

Becoming a Canadian Citizen

Here is useful information about becoming a Canadian citizen. Read this page to decide if you are ready to take this step.

To become a Canadian citizen you must:

- be 18 years of age or older;
- be a permanent resident of Canada;
- have lived in Canada for at least three of the four years before applying;
- be able to communicate in either English or French;
- know about Canada;
- know about the rights and responsibilities of citizenship;

Please note that time spent in Canada before becoming a permanent resident may be counted towards becoming a Canadian citizen. A child (under 18 years of age) must be a permanent resident of Canada to apply for Canadian citizenship. To apply on behalf of your child you must either:

- already be a citizen; or
- apply for citizenship together as a family.

Children do not need to have lived in Canada for three years before applying.

Citizenship Test

If you are between the ages of 18 and 54 you must pass a citizenship test. For more information on Canada and the citizenship test read the on-line study guide [A Look at Canada](#).

Who cannot become a Canadian citizen?

Before you apply you should make sure that you are eligible for citizenship. You cannot become a Canadian citizen if you:

- are under a removal order;
- are now charged with an indictable criminal offence;
- have been convicted of an indictable criminal offence in the past three years;
- are now in prison, on parole, or on probation;
- are being investigated for or have been convicted of war crimes;
- had your citizenship revoked in the last five years.

Please note that time spent in prison, on parole or on probation may not be counted towards becoming a citizen

Applying for Citizenship

Find out about [applying for citizenship](#). Read more about citizenship in the brochure [How to Become a Canadian Citizen](#).