. The law restores or gives citizenship to many who lost it or didn't have it due to out-dated provisions in past legislation. It also protects the value of Canadian citizenship for the future by limiting citizenship by descent.

People who were Canadian citizens when the law came into effect will keep their citizenship.

#### Who became a citizen under the new law

The new law automatically restores or gives citizenship to many who lost it or never had it due to previous laws. For instance, certain people who became Canadian citizens on or after January 1, 1947, when the first *Citizenship Act* took effect, and who then lost it, now have their status restored retroactively to the date they lost it.

Others, who have never been Canadians, but who are part of the first generation born outside Canada to a Canadian parent, became Canadians under the new law. Their citizenship is retroactive to their date of birth.

Those born in Canada to a foreign diplomat, those who renounced their citizenship with Canadian authorities, and those whose citizenship was revoked by the Government because it was obtained by fraud do not benefit from the new law.

Note: Under the old law, people who were born outside Canada on or after February 15, 1977, to a Canadian parent who was also born outside Canada, were required to apply to retain (keep) their citizenship before their 28th birthday. If these people turned 28 before April 17,

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2009, and did not take steps to retain their citizenship, it was not restored under the new law.

### Understanding the first generation limitation

Under the old rules, it was possible for Canadians to pass on their citizenship to endless generations born outside Canada. To protect the value of Canadian citizenship for the future, the new law limits – with a few exceptions – citizenship by descent to one generation born outside Canada.

This means that children born to Canadian parentage in the first generation outside Canada will only be Canadian at birth if:

- one parent was born in Canada, or
- one parent became a Canadian citizen by immigrating to Canada and was later granted citizenship (also called naturalization).

The rules may also affect children adopted by Canadian parent(s) outside Canada, depending on the way in which the child obtained, or will obtain, their Canadian citizenship.

### Government workers and Canadian Forces personnel

All first-generation children born to a Canadian parent outside Canada will automatically be Canadians.

In addition, all children born to a Canadian parent who is working outside the country for the Canadian federal or provincial governments, or serving in the Canadian Forces, will be Canadian, *regardless of the generation in which they were born outside Canada*.\*

However, it is important to note that the children of diplomatic or military personnel will have limits on their ability to pass along Canadian citizenship to their own

children if those children are born outside of Canada. This means that their children born outside Canada (the grandchildren of diplomatic or military personnel) will not be Canadian, unless:

- one Canadian parent is working outside the country for the Canadian federal and provincial governments, or serving in the Canadian military; or
- one parent was born or naturalized in Canada (naturalized means they immigrated to Canada and were later granted citizenship).

\*This exception does not apply to Canadians employed as locally-engaged staff.

### What do I need to prove I am a Canadian citizen?

The following documents are recognized by Citizenship and Immigration Canada as proof of citizenship. Some government departments or agencies may not accept all the documents below and may require additional documents.

- **Provincial or territorial birth certificates** are often enough to prove that you are a Canadian citizen if you were born in Canada.

Your birth certificate cannot serve as proof of citizenship if you were born in Canada after February 14, 1977, **and** at the time of your birth, your parents were neither Canadian citizens nor permanent residents, **and** at least one parent had diplomatic status in Canada.

If you were born in Canada before February 15, 1977, to a parent with diplomatic status, please [contact us](#) to find out if your birth certificate is a valid proof of citizenship.

- **Naturalization certificates** (issued before January 1, 1947)

- **Registration of Birth Abroad certificates** (issued between January 1, 1947, and February 14, 1977, inclusively)
- **Certificates of Retention** (issued between January 1, 1947, and February 14, 1977, inclusively)

To learn more about the new citizenship law and adoption, please see <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/citizenship/index.asp> or call 1.888.242-2100\*

\*Automated Telephone Service: 24 hours a day/7 days a week

Call Centre Agents: Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m to 4:00 p.m, local time

## IMMIGRANT SERVING AGENCIES

### Assist Community Services Centre

9649 105A Ave. NW T5H 0M3

Phone: 780.429.3111

Email: [info@assistcsc.org](mailto:info@assistcsc.org)

[www.assistcsc.org](http://www.assistcsc.org)

- **ASSIST** is a non-profit, charitable organization governed by a Board of Directors who represents the community and this Board brings with them a variety of professional and voluntary experiences and talents. Our board and staff believe in empowering immigrants by providing essential services to assist them in integrating into a new country.
- Our programs include Integrated Services Program, Adult English Courses, Children, Youth, Family and Senior Services. One-on-One counselling, workshops and group activities are provided to improve the well-being of people who live in our community. The Centre also recruits a large number of volunteers to provide

the community with the necessary support so all can work together to build a harmonious and healthy community

### Canadian International Immigrant and Refugee Support Association

10584 107 St. NW T5H 2Y6

Phone: 780.429.4553

Email: [ciirsaca@yahoo.ca](mailto:ciirsaca@yahoo.ca)

- Helps to sponsor refugees from all parts of the world.
- Helps newly arrived refugees and immigrants to begin to settle and adjust to their new lives in Canada.
- Assists in family reunification for newcomers and refugees.
- Provides support and advocacy for refugee claims.
- Acts as an advisor to ethnic organizations in Edmonton.
- Public education.

### Catholic Social Services

Immigration & Settlement Service

10709 105 St. NW T5H 2X3

Phone: 780.424.3545

[www.catholicsocialservices.ab.ca](http://www.catholicsocialservices.ab.ca)

- Support and outreach programs for seniors from ethno-cultural communities.
- Conversation Groups, Computer Classes, Settlement Counselling.
- Regular information sharing sessions for seniors about various aspects of living in Alberta.

*Old age, especially an honoured old age, has so great authority, that this is of more value than all the pleasures of youth.*  
– Cicero

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### **Changing Together – A Centre For Immigrant Women**

3rd Floor -10010 105 St. NW T5J 1C4

Phone: 780.421.0175

Contact: Blythe Campbell

Email: [info@changingtogether.com](mailto:info@changingtogether.com)

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

We offer:

- Seniors Programs including workshops on topics of interest, arts & crafts and networking with other immigrants
- Classes include: English as a Second Language & Conversation Classes, Computer classes
- Family Services assists women re: immigration issues, Food Bank, housing needs, issues of family violence, etc.

Check out our website for volunteering and other services:

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

### **Edmonton Immigrant Services Association**

#201, 10720 113 St. NW T5H 3H8

Phone: 780.474.8445

[www.eisa-edmonton.org](http://www.eisa-edmonton.org)

- Provides programs and services to assist new immigrants and refugees settle and integrate into Canadian society.
- Services include citizenship and human rights education, English as a Second Language, interpretation and translation, group information sessions; cultural and recreational activities.
- Matches newcomers with established Canadians for professional-career mentorship, community connections, and support.

### **Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers (EMCN)**

11713-82 St T5B 2V9

Phone: 780.424.7709

Email: [info@emcn.ab.ca](mailto:info@emcn.ab.ca)

[www.emcn.ab.ca](http://www.emcn.ab.ca)

- Community Services: Community Development, small business coaching, settlement counselling, health and wellness services, and family and children's support services.
- English as an Additional Language: language instruction for newcomers to Canada.
- Career and Employment Services: workshops, employment and career counselling, specialized training and bridging programs.

#### **EMCN at Nova Plaza**

8914 - 118 Avenue T5B 0T6

Phone: 780.421.7400

#### **EMCN at Wentworth Building**

10209 - 97 Street T5J 0L6

Phone: 780.428.5062

#### **EMCN at Welcome Centre for Immigrants**

#335, Tower II, Millbourne Market Mall  
(38 Avenue and Millwoods Road) T6K 3L6

Phone: 780.462.6924

### **Edmonton Multicultural Society (EMS) Justice Program**

Stanley A. Milner Library

602, 7 Winston Churchill Square T5J 2V5

Phone: 780.420.6832

Email: [emsedm@shaw.ca](mailto:emsedm@shaw.ca)

[www.edmontonmulticultural-EMS.org](http://www.edmontonmulticultural-EMS.org)

EMS Justice Program helps immigrants and refugees overcome the language, systemic and cultural barriers that have

the potential to make any dealings with the police, Alberta Children Services and the Canadian Courts/Justice systems dis-integrate into a situation that jeopardizes the safety of any participants and negatively limits the future economic, social and recreation participation options of the individual new immigrant/refugee and his/her family.

### **International Qualifications Assessment Service (IQAS)**

Alberta Employment & Immigration  
9th Floor, 9942 - 108 St. NW T5K 2J5  
Phone: 780.427.2655  
www.immigration.alberta.ca/iqas

### **Islamic Family & Social Services Association (IFSSA)**

#85, 4003 98 St. T6E 6M8  
Phone: 780.430.9220  
Email: info@ifssa.ca  
www.ifssa.ca

- Fostering Healthy Family program
- Youth and Parental Education program
- Essential needs – Halal food & clothing bank.

### **Literacy Alberta Helpline**

Phone: 1.800.767.3231

- Helpline staff can connect senior adult learners to programs and services.
- The Helpline is a valuable resource for learners who want to improve their literacy and essential skills, and for referral agencies seeking information and services for their clients.
- Literacy Alberta's Helpline is a free and confidential service.

### **Multicultural Health Brokers Co-op**

10867 97 St. NW T5H 2M6  
Phone: 780.423.1973  
Contact: Yvonne Chiu  
Email: mchb@mchb.org  
www.mchb.org

- Services also include providing holistic outreach and system navigation support to immigrant seniors.
- Facilitates mutual support groups among immigrant seniors, and encourages community development around immigrant seniors issues.
- Provides consultation support to other service providers regarding cross cultural issues and cultural competence training.

### **Welcome Centre for Immigrants**

Suite 335 Tower Two, Millbourne Mall  
7609 38 Ave. NW T6K 3L6  
Phone: 780.462.6924  
Email: info@mwci.ca

Settlement and employment services:

- Orientation to Newcomers workshop, referral to citizenship classes and English as a Second Language classes.
- Career coaching, résumé writing/job search workshops.
- Family counselling, community developments.

## **CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS (SEE PGS 19-24 SENIORS CENTRES)**

*It is always in season for old people to learn.  
– Aeschylus*