

A scenic view of snow-capped mountains and a turquoise lake in Alberta, Canada. The mountains are rugged and covered in patches of snow, with a clear blue sky above. The lake is calm, reflecting the surrounding landscape. The foreground shows a rocky shoreline with some evergreen trees.

Opportunity Alberta Guide

Every year, people from across Canada and all over the world come to Alberta as their place of choice to work and live. Alberta has a high standard of living, diverse and welcoming communities, stunning landscapes, a focus on economic growth and creating jobs and abundant opportunities for entrepreneurs.

Discover your opportunity.

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/opportunity-alberta-guide>

Opportunity Alberta Guide | Labour and Immigration

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LIFE IN ALBERTA

Alberta is made up of a diverse set of cultures and communities, each with their own unique character and opportunities to work.

Life in Alberta

Discover Alberta's opportunity

Why Alberta?

Alberta is made up of a diverse set of cultures and communities that are home to many world-class services.

Our communities are part of what makes Alberta such a great place to live. Alberta has small, rural towns and major cities, such as Calgary and Edmonton, with populations of 1.3 million and 1 million respectively. Each has its own unique character and many opportunities for work.

While Alberta is Canada's fourth-most populous province, it's also the fourth largest, which means it's never hard to escape into nature.

Affordability

Families in Alberta typically enjoy a higher family income than other parts of Canada.

Alberta also offers many cost-of-living advantages, such as:

- universal health care
- tax relief and rebates to help you save on energy costs
- lowest taxes in Canada
- more affordable housing options
- affordable child care

Health

Alberta's world-class health care system gives people access to hospitals, clinics, a variety of social support services and qualified physicians and health care workers.

Education

Kindergarten to Grade 12

Alberta has an excellent and inclusive education system, with many options based on language or religion. Schooling is free from kindergarten to Grade 12 and is required from ages 6 to 16. Catholic and Francophone options are also available.

Post-secondary education

With 26 universities and colleges, Alberta has many post-secondary options. Alberta government subsidizes tuition fees, and the cost varies across the province. There are also various loans, grants, bursaries, scholarships, awards and other educational funding to help you pay for your education.

When you arrive in Alberta to begin your studies, your Alberta higher education institution will be there to help you settle into your new student community. Many places in Alberta offer English language training, including colleges and universities, immigrant-serving agencies, private businesses and religious and community organizations.



Environment and weather

As Canada's fourth-largest province, Alberta's diverse landscape includes prairies, forests, mountains, rivers and lakes.

Parks

Alberta takes preserving the natural environment very seriously. Alberta is very proud of its natural resources and works hard to ensure that Alberta Parks are maintained.

Across the province, there are five UNESCO World Heritage Sites and five national parks, as well as more than 450 provincial parks and protected areas for hiking, mountain biking, fishing, canoeing, or sitting by the campfire.

Weather

Alberta experiences four distinct seasons: spring, summer, fall and winter. Our summers are warm, with temperatures reaching 30C, whereas winters can be as cold as -30C. If you are dressed for the temperature, it is possible to experience the outdoors any time of the year in Alberta.

Alberta is Canada's sunniest province with 1,900 hours of sunshine in the north and 2,300 hours in the south annually.

Culture

There's always something to do in Alberta. Known as Canada's 'festival city', Edmonton hosts over 50 unique festivals annually, like the Heritage Festival and the International Fringe Theatre Festival. The Calgary Stampede is world-famous for its rodeo and exhibition celebrating the province's western heritage.

French-speaking communities in Alberta

Alberta's French mother tongue (Francophone) population is among the fastest-growing French-speaking populations in Canada, with nearly 87,000 people. Alberta has approximately 2,000 communities and natural sites with French-influenced names. Four Alberta municipalities are officially bilingual, including Beaumont, Legal, Falher and Plamondon.

Alberta's education system has various French language options, including Francophone schools, French immersion and French as a Second Language courses.





COME TEMPORARILY TO ALBERTA

Explore your options to visit, study or work temporarily in Alberta.

Come temporarily to Alberta

Preview what our province has to offer



Visit Alberta

If you're visiting Alberta as a tourist, on business or to see family, you may need a Canadian visitor visa or electronic travel authorization (eTA) issued by the Government of Canada.

Visitor visas

To visit Alberta as a tourist, you may need a Canadian visitor visa. Visitor visas can be single entry or multiple entry and have a wide range of validity dates. The visa must be valid when you arrive in Canada.

The Parent and Grandparent Super Visa is a multi-entry visa that can be issued for up to 10 years. It lets eligible parents and grandparents visit family in Canada as often as they want—and for up to 5 years on each visit.

For business visits

You must apply as a business visitor if you plan to visit Canada to look for ways to grow your business, invest or advance your business relationships. Business visitors can stay for up to six months. To stay longer or work in Canada, apply for a work permit.



Study in Alberta

Alberta's higher education system is internationally recognized for exceptional universities, colleges, technical institutes and innovative research facilities.

Alberta's post-secondary institutions provide high-quality educational programming that attract the best and the brightest from all over the world to undertake life-saving and life-changing research. There are also opportunities for you to work while you study and after you graduate, including pathways to gain permanent residence.

Post-secondary options in Alberta offer certificates, diplomas, applied degrees, apprenticeships and continuing education programs related to trades and technical work. There are various programs to meet your professional goals - from health care to science and technology.

If you plan to study in Alberta for more than six months at a designated learning institution, you will need a Canadian study permit.





Work in Alberta

Temporary foreign workers provide essential support to Alberta's economy, contributing their skills and talent to support growth and innovation across the province.

Temporary Foreign Worker (TFW) Program

The TFW Program is operated by the Government of Canada and allows eligible citizens of other countries to apply to work in Canada temporarily or up to three years. The program covers all occupations and skill levels. In addition to securing a job offer from an Alberta-based employer, you may need a work permit or a Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA). An LMIA includes certain conditions, such as where and who you can work for, what type of work you do and how long you can work in Canada.

Alberta's Temporary Foreign Workers Advisory Office helps temporary foreign workers, international students (with work authorization) and employers understand their rights and find solutions to situations involving unfair, unsafe or unhealthy working conditions.

International Mobility Program (IMP)

The International Mobility Program, operated by the Government of Canada, allows Canadian employers to hire foreign workers without an LMIA. Your occupation must not require an LMIA for you to be eligible for one of the IMP (LMIA exempt) work permits:

The Employer-specific work permit lets you work for one specific employer. It is for people who can work temporarily in Canada under international trade agreements.

The Open work permit lets you work for any employer for a specific time period. It is open to international students, spouses/common-law partners, eligible foreign nationals and young people who want to travel and work.



Quick links & Contact Information

Electronic travel authorization canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/visit-canada/eta.html

Learn more about studying in Alberta
study.alberta.ca/

Check if you qualify for the TFW program
cic.gc.ca/CometoCanada

Apply to the TFW Program
cic.gc.ca/english/work/apply-who-nopermit.asp

Find out if you need an LMIA
cic.gc.ca/english/work/apply-who-permit.asp

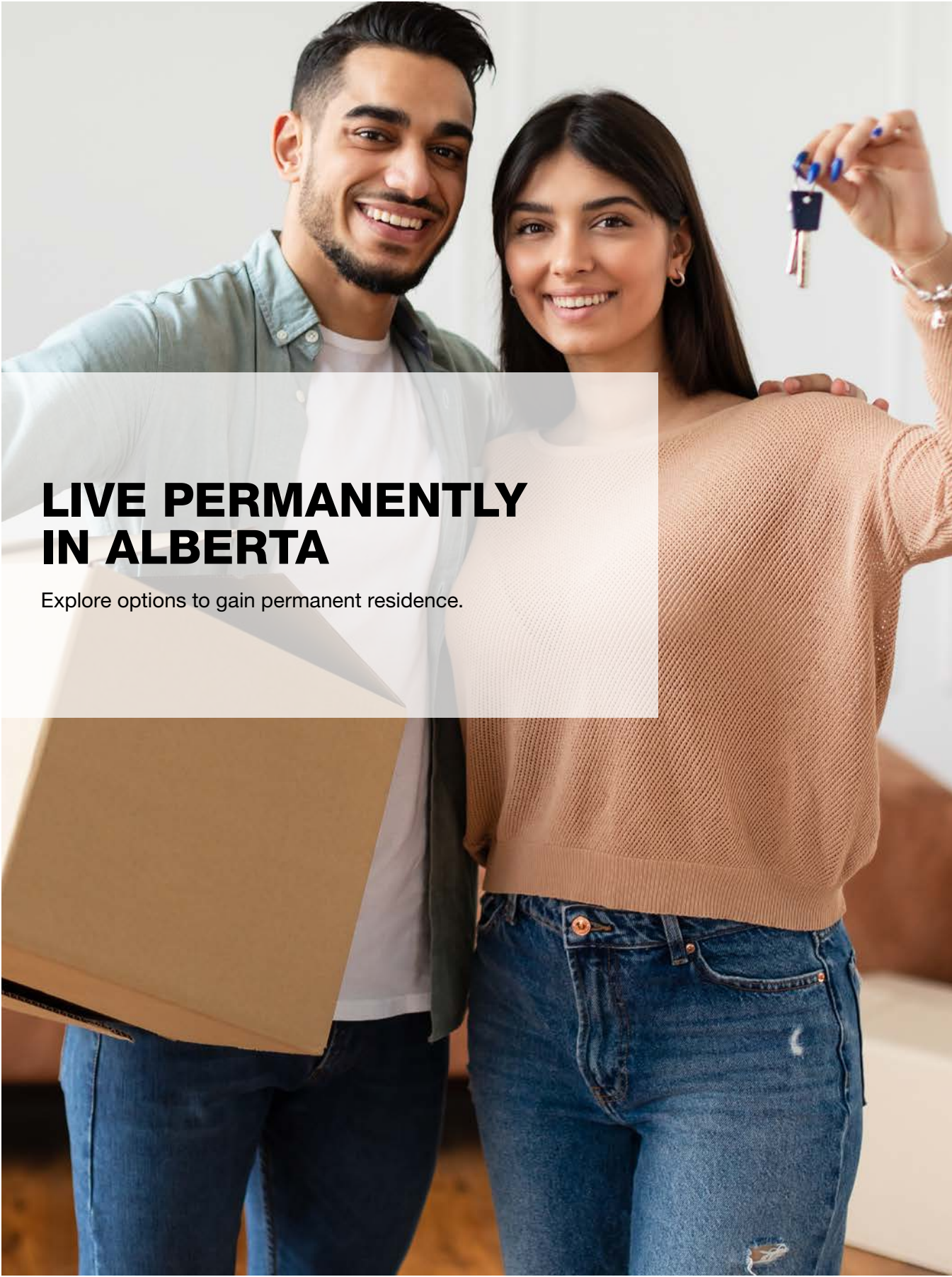
Temporary resident information
alberta.ca/temporary-residents.aspx

Resources for temporary foreign workers
<https://www.alberta.ca/resources-temporary-foreign-workers.aspx>

Connect with the TFW Advisory Office

lbr.tfwao@gov.ab.ca

North location – Edmonton: 780-644-2584
South location – Calgary: 403-476-4540



LIVE PERMANENTLY IN ALBERTA

Explore options to gain permanent residence.

Live permanently in Alberta

Discover provincial and federal immigration programs

Overview

There are a variety of immigration programs and paths you can take to move to Alberta—either as a worker or an entrepreneur. Once you become a permanent resident or Canadian citizen you can move freely within Canada.

There are federal (Government of Canada) immigration programs and provincial programs (Government of Alberta). In Alberta, the provincial program is called the Alberta Advantage Immigration Program (AAIP).



Provincial nominee program – Alberta Advantage Immigration Program

The Alberta Advantage Immigration Program is an economic immigration program that nominates people who can help meet the province’s needs for workers and entrepreneurs.

All streams have a non-refundable application fee.

The program has streams for individuals who are working or intend to work in Alberta, as well as for entrepreneurs interested in establishing a business in the province.

Streams for workers

Alberta Opportunity Stream	For qualified candidates who live and work in Alberta and have a full-time job offer from an Alberta employer.
Alberta Express Entry Stream	For qualified candidates from the Government of Canada's Express Entry system who have demonstrated strong ties to Alberta or who can help support Alberta's economic development and diversification priorities.
Accelerated Tech Pathway	For candidates who are currently working for, or have a job offer with, an Alberta-based tech industry employer in an eligible tech occupation.
Rural Renewal Stream	For qualified foreign nationals who have a full-time job offer from an Alberta employer to work in a designated rural Alberta community.

Streams for entrepreneurs

Graduate Entrepreneur Stream	For international graduates of approved Alberta post-secondary institutions who want to start a business or buy an existing business.
Foreign Graduate Entrepreneur Stream	For foreign educated graduates in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), from outside of Canada, who want to launch start-up enterprises and innovative businesses in Alberta.
Rural Entrepreneur Stream	For entrepreneurs who are ready to create business opportunities in rural communities. By starting a business or buying an existing one, these qualified newcomers can create jobs and invigorate local economies outside of Alberta's major urban centres.
Farm Stream	For experienced farmers who plan to buy or start a farm in Alberta.





Federal programs

The Government of Canada oversees all immigration to the country.

Canada Express Entry

Express Entry is an electronic management system for permanent residence applications run by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).

To access Express Entry, candidates must first complete a profile, which demonstrates how they meet the criteria of one of the economic federal immigration programs:

- Canadian Experience Class
- Federal Skilled Worker Program
- Federal Skilled Trades Program

Once complete, the candidate will be scored using a ranking system. The highest ranked candidates will receive an invitation from IRCC to apply for permanent residence.

Immigration pilot programs

The **Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot** is a community-driven program that spreads the benefits of economic immigration to smaller communities by creating a path to permanent residence for skilled foreign workers who want to work and live in one of them.

The **Agri-food Pilot** helps address the labour needs of the Canadian agricultural food production sector. The pilot provides a pathway to permanent residence for experienced, non-seasonal workers in specific industries and occupations.

Business immigration programs

These programs provide entrepreneurs and self-employed people from other countries with pathways to permanent residence.

If you have an innovative business idea or venture, you can apply for a **Start-Up Visa**. Your venture must be supported by a designated organization.

If you intend to be self-employed in Alberta, you can apply for the **Self-Employed Persons Program**. You must have relevant experience in cultural activities or athletics.

Family Sponsorship Program

The Family Sponsorship Program enables Canadian citizens or permanent residents to sponsor relatives to become permanent residents with the ability to live, work and study in Alberta.

Caregiver Program

The Caregivers Program is for caregivers with two years' experience in Canada providing child care or home support for seniors or people with disabilities.

Refugee resettlement

The Refugee and Humanitarian Resettlement Program is for people in need of protection who are outside of Canada and their home country. It also provides opportunities for people to sponsor refugees.

Other immigration pathways

If you are in Canada, and would suffer from excessive hardship if you had to return to your home country to apply, you might qualify for humanitarian and compassionate considerations.

If you are in Canada on a valid temporary resident permit, you may be able to apply for permanent residence under the permit holder class if you were deemed inadmissible to Canada.



Things to think about

- You do not need to hire an immigration representative or lawyer to help you with your immigration application.
 - Using a representative or lawyer will not speed up application processing. If you decide to use a representative, the governments of Canada and Alberta may still contact you directly about your application. If you make a personal choice to use a representative to help you, you must fill out a form saying that you are using a representative or your application may be declined.
 - All the information you need to apply to immigrate to Alberta is free, however there is an application fee. Use the proper form for the program you are applying for.
 - AAIP requires a certified translation. Provide a certified translation with any documents that are not in English or French and submit your documents with copies of the original documents. Visit the Association of Translators and Interpreters of Alberta (ATIA) to find a certified translator in Canada.
- Before applying to an immigration stream, find your National Occupational Classification (NOC) code to determine your provincial or federal immigration eligibility. The NOC system, developed by the Government of Canada, classifies every job in Canada.

Beware of Internet scams and false websites.

No one can guarantee you a job or a visa to Canada. Only immigration officers in Canada, at Canadian embassies, high commissions and consulates can decide to issue a visa.

Learn how to protect yourself from immigration fraud.
[canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/protect-fraud.html](https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/protect-fraud.html)

Quick links

AAIP Immigration streams

<https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-advantage-immigration-program.aspx>

Government of Canada Programs

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/immigrate-canada.html>

Association of Translators and Interpreters

atia.ab.ca/

Find your National Occupational Classification

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/immigrate-canada/express-entry/eligibility/find-national-occupation-code.html>

Find out if your representative is authorized

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/immigration-citizenship-representative/choose/authorized.html>

A woman with curly brown hair, wearing glasses and a necklace, is smiling while looking at a tablet computer. She is wearing a dark grey top and a watch on her left wrist. The background is a bright, blurred office setting.

WORK IN ALBERTA

Alberta wages are among the highest in Canada. Learn how to discover opportunities and get to work in our province.

Work in Alberta

Information on finding work in Alberta and education credentials

Find a job

Alberta wages are among the highest in Canada. Salaries in Alberta vary depending on the employer, hours worked and educational qualifications, as well as required experience and responsibilities of the position.

There are a number of organizations and resources that can help you find work and build your career in Alberta:

- Alberta Supports Centres provide employment programs and services across Alberta. This includes job fairs, workshops, information sessions, and labour market information.
- Alis is an online resource with advice on finding jobs, drafting your resume and preparing for an interview, and negotiating your salary.
- Immigrant-serving agencies offer services to newcomers, including help with finding a job
- Work Search Basics can give you the knowledge and resources to find work in Alberta.
- The Government of Canada's Job Bank has a list of current job opportunities in Alberta—new jobs are advertised every day. To cut down on your search time, find the jobs that match your skills and experience through Job Match.
- Other places to find jobs include Alberta Job Postings and websites that advertise opportunities throughout Alberta.

Network and talk to people

Another way to find work is by networking. This means talking to friends, neighbours or people in your community to find jobs that may not be advertised.

The following mentorship programs can connect you with someone working in your profession:

- Edmonton Region Immigrant Employment Council (ERIEC)
- Calgary Region Immigrant Employment Council (CRIEC)



Register with employment agencies

Licensed employment agencies can also help you find the right job. Some agencies specialize in temporary work placements. Others focus on specific industries. Employment agencies cannot charge you a fee for helping you find a job. This cost must be covered by the employer.

Create or improve your resume and cover letter

Your resume should include your skills and highlight specific ones that the employer needs. Your cover letter should usually be a one-page document that summarizes your experience and explains why you are the best candidate for the job.

Explore your options

You may need to apply for several positions before you get a job offer. Consider applying for jobs in a related area to help you build valuable experience or look into upgrading your education.

Volunteering can also help you build Canadian work experience, improve your skills and develop your professional and personal network.

A temporary job may not fit your education or professional training. However, it can help you build Canadian work experience, improve your English language skills, learn about Canadian workplace culture, meet new people and build up your network of contacts.

Credentials and qualifications

Educational and professional qualifications and standards differ from country to country. You may need to have your international credentials assessed to see how they compare with Alberta's standards.

Your educational credentials are certificates that show you have completed high school or post-secondary education. The International Qualifications Assessment Service (IQAS) will assess your international academic credentials to see how they compare to standards in Alberta.

Regulated occupations

Regulated occupations require recognition by professional regulatory bodies to ensure workers meet standards of practice. Before coming to Canada, you should have your credentials assessed for immigration purposes. Once you are in Canada, there is a separate process to be licensed to practice your profession. You are encouraged to contact the professional regulatory body for your profession before arrival in Canada to learn the necessary process.

You need a recognized credential to work in a designated trade in Alberta. Before you apply for or accept a job in Alberta, make sure your credential meets provincial standards. If your credential is not recognized in Alberta, you may either a) need to become an apprentice; or b) use your work experience to apply to the trades qualifier program in order to become certified in your trade.

Quick links & Contact Information

Alberta Supports Centres
alberta.ca/alberta-supports.aspx

Alis
alis.alberta.ca/look-for-work/

Employment services
alberta.ca/employment-services.aspx

International Qualifications Assessment Service (IQAS):
alberta.ca/IQAS Immigrant-serving agencies (AAISA)
aaisa.ca/membership-directory/

Work Search Basics
alis.alberta.ca/look-for-work/find-work/work-search-basics/

Job banks
ab.jobbank.gc.ca/home-eng.do
alis.alberta.ca/occinfo/jobs-in-alberta/
alis.alberta.ca/categories/look-for-work/job-banks/

Networking
Edmonton - eriec.ca/career-mentorship-program/
Calgary - criec.ca/

Foreign Qualification Recognition
alberta.ca/foreign-qualification-recognition.aspx

International Qualifications Assessment Service (IQAS)
alberta.ca/IQAS

Volunteer Alberta
volunteeraberta.ab.ca/for-volunteers/find-a-volunteer-opportunity/



START A BUSINESS IN ALBERTA

Albertans have an entrepreneurial spirit supported by a young, educated, and diverse workforce. We also have the lowest corporate tax in Canada and no provincial sales tax.

Become an entrepreneur in Alberta

Information on how to start a business

Overview

Alberta is a great place to start your own business. Albertans have an entrepreneurial spirit supported by a young, educated, and diverse workforce. We also have the lowest corporate tax in Canada and no provincial sales tax.

We welcome talented newcomers and job-creating entrepreneurs who will move to, live and work in Alberta.

See the Alberta Advantage Immigration Program (page 11) for information about streams that enable you to open a business and live permanently in Alberta.

If you have questions or need help with your application, email entrepreneur.supportservice@gov.ab.ca.

Resources

Small businesses in Alberta

Alberta leads the country in small business creation.

When starting a business, Alberta entrepreneurs have access to program and service providers that support via advice and coaching, financing and training and information about market expansion and grant funding.

Find out how to start a business in Alberta, operate a business and obtain licenses and permits for small businesses.

Business Link

The Business Link offers services for immigrant entrepreneurs. These services include:

- one-on-one coaching supports
- informative resources, guidebooks and checklists
- training and workshops
- network referral building

Community Futures Alberta

Community Futures Network of Alberta (CFNA) offers small business development and rural economic development through their 27 Community Futures offices throughout rural Alberta.

Services offered by CFNA offices include:

- helping you write a business plan
- marketing plan or business expansion strategy
- one-on-one coaching and business mentoring

Quick links & Contact Information

Small business creation
alberta.ca/small-business-resources.aspx

Business Link
businesslink.ca/what-we-do/immigrant-entrepreneur-program/

Community Futures Network of Alberta
albertacf.com/

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Edmonton, Alberta, featuring a wide river with a prominent white arch bridge. The foreground is dominated by lush green trees, while the middle ground shows a mix of residential and commercial buildings. The sky is bright blue with scattered white clouds. A semi-transparent white box is overlaid on the upper left portion of the image, containing the main text.

MAKE ALBERTA YOUR HOME

Discover the everyday details of your new life in Alberta: from housing to education.

Make Alberta your home

Information to help you settle in Alberta

Before you arrive

Both the Government of Canada and Alberta's government offer pre-arrival information and services to newcomers. Some of these services are only available to people outside Canada and some services are available once you arrive in Canada with a confirmation of permanent residence. There are also services that the province offers to temporary residents with work permits, naturalized Canadians, and refugee claimants.

Provincial information

Before you come to Alberta, you need to gather your important documents to save time and money. You may need to use these documents with employers, provincial regulators, educational institutions, and credential assessment agencies.

These documents include:

- valid passports
- immigration documents
- work reference letters
- school/university transcripts

Federal services

Once IRCC approves your permanent residence application – if you are still outside of Canada – you and your family can get free in-person and online services to help prepare for and adjust to life in Canada.

These pre-arrival services can help you to:

- prepare for your move to Canada
- get your education, work experience and credentials recognized in Canada
- connect with employers to find a job
- connect with free services after you arrive in Canada

Settlement and integration

Newcomer services

Alberta has several immigrant organizations where you can access a variety of settlement services.

Learn more about the services available through the Alberta Association of Immigrant Serving Agencies.

Read [Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada's \(IRCC\) Welcome to Canada guide](https://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/pub/welcome.pdf) ([cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/pub/welcome.pdf](https://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/pub/welcome.pdf))



Housing

Many individuals and families, including newcomers, rent first until they have save enough for a down payment to purchase a home.

Renting a home

When renting a home, you will need to sign a rental agreement or lease with a landlord. The agreement may be for a fixed period of time, for example, one year, or month to month.

Besides your monthly rental payment, there will be other costs you need to consider. Rental prices may or may not include utilities, such as electricity and heating – check with the landlord before you sign an agreement.

Most landlords require you to pay a security deposit before you move in. This covers any potential damage to the home. If there is no damage, you receive the full amount back when you move out.

Buying a home

You can buy a home in Alberta by contacting a realtor or through a private sale.

A realtor, also called a real estate agent, is a professional who helps people buy and sell homes. Realtors charge a fee for their services. Most of the time, the seller pays all realtor fees, but you should ask about this before you agree to work with a realtor.



Quick links & Contact Information

Service Alberta – Rental agreements

<https://www.alberta.ca/rental-agreements.aspx>

Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation

<https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en>



Transportation

Public transit

Public transit in Alberta includes buses and trains. They can help you travel within a city. To learn more, contact your municipality or search online.

Long distance travel

For travel within the province and out of the province, the main options are by bus, train or plane. Alberta has 11 airports, including two international airports, one in Edmonton and one in Calgary.

Getting a driver's licence

Even if you do not plan to own or drive a car, it is recommended to have an Alberta driver's licence for identification and proof of residence purposes.

In Alberta, new drivers must go through a Graduated Driver's Licence (GDL) program. This includes a knowledge test, two years of supported driving experience (one year free of licence suspensions) and an advanced road test. If you already have a driver's licence, you may be able to exchange your Canadian or international licence for an Alberta licence without participating in the GDL program or have your driving experience credited to reduce the time in the GDL program.

Buying, insuring and registering a vehicle

A vehicle that is being operated in Alberta must be insured and registered after you buy it.

If you do not plan to own or drive a motor vehicle, you can apply for an Alberta ID card for identification and proof of residence purposes.



Quick links & Contact Information

Buy or lease a vehicle

<https://www.alberta.ca/buying-selling-vehicle.aspx>

Insure a vehicle

<https://albertaaairb.ca/>

Get a license plate

<https://www.alberta.ca/licence-plates.aspx>

Get a driver's licence

<https://www.alberta.ca/get-drivers-licence.aspx>

Exchange a non-Alberta driver's licence

<https://www.alberta.ca/exchange-non-alberta-licences.aspx>



Health care

The Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP)

Alberta provides free basic health insurance through the AHCIP. This plan covers permanent and temporary residents. It does not cover visitors or tourists.

You must register for the AHCIP within three months of arriving in Alberta.

Covered expenses

The AHCIP covers many medical expenses, but not everything. Private health insurance is recommended for services not covered. Many employers offer insurance plans that help pay for these services. Any fees should be included as part of your job's compensation package.

If your employer does not offer a health plan, or if you are self-employed, you can buy personal health insurance from a private insurance company.

How to access health care services

After registering for the AHCIP, you will receive a personal health care card for you and your family. You must use this card when you visit a doctor.

Doctor, laboratory, health clinic and hospital visits are free with your card. If you do not have your card, you may be charged for a visit.

Walk-in health clinics and family doctors

You do not need an appointment to visit a walk-in clinic but you must make an appointment to see a family doctor. Review the quick links section to find a doctor who is accepting new patients.

Emergency medical services

If you cannot safely get to a hospital on your own, call 911, and an ambulance will arrive to take you to the nearest hospital. You will be charged a fee for using an ambulance if you do not have private health insurance that covers this service.

Mental health services

Many people will experience a mental health illness at some point in their lives, and even if you do not suffer yourself, you may be affected by the mental health issues of a loved one. Free health services are available for mental health issues, addictions, crisis situations and more.

Financial support

If your family has low income, you may be eligible for government financial support through the Alberta Adult Health Benefit or the Alberta Child Health Benefit.



Quick links & Contact Information

Find a doctor who is accepting new patients

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/info/>

[Page13253.aspx](https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/info/Page13253.aspx)



Education

Primary and secondary education

Public education for children age five to 19 years old is free. In Alberta, children between the ages of six and 16 must attend school. Parents can choose to send their child to kindergarten. The school system is divided into 12 grade levels.

Post-secondary and adult education

Adults of all ages take post-secondary programs to earn credentials, improve their knowledge and learn new skills.

Alberta Advanced Education provides information, resources and support if you are interested in further education or training.

You can choose from a variety of institutions and post-secondary programs:

- Universities offer undergraduate and graduate degree programs.
- Public colleges offer certificate, diploma, academic upgrading, university transfer, apprenticeship, continuing education and applied degree programs.
- Private colleges offer certificate, diploma, academic upgrading, university transfer, continuing education and some degree programs. Private colleges are sometimes affiliated with a religious organization.
- Polytechnic institutes offer certificate, diploma, applied degree, apprenticeship and continuing education programs. Most courses are related to trades or technical work.
- Private vocational schools offer training for specific occupations such as auctioneer, bartender, model or computer-aided-drafting technician.
- Apprenticeship training programs provide a combination of classroom and on-the-job training in a trade.
- Adult education is also known as continuing education or advanced education. It consists of classes or courses for adults who want to finish their high school diploma, upgrade qualifications, learn about new topics and gain new skills.

Improve your English

English is the main language used for business, school and everyday life in Alberta. Strong oral and written English skills will make your settlement and employment search a smoother process.

Many places in Alberta offer English language training, including colleges or universities, immigrant-serving agencies, private businesses, and religious and community organizations.

Language programs offered by the Canadian or Alberta governments are free or have a minimal cost compared to private providers.

Talk to your school or an Alberta Supports Centre to see whether you qualify for financial support to attend language classes. This support may include child care, transportation, and living allowances. If you need to take a course for a job, you may qualify for a loan from Windmill Microlending.

Assess your English skills

The Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) are used to assess language skill in Canada. Someone at Benchmark 1 has little or no English skills. A person at Benchmark 12 can speak English fluently.

In general, you need a CLB 4 for daily living. CLB 5 to 8 is usually needed to work in Alberta. CLB 6 to 9 or higher is needed to study in Alberta.

To find out your CLB level:

- Do a free Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) Self-Assessment online. This will give you an idea of your current CLB level.
- Complete an official CLB assessment at one of the following Language Assessment and Referral Centres.

If you are looking to improve your English language skills, there are several options, provided by the Government of Canada and various organizations. See the quick links at the end of this section for more options.



Child care

There is no law in Alberta that specifies at what age children can be left alone. You should use good judgment and consider the age and maturity of your child. Most Albertans pay for child care for children under 12 years of age. Childcare options include:

- licensed daycare centres responsible for the supervision of children under 7 years old
- family day homes provide parents with licensed child care services in a home setting
- out-of-school-care programs provide care for school-aged children outside normal school hours
- pre-school or nursery programs encourage children between the age of 2 and 5 to learn, play and develop

If you cannot afford to pay for child care, you may be eligible for government financial child care support.

Children with special needs

If your child has a special need, such as ongoing medical care, a disability or a developmental delay, help is available through Children's Services or the Family Support for Children with Disabilities Program (FSCD).



Quick links & Contact Information

Government financial child care support
<https://www.alberta.ca/child-care-subsidy.aspx>

Children's Services
<https://www.alberta.ca/childrens-services-office-locations.aspx>

Family Support for Children with Disabilities Program (FSCD).
<https://www.alberta.ca/fscd.aspx>

Quick links

Alberta Advanced Education
alberta.ca/advanced-education.aspx

Plan your studies - credentials and programs
<http://study.alberta.ca/plan-your-studies/credentials-programs/>

CLB Self-Assessment
clb-osa.ca/home

Language Assessment, Referral & Counselling Centre
Northern Alberta - larcc.cssalberta.ca/

Southern Alberta
settlementcalgary.com/clarc-registration/

Child care subsidy
alberta.ca/child-care-subsidy.aspx

Children's Services
alberta.ca/childrens-services-office-locations.aspx

FSCD program
alberta.ca/fscd.aspx

Women's Hub
<https://www.alberta.ca/womens-hub.aspx>

Family Violence Info Line
Phone 310-1818

Emergency Shelters
<https://www.alberta.ca/find-shelters.aspx>

Pre-arrival services
<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/new-immigrants/new-life-canada/pre-arrival-services.html>

Alberta Association of Immigrant Serving Agencies
aaisa.ca/membership-directory/

Service Alberta – Rental agreements
alberta.ca/rental-agreements.aspx

Learn more about buying a home | Canada Mortgage and
Housing Corporation (CMHC)
<https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en>

Edmonton transit information
edmonton.ca/edmonton-transit-system-ets.aspx

Calgary transit information
<https://www.calgarytransit.com/home.html>

Get a driver's license
alberta.ca/get-drivers-licence.aspx

Buy or lease a vehicle
alberta.ca/buying-selling-vehicle.aspx

Insure a vehicle
airb.alberta.ca/drivers/getting_insurance.aspx

Get a license plate
alberta.ca/licence-plates.aspx

Find a doctor
albertahealthservices.ca/info/Page13253.aspx

Free services for mental health issues
<http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/amh/amh.aspx>

Opportunity by the numbers

455

NATIONAL AND
PROVINCIAL PARKS

Alberta has more than 455 national and provincial parks and protected areas with breathtaking mountains, rolling foothills, dense forests and wide-open prairies.

+6k

NOMINATION
CERTIFICATES

We issued 6,250 nomination certificates to immigrants through the Alberta Advantage Immigration Program in 2020, helping them stay permanently in Alberta.

26

UNIVERSITIES
AND COLLEGES

Alberta has 26 universities and colleges where more than 27,000 international students received high-quality post-secondary education in 2020-2021.

\$104k

MEDIAN INCOME

Alberta families earn a medium income of \$104,000 after tax. This is above the Canadian average of \$92,800.

+6k

INTERNATIONAL
WORKERS

In 2020, 6,670 international workers came to Alberta through Canada's Temporary Foreign Worker Program.

8%

BUSINESS TAX

Alberta's business tax rate is 8 per cent – the lowest rate in Canada and among the lowest in North America.

90k

JOBS IN 3 YEARS

We are investing \$20.7 billion to build hundreds of projects and create 90,000 direct and indirect jobs over the next three years.