



HAMILTONS
2009/10

An essential guide to relocating in

Canada



If you are moving house to Canada, there is a lot more to consider than choosing an international removals service. Our relocation guide below provides additional information on choosing schools, working abroad, sorting your finances and more. Please note this information is believed to be accurate at the time of writing, but please check with our international removals department prior to your moving date.

Visas

There are a number of different visas you can apply for to legally live and work in Canada. These include Skilled Worker, Family Class, Business Visa and Work Permit.

Admission via a Skilled Worker visa is accessed through a points system. Points are awarded for the applicant's level of education, work experience, age and level of spoken English or French.

People who have relatives already living in Canada can apply for a Family Class visa. They require sponsorship, which means that the existing relative takes on financial responsibility for the immigrant. In addition to this, the applicant must be in good health and have no criminal record. Family reunion is a priority for the Canadian government and this visa is open to application from any relative.

People wishing to run a business in Canada can obtain a Business visa, providing that they have sufficient funds and business experience. This visa also covers applications from self-employed people who will generate their own employment.

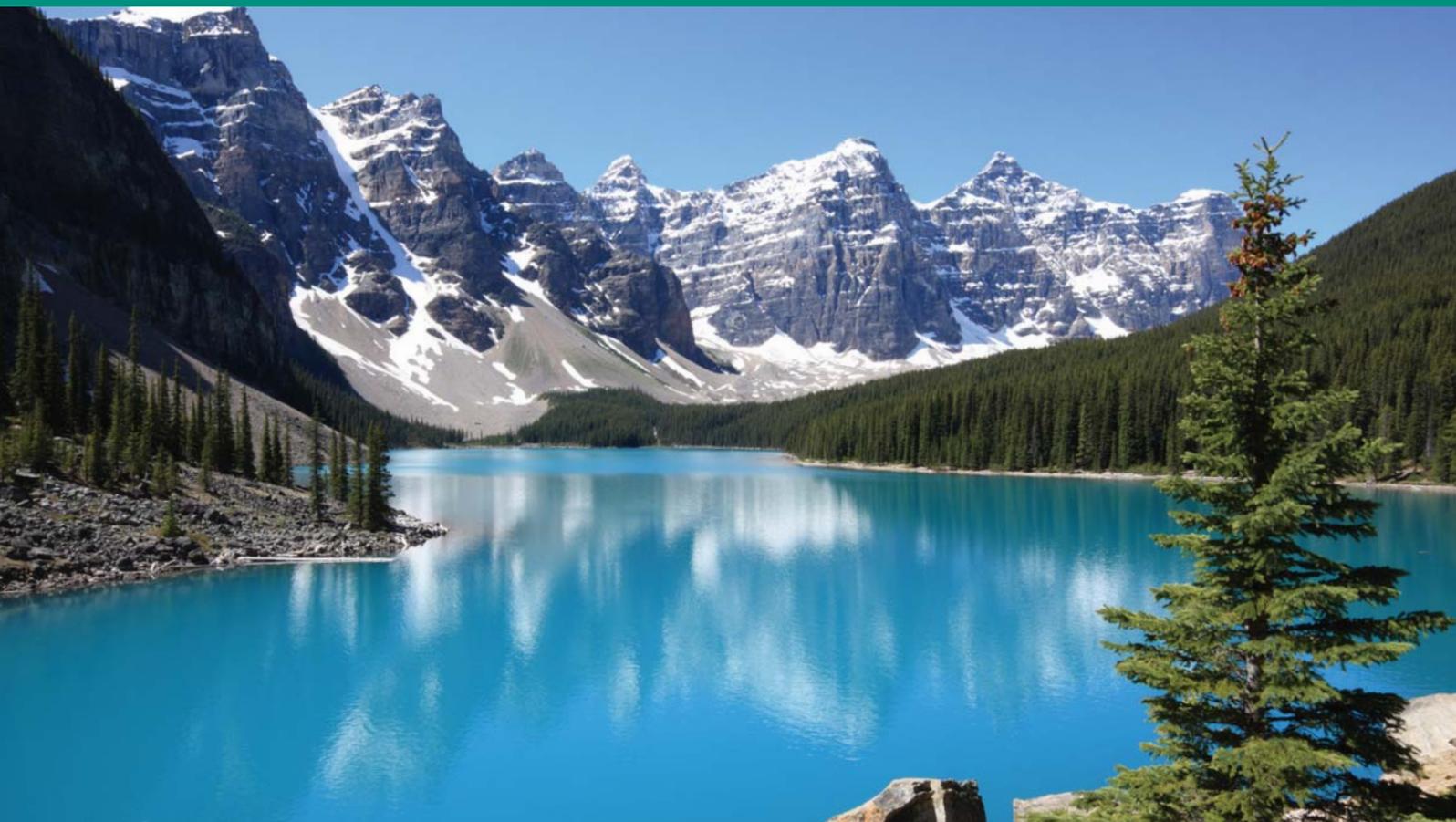
A work permit is applied for through the CIC, or Citizenship and Immigration Canada, and requires that the applicant has been offered a job from a Canadian company. These are only awarded where a Canadian citizen cannot fill the position.

Finances

There are a number of companies who can help you to achieve the best exchange rates when transferring your funds. Exchange rates can vary by up to 10%, which could make a significant difference to the amount of money you take with you to your new life in Canada. Companies that can help you in this area are Moneycorp, HiFX and Halo Financial.

Schools

Schooling in Canada is compulsory for children aged from six or seven up to fifteen or sixteen. Parents can choose to send their children to public schools, private schools, single sex schools or boarding schools. All non-private school education is publicly funded. After secondary school



education is complete, students can go on to university, or a vocational college, for which fees are charged in most cases.

The schools in Canada are some of the best funded in the World. Unlike many other countries, there is no federal educational system. Instead the responsibility for education is held in the provinces. Each province, teaches in a similar curriculum with small variations flavoured by their unique history and culture.

Healthcare

Canada provides its legal residents and citizens with subsidised health care, funded by the federal government through the taxpayer. The level of care varies across the country, as each province is responsible for its own health care system. Most medical plans include preventative health care, visits to family doctors, emergency treatment and visits to specialists when referred by a G.P.

Many employers provide a comprehensive salary package that includes up to 80% off the cost of prescription charges, physiotherapy and chiropractic treatments.

As with the NHS in the UK, there are some issues with the Canadian health care system, including long waiting times for treatments, inadequate funding and a shortage of qualified nurses. However on balance most Canadians are satisfied with the level of care they receive. Private health care policies are also available.

Moving Your Pet

It is possible to take your pet cat or dog with you to Canada from the UK. Your pet will need an export certificate, which identifies the animal and declares that he or she has been living in a rabies free country for at least six months. Alternatively the animal can enter Canada with a valid Rabies vaccination certificate. An official government veterinarian must sign all documents.

Most other pet animals can also be imported. Please check with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency for full up to date information.

Although it is a tough choice to decide whether to take your animal with you, it is important to consider the age and state of health of the animal when making your decision. The journey will be long and stressful for them and they may be happier left with a good friend in the UK. It should also be taken into account that if you are moving into rented accommodation on arrival in Canada, your choice of property will be restricted if you have an animal in tow. With that in mind, it may be worth delaying the arrival of your pet until you are fully settled.



Canadian Customs Information

International removals to Canada and other overseas destinations are more complicated than moving house within the UK due to the Customs & Excise regulations applied to importing your belongings.

Below is a guide to current Canadian Customs & Excise regulations. Please note that information is correct at time of publishing but may change at any time. Hamilton's Canadian removals department will guide you through all relevant Customs & Excise regulations prior to your overseas move.

Duty free entry to Canada is granted provided either a) you are taking up residency and have owned and used the effects immediately prior to moving from the UK to Canada; or b) you are a returning Canadian and have been away from the country for over 12 months (the exceptions being on any new or single items with a value of over \$10,000 which will incur duty calculated on the value - proof of purchase is required).

In order to obtain Customs Clearance, you will be required to attend a meeting with local customs where you will need to present your passport and complete the necessary customs forms. We will have already supplied you with a full inventory, which must be presented upon arrival at the airport.

All Items entering Canada will be subject to a physical examination by the CFIA (Canadian Food Inspection Agency). Items such as gardening equipment, bicycles, patio furniture, footwear, golf clubs, etc which may have come into contact with soil and vegetation must be thoroughly cleaned beforehand. Extra cleaning costs may still be incurred upon inspection.

We will require the following documentation to clear your goods through customs.

- Original passport
- Inventory or packing list (our removal team will have completed this)
- B4E declaration form (supplied at airport upon arrival)
- Proof of purchase/copy lease agreement is required for non-residents who own/lease a residential property

Restrictions

Alcohol - may be imported with a licence (obtained prior to entry) from the Provincial Liquor Control Board but duties will be payable

Food - it is not advisable to import any food or beverage.

Firearms - may be imported but you **must** have a licence, which can be obtained from the Canadian Authorities prior to entry.

Importing Cars and Motor Vehicles

As a general rule, vehicles (other than current-year manufacture) are prohibited from importation. However, there are some exceptions so we would suggest you contact Transport Canada Vehicle Importation (tel: (+1) 613 998 2508) for further information.

Useful Information

Electrical supply 100 volts. Electrical appliances from the UK will not operate without a transformer.

TV/DVD/Videos These appliances will not operate in Canada due to the broadcasting system not being compatible with the system in the UK.

GMT Halifax is in Atlantic Standard time (AST), GMT - 4 hours
Toronto is in Eastern Standard time (EST), GMT - 5 hours
Edmonton is in Mountain Standard time (MST), GMT - 7 hours
Vancouver is in Pacific Standard time (PST), GMT - 8 hours

For further information please go to the following web site:

www.greenwichmeantime.com/time-zone/north-america/canada

Dialling code +1 followed by local code:
Vancouver 604
Toronto 416
Ottawa 613
Halifax 902



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NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL REMOVALS

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