
5

Women with Disabilities

5.1 Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities — limited time

The Opportunities Fund supports a broad range of employment activities for persons with disabilities who are not eligible for employment benefits under the Employment Insurance Act. The goal of the program is to help these individuals prepare for, obtain and keep employment or self-employment. (It should be noted that this program is scheduled to expire March 31, 2000.)

The types of activities sponsored under the fund include:

- encouraging employers to hire workers with disabilities;
- helping individuals with disabilities start their own business;
- providing work experience which can lead to on-going employment;
- helping persons with disabilities increase their employment skill level;
- helping to integrate individuals with disabilities into the workplace through services tailored to meet their special needs; and
- providing personal supports required to enable persons with disabilities to participate in employment services.

While participating in certain activities such as skills development or self-employment, program participants are expected to continue on their current source of support, if any; otherwise, living expenses may be provided on the basis of negotiated weekly rates. In addition, participants may receive support toward certain other expenses such as tuition, commuting and dependant care. The costs of special arrangements or devices to accommodate a person with a disability may also be available. Please note that funding for participant training will no longer be available as of June 30, 1999, as a result of the labour market development agreements with the provinces.

For a copy of the brochure or additional information, contact the nearest Human Resource Centre of Canada:



TTD/TTY: 1-800-788-8282

Internet: <http://www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca>

5.2 Active Reemployment Benefits

Individuals with a disability who need help getting back to work may be entitled to special assistance to accommodate them in the workplace and/or help getting special devices needed in their job.

To find out more, contact the nearest Human Resource Centre of Canada (listed in the Government of Canada pages in your telephone directory), or visit Human Resources Development Canada's Web site:

Internet: <http://www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca>

5.3 Canada Pension Plan (CPP) Disability Benefits

Anyone with a severe and prolonged physical or mental disability that prevents them from working regularly at any job or is long-term and could lead to their death may be eligible to receive a CPP disability benefit. Individuals who became disabled after December 31, 1997, must have contributed to the Canada Pension Plan in four of the last six years, and have earned a minimum income during that period. For individuals who became disabled before January 1, 1998, the contributory requirements are different. The benefit consists of two parts: a flat-rate amount and a second amount that is determined by how long and how much was contributed to the CPP.

For individuals who qualify for a CPP disability benefit, additional benefits are also available to dependent children under age 18 or to children between the ages of 18 and 25 if they are in full-time attendance at school or university. Payments are received monthly, either by cheque or direct deposit, and normally arrive during the last three banking days of each month.

To start benefits, a completed application form must be submitted to the nearest Human Resources Centre (listed in the Government of Canada pages of your telephone directory).

For more information about the Canada Pension Plan, contact Human Resources Development Canada:

Toll-free: 1-800-277-9914 (English)

1-800-277-9915 (French)

TDD/TTY: 1-800-255-4786

Internet: <http://www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/isp>

5.4 Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Program - Western Canada

This program is available to qualified individuals who:

- live in a rural community in Western Canada;
- have a disability that impairs their ability to perform at least one of the basic activities of self-employment or entrepreneurship; and
- have a creative business idea or plan to expand or upgrade an existing business.

The program ensures easy access to business services; access to loan funds up to \$75,000, for people who are unable to obtain financing from traditional lenders; as well as other support mechanisms.

For more information, visit the nearest Community Futures office (listed in the Government of Canada pages of your telephone directory), or call Western Economic Diversification Canada:

Toll-free: 1-888-338-WEST (9378)

Internet: <http://www.wd.gc.ca>

5.5 Housing: Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program

Financial assistance in the form of a loan, part of which may not have to be repaid, is available to eligible disabled persons to help make housing more accessible.

For more information, contact Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's Canadian Housing Information Centre:

Toll-free: 1-800-668-2642

TTY: 1-800-309-3388

Fax: (613) 748-4069

Internet: <http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/ah-al/en/ownerrrap.html>

5.6 Students with Disabilities

A study grant of up to \$5,000 a year is available to eligible students with permanent disabilities to cover exceptional education-related costs associated with their disability. (For details, refer to Education, section 6.3 below.)

6

Education

6.1 Canada Education Savings Grant

The federal government wants to help parents save for their children's education, offset the need for student loans and help reduce or eliminate student debt on graduation. Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) offers grants of 20 per cent on the first \$2,000 of contributions made annually to a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) for any child up to age 18. For persons who can't contribute the full \$2,000 each year, any unused portion can be forwarded to unused years. The plan is flexible and can be moved between siblings; and, if the child does not go on to higher education within a reasonable period after highschool, the capital can be moved to the contributor's RRSP.

To get started, contributors must first establish an RESP with an approved vendor. The vendor must have a legal agreement with HRDC before any grant payments will be made.

For more information, call Human Resources Development Canada:

Toll-free: 1-888-276-3624 (English)

Toll-free: 1-888-276-3632 (French)

Internet: http://www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/student_loans

6.2 Canada Student Loans Program

Full-time or part-time students attending a post-secondary institution may be eligible for financial assistance for up to 60 per cent of their assessed financial need up to a weekly loan limit of \$165. The loan is intended to supplement the student's own resources from a job, other awards and from family. Students are expected to work during the four-month period before beginning their studies and their parents are expected to contribute to their education unless the student has been out of high school for four years, or in the labour force for two; is married, separated, divorced or a single parent. Spouses of married students are also expected to contribute. Payments on student loans are not required until the end of the seventh month after leaving school.



For more information about assistance, contact the school's financial aid office, the provincial school aid office, or Human Resources Development Canada's Student Loans Program:

Toll-free: 1-800-432-7377 (English)

1-800-733-3765 (French)

TTY: (819) 994-1218

Internet: http://www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/student_loans

6.3 Canada Study Grants

The federal government provides four types of grants for qualified full- and part-time students:

High-need Part-time Students

Individuals who are currently or who would like to become part-time students, can only study on a part-time basis because of family or other responsibilities that don't permit full-time study, have a maximum income of no more than \$14,100 (if single) or \$23,300 (if married with no children or a single parent with one child), and meet the requirements for a part-time Canada Student Loan may qualify for a grant of up to \$1,200. To be eligible, individuals must explain why they can only study on a part-time basis.

Students with Dependants

Full-time and part-time students with children or other dependants who can demonstrate financial need in excess of \$275 per week in combined federal and provincial loans may qualify for a Canada Study Grant. Part-time students with dependants whose need has been assessed in excess of, and after receipt of, the maximum grant for high-need part-time students (\$1,200) and who qualify for assistance under the part-time Canada Student Loans Program may receive additional assistance with their education costs of up to \$1,920 in any given loan year. Full-time and part-time students with one or two dependants can receive up to \$40 per week, while those with three or more dependants can receive up to \$60 per week.

Students with Disabilities

Individuals who have a permanent disability such as deafness, blindness or other physical disability or who have a learning disability that limits their ability to participate fully in post-secondary studies or in the labour force (proof required) may be eligible for a Canada Study Grant of up to \$5,000 a year to cover exceptional education-related costs associated with their disability. Courses for persons applying for full-time enrollment

must represent at least 40 per cent of a full-time course load. Individuals applying as part-time students must be enrolled in courses representing at least 20 per cent of a full-time course load. The grant may cover such exceptional expenses as the costs of a tutor, an interpreter, attendant care, or special equipment.

Women in Doctoral Studies

To help increase the participation of women in certain fields of study at the doctoral level, a Canada Study Grant of up to \$3,000 a year for a maximum of three years may be paid to qualified female students pursuing full-time doctoral studies. The eligible fields of study are: engineering and applied sciences, agriculture and biological sciences, mathematics and physical sciences; arts, social sciences and related fields; dental specialties, physical education, and law and jurisprudence.

For more information and application forms, contact the nearest student assistance office, the financial assistance office at any college or university, or the admissions offices at vocational schools. Some provinces require the submission of applications directly to the educational institution, while in others, application is directly to the provincial or territorial student assistance office. Information is also available from the Student Loans Program at Human Resources Development Canada:

Toll-free: 1-800-432-7377 (English)
1-800-733-3765 (French)
TTY: (819) 994-1218
Internet: http://www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/student_loans

6.4 Millennium Scholarships

The federal government has made a commitment to award more than 100,000 scholarships each year between 2000 and 2010, through the Canada Millennium Scholarships Foundation. Scholarships will be awarded based on a combination of merit and need. Pending the outcome of consultations with the provinces and stakeholders across Canada, it is expected that the average scholarship for a full-time recipient will be worth \$3,000 per year. Please note that students must reapply each year.

For more information about these scholarships or how to apply, contact the Canadian Millennium Scholarships Foundation:

Toll-free: 1-877-786-3999
Fax: (514) 786-3975
E-mail: millennium.foundation@sympatico.ca
Internet: <http://millenniumscholarships.ca>

6.5 Indian and Inuit Health Careers Program

Funding is available both to qualified Aboriginal students to pursue post-secondary education in the health field, and to various post-secondary educational institutions to develop student support and counselling services, curriculum enhancement and access programs for entry into health studies. The program includes orientation to health careers, on-the-job training, as well as bursaries and scholarships based on financial need.

Aboriginal students interested in obtaining a bursary or scholarship should contact the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation:

Tel.: (416) 926-0775 (in Toronto)

Fax: (416) 926-7554

E-mail: naaf@istar.ca

Internet: <http://www.naaf.ca>

or contact Health Canada's Medical Services Branch:

Tel.: (613) 954-8779

Fax: (613) 954-8107

Internet: <http://www.hc-sc.ca/msb>

6.6 Repaying Student Loans: Tax Deduction/Interest Relief/Debt Reduction

Canada Student Loans, like any other loans, have to be repaid. However, the federal government has four programs in place designed to reduce a student's debt burden.

Tax Deduction for Interest Paid on Student Loans

As of the 1998 tax year, students can claim an amount for the interest they, or a person related to them, paid in 1998 and subsequent years on loans made to them for post-secondary education under the *Canada Student Loans Act*, the *Canada Student Financial Services Act*, or similar provincial or territorial government laws. Individuals who do not wish to claim these amounts on their current return can carry them forward and apply them on any one of the next five years' returns.

For more information, contact the nearest Revenue Canada tax office (listed in the Government of Canada pages of your telephone directory), or visit Revenue Canada's web site:

Internet: <http://www.rc.gc.ca>

Interest Relief

The Interest Relief Plan Individuals currently living in Canada who have difficulty making their student loan payments because of low income, or because they have had to pay for unexpected emergency health-related expenses or emergency home repairs, may have the interest on their loan paid through the federal government's Interest Relief Plan. Interest relief is normally approved for three-month periods up to a maximum of 30 months throughout the lifetime of the loan. To qualify, individuals must meet the income conditions, have signed a Consolidated Student Loan Agreement, and have not defaulted on any Canada Student Loans for which the government has already reimbursed their lender.

Extended Interest Relief Beneficiaries of the Interest Relief Plan who have exhausted the 30 months of interest relief can, under certain circumstances, request that their lending institution extend the loan repayment period to 15 years. This could lower monthly payments by nearly 25 per cent at current interest rates. If, after extending the repayment period to 15 years, the beneficiary remains in financial hardship, interest relief may be extended during the five years after leaving school.

Debt Reduction In the event that an individual remains in financial difficulty and annual payments exceed a given percentage of income, the federal government will reduce the loan principal. The maximum amount of debt reduction will be \$10,000 or 50 per cent of the principal of the loan, whichever is less. To qualify, five years must have passed since the completion of studies and interest relief must have been exhausted.

For more information about eligibility and application forms, contact the lender holding the student loan, the provincial or territorial student assistance office, or Human Resources Development Canada:

Internet: http://www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/student_loans

6.7 Studying in Canada: A Guide for International Students

Citizenship and Immigration Canada provides a guide for anyone who would like to study in a Canadian primary, secondary, or post-secondary institution. (For details, refer to Immigration and New Canadians, section 8.5 below.)

7

Families and the Law

7.1 Department of Justice Grants and Contributions Fund

The Department of Justice administers a grants and contributions program designed to promote and implement selected reforms in the justice system. Funding is available to individuals, Canadian or international non-profit organizations, provincial or territorial governments, regional or municipal governments, universities, bands and tribal councils. Project activities must be distinct from, but must complement, the ongoing work of the organization. Projects can offer innovative programs, services, training or public legal education, or assist in research on possible reforms to the justice system. Since the Fund contains a limited amount of money, projects must be in keeping with its terms and conditions.

For more information, contact the Department of Justice:

Tel: (613) 957-3538

Fax: (613) 941-2269

Internet: <http://canada.justice.gc.ca>

7.2 Family Support

Child Support Initiative

New child support laws that took effect in May 1997, include guidelines for determining child support amounts, changes in the tax treatment of child support, and additional federal enforcement measures to assist the provinces and territories. Individuals either paying or receiving child support may want to get a copy of the pamphlet *Child Support Guidelines* (10 things you need to know about the Federal Child Support Guidelines). Other publications that are available are: *Federal Child Support Guidelines: A Guide to the New Approach*, and *A Workbook for Parents*. These latter publications give an idea of what the monthly child support payments would probably be in specific situations. Publications aimed at the professional community are: *The Federal*



Child Support Guidelines, The Complete Workbook, the Reference Manual, and the Federal Child Support Guidelines: A List of Caselaw.

For copies of these publications or information on the Child Support Laws, contact the Child Support Team at Justice Canada:

Toll-free: 1-888-373-2222
Tel.: (613) 946-2222 (National Capital Region)
Internet: <http://canada.justice.gc.ca/>

For information on the tax rules for child support, contact the nearest Revenue Canada office or:

Toll-free: 1-800-959-8281
Tel.: (613) 598-2275 (National Capital Region)
Visually Impaired: 1-800-665-0354
TTY: 1-800-665-0354
Internet: <http://www.rc.gc.ca>

Family Support Enforcement

The federal government imposes severe consequences on individuals who do not meet their family support obligations. Effective May 2, 1998, certain federal licenses, including passports, aviation and navigation licenses, may be suspended or denied to individuals who are in default of family support. Anyone whose spouse is in default of family support may wish to contact their provincial support enforcement program (part of the provincial Attorney General's office, or, in the case of Quebec, Revenue Québec) to discuss the federal license suspension scheme.

For more information, contact the provincial support enforcement program or the federal Department of Justice:

Toll-free: 1-800-267-777
Internet: <http://canada.justice.gc.ca>

7.3 Family Violence

Family Violence Prevention Program

The federal government has developed the Family Violence Initiative and the National Clearinghouse on Family Violence to help bring this issue into the open in order to prevent this type of violence and help its victims.

The *Family Violence Initiative* emphasizes primarily violence against women and their children, but also addresses all forms of family violence, including child abuse and neglect, abuse of older adults, and abuse committed by and against youth. The goal of the Initiative is to increase awareness of the issue to enhance the professional education resource base in order to help service providers and community organizations in their prevention, protection and treatment efforts.

The *National Clearinghouse on Family Violence* Individuals or organizations who help victims of family violence should contact the National Clearinghouse on Family Violence, a national resource centre that provides information and resources on all forms of family violence.

For more information on family violence prevention and the National Clearinghouse on Family Violence, contact Health Canada's Family Violence Prevention Unit:

Toll-free: 1-800-267-1291

Tel.: (613) 957-2938 (National Capital Region)

TTY: 1-800-561-5643

TTY: (613) 952-6396 (National Capital Region)

Fax: (613) 941-8930 (National Capital Region)

FaxLink: 1-888-267-1233

FaxLink: (613) 941-7285 (National Capital Region)

Internet: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/nc-cn>

Family Violence - Not a Private Problem

This Internet-based publication explains spousal abuse and the reasons behind it, a victim's rights, where to find more information and how to respond to abuse.

To access the publication, visit the RCMP's Web site at:

Internet: <http://www.rcmp-grc/html/fam-vi.e.htm>

Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile

Statistics Canada publishes data on family violence in Canada. To obtain a copy of the publication *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile*, contact the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics:

Tel: (613) 951-2065

Fax: (613) 951-6615

Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect

The federal government, in collaboration with a variety of both government and non-government groups, is developing an ongoing study to better understand the extent and dynamics of child abuse and neglect in Canada.

For more information about this study, contact Health Canada:

Tel: (613) 954-5493

Fax: (613) 941-9927

E-mail: child_maltreatment@hc-sc.gc.ca

Internet: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hpb/lcdc/brcg/maltreat/cadc_e.html

Housing: Shelter Enhancement Program

The federal government recognizes the importance of emergency shelters for abused women and their children. Organizations that operate a private, non-profit corporation or charity whose principal objective is housing victims of family violence may be eligible to receive funding to finance certain capital costs, including upgrading existing shelter buildings to an acceptable standard of health, safety and security; adding a limited number of new shelters and building longer-term housing units.

For more information, contact Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's Canadian Housing Information Centre:

Toll-free: 1-800-668-2642

TTY: 1-800-309-3388

Fax: (613) 748-4069

Internet: <http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca>

7.4 National Strategy on Community Safety and Crime Prevention

Individuals and community groups interested in safety and crime prevention in their community should contact the National Crime Prevention Centre. The Centre helps communities in developing and implementing community-based solutions to problems that contribute to crime and victimization, particularly as they affect children, youth, women and Aboriginal people. National Strategy initiatives include the Safer Communities Initiative, the Promotion and Public Education Program, and the Private Sector/Non-Profit Strategy on Crime Prevention.

For more information, contact the National Crime Prevention Centre:

Toll-free: 1-877-302-NCPC (1-877-302-6272)

Tel.: (613) 941-9306

Fax: (613) 952-3515

E-mail: ncpc@web.net

Internet: <http://www.crime-prevention.org>

7.5 “Our Missing Children” Program

In general, there are two types of missing children: runaways, who comprise more than 75 per cent of missing children; and children who are abducted, who comprise the remainder. Four federal government departments: the RCMP, Revenue Canada (Customs), Citizenship and Immigration Canada, and Foreign Affairs and International Trade work together to locate as many children as possible and return them to their proper guardian.

Missing Children’s Registry

This RCMP initiative assists with investigations of missing children and acts as a source of reference to all law enforcement agencies, both national and international. Brochures and research reports concerning missing children are published and distributed to law enforcement agencies, non-governmental agencies and the general public.

Travel/Reunification Program Supported by Air Canada, Canadian Airlines International and Via Rail, this program provides travel assistance to parents or guardians who cannot afford to pay the cost to return an abducted child to Canada.

For more information about either the Missing Children’s Registry or the Travel/Reunification Program, contact the RCMP’s Information and Identification Services Directorate:

Tel.: 1-877-318-3576

Fax: (613) 993-5430

E-mail: mcr.nps@sympatico.ca

Internet: <http://www.childcybersearch.ca>

7.6 International Child Abductions: A Manual for Parents

Child abductions, both within Canada and when they involve other countries, are difficult and complex. The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade has

prepared a manual that provides information on preventing abduction and what to do if your child has been abducted.

To obtain a free copy of this manual, contact Enquiries Service at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade:

Toll-free: 1-800-267-8376 (in Canada only)

Tel.: (613) 944-4000 (National Capital Region)

Internet: http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/travel/consular/child_abductions_e.htm

7.7 Passports/Travel Documents for Children

Children under 16 years of age can be issued their own passport/travel document or the child's name can be added to the passport/travel document of a parent at the time the parent's passport/travel document is issued, or at a later date. However, a child's name can only be added to the passport/travel document of one parent, and the child can only travel in the company of that parent.

Passports A child whose name is included on a parent's passport must remain with that parent if for any reason that parent is unable to travel back to Canada. To add a child's name to a parent's current passport, fill out Form B1 — *Addition of a Child's Name to an Existing Passport*.

Travel Documents The type of travel document issued depends on the immigration status of both the children and their parent; for example, a child may be a Canadian citizen by birth, while the parent(s) is a landed immigrant or refugee. There are two main types of travel documents: refugee travel documents and Certificates of Identity.

For more information or to get a copy of application forms, contact the Passport Office at one of the following numbers:

Toll-free: 1-800-567-6868

Visual Ear: (819) 994-3560

Montreal (514) 283-2152

Toronto (416) 973-3251

Ottawa-Hull (819) 994-3500

Vancouver (604) 586-2500

Internet: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/passport/pass.htm>

7.8 Women Offenders

Correctional Institutions

The Government of Canada has recognized the need for women offenders to serve their sentences closer to their families and home communities. As a result, it has replaced the Prison for Women in Kingston, Ontario, with four regional facilities and a unique Aboriginal Healing Lodge to accommodate minimum and medium-security women offenders. These facilities are:

- the Nova Institution for Women in Truro, Nova Scotia;
- the Établissement Joliette in Joliette, Quebec;
- the Grand Valley Institution for Women in Kitchener, Ontario;
- the Edmonton Institution for Women in Edmonton, Alberta; and
- the Okimaw Ohci Healing Lodge in Maple Creek, Saskatchewan.

There is also a minimum-security facility for women offenders in Isabel McNeil House in Kingston.

In the Pacific Region, the Burnaby Correctional Centre for Women accommodates women offenders from the region and from all security classifications under a joint federal/provincial agreement.

Okimaw Ohci Healing Lodge To address the special needs of Aboriginal women in the federal corrections system, the federal government has set up the Okimaw Ohci Healing Lodge in Maple Creek, Saskatchewan. The first institution of its kind, it was developed with and for the First Nations community. Sixty per cent of the staff are of Aboriginal descent, and the operation of this facility is based on Aboriginal teachings and philosophy, with a strong emphasis on Aboriginal culture and spirituality.

Maximum-security women inmates are not housed in the regional facilities, but rather in Maximum-Security Women's Units in other existing institutions, where security and programming are consistent with their needs. These units are: the Springhill Institution for Atlantic Canada, the Regional Reception Centre for Quebec, the Regional Treatment Centre for Ontario, and the Saskatchewan Penitentiary for the Prairies. The Regional Psychiatric Center in the Prairies and the Prison for Women in Ontario also provide intensive mental health programs for women offenders.

Correctional Service Canada is currently developing a long-term strategy for maximum-security offenders and women requiring intensive mental health programming. This strategy ends the existing co-located units at the men's institutions.

For more information about Women's Correctional Institutions, visit the Correctional Service Canada Web site:

Internet: <http://www.csc-scc.gc.ca>

or contact the Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Women at Correctional Service Canada:

Tel.: (613) 992-7033

Fax: (613) 992-4692

E-mail: nancystableforth@NHQ.csc-scc.x400.gc.ca

Correctional Program Strategy for Women Offenders

Correctional Service Canada, in collaboration with the offender, develops an individualized correctional plan for every offender in a federal institution. The goal of this plan is to reduce the chances of reoffending upon release by focussing on the factors that contributed to the criminal behaviour. The program strategy for women is designed to ensure consistency of all programming in women's institutions and to respond to the needs of women offenders, taking into account the social context of their lives. Core programs of the strategy for women are:

- ***Living Skills Programming*** Cognitive skills training teaches offenders thinking, problem-solving and decision-making skills. Other components are designed to prepare an offender for reintegration into the community and deal with such issues as parenting skills, anger and emotion management.
- ***Substance Abuse Program for Women*** This program provides a framework for both women who are ready to change their substance abuse and those who are not. The program focusses on the process of change itself rather than on the substance abuse problem.
- ***Literacy and Continuous Learning Programs*** include education programs that are usually provincially certified. Inmates who meet the basic secondary school requirements may also apply for college and university correspondence programs. These are normally paid for by the offenders themselves.
- ***Survivors of Abuse and Trauma Programs*** are designed to help an offender deal with and work through the violence that she has experienced.

For more information about these and other Correctional Service Canada programs, contact:

Tel.: (613) 943-8494

Fax: (613) 992-4692

Internet: <http://www.csc-scc.gc.ca>



Immigration and New Canadians

8.1 Immigrating to Canada: Types of Immigrants

Application kits and forms are available to individuals applying to immigrate to Canada under a variety of circumstances, including:

Family Class

The goal of Family Class immigration is to reunite families. Family Class immigrants are people sponsored by a relative to come to Canada. To qualify, the individual must be related to the sponsor as: a spouse, fiancé(e), dependent child, parent or grandparent; or orphaned brother, sister, nephew, niece or grandchild under 19 and unmarried.

Convention Refugee and Humanitarian Class

This class applies to individuals who:

- have a well-founded fear of persecution because of their race, religion, nationality, membership in a social group or political opinion;
- are outside their country of nationality, and are unable, or, because of fear of persecution, unwilling to obtain the protection of that country; or
- if they do not have a country of nationality, are outside their former residence and are unable, or, because of fear of persecution, unwilling to return to that country.

Women at Risk Program This program offers resettlement opportunities which might not otherwise be available to women whose ability to resettle is hampered by young dependent children, poor ability in either official language, poor job skills or a combination of these factors. These women usually have no family or friends to whom they can turn for support and protection and face the threat of rape or other violence to themselves or their children. Some women are in such critical situations that urgent processing is required.



Independent Class

The independent class includes business immigrants, skilled workers, and self-employed individuals. Determined by the Canadian labour market, successful applicants in this class are selected primarily for their ability to make a significant contribution to the economic, cultural and social fabric of Canada. Currently, approximately 30 per cent of skilled workers applying as independent immigrants and 17 per cent of business immigrants are women.

Selection criteria are used to assess applicants. Points are given for such things as education, specific job skills, job experience, occupation, arranged employment, age, and the ability to communicate in one or both of Canada's official languages. Applicants applying under the independent class who wish to go to Quebec should submit their application to the nearest Quebec Immigration office abroad. Applications are submitted to Canadian embassies, high commissions, or consulates.

Business Immigration Program This program has three main goals:

- to promote economic development and employment within Canada by attracting people with venture capital, business acumen and entrepreneurial skills;
- to develop new commercial opportunities and to improve access to growing foreign markets by "importing" people who are familiar with those markets and their special requirements and customs; and
- to support provincial and territorial objectives.

Business immigrants must also comply with selection criteria, which vary for each of the three business immigrant categories (entrepreneur, self-employed, investor). As well, business immigrants must meet the health and security requirements that apply to all immigrants.

In order to complete an immigration application, Canada requires a police certificate from each country in which the applicant has lived for 6 months or longer over the past 10 years, a medical examination, and supporting documents. The applicant must complete and sign all the forms in the kit and pay immigration fees (a non-refundable processing fee of \$500 for a spouse or other person 19 or older, \$100 for persons under 19 and unmarried; Right of Landing Fee of \$975 for each person 19 years of age and older). Individuals with a relative in Canada willing to sponsor them, should be aware that their sponsor will be required to complete additional forms and both persons must sign a sponsorship agreement.

For more information about immigration, as well as to obtain an immigration kit, call the nearest Citizenship and Immigration Canada Info Centre:

Toronto (416) 973-4444

Montreal (514) 496-1010

Vancouver (604) 666-2171

or for access anywhere else in Canada:

Toll-free: 1-888-242-2100

Internet: <http://cicnet.ci.gc.ca/english/coming/emain.html>

8.2 International Adoption

International Adoption and the Immigration Process

Citizenship and Immigration Canada's guide to *International Adoption and the Immigration Process* provides a wealth of information to anyone interested in adopting a child from outside Canada. The guide begins with a general overview of adoption and immigration, provides information about provincial systems for assessing the suitability of prospective parents, and explains the steps to be taken in the sponsorship process.

For a copy of the booklet *International Adoption and the Immigration Process* or more information about the process, call the nearest Citizenship and Immigration Canada Info Centre:

Toronto (416) 973-4444

Montreal (514) 496-1010

Vancouver (604) 666-2171

or for access anywhere else in Canada:

Toll-free: 1-888-242-2100

Internet: <http://cicnet.ci.gc.ca>

National Adoption Desk

Adoption is an area of exclusive provincial and territorial jurisdiction. Anyone interested in adopting should contact the adoption authorities in their province or territory of residence. Human Resources Development Canada's National Adoption Desk acts as the Federal Central Authority under The Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption. Among other things, this means that, in the case of certain intercountry adoptions, the National

Adoption Desk will coordinate foreign adoptions at the request of provincial and territorial adoption authorities (except Quebec). The Desk also coordinates the exchange of information between foreign adoption authorities and their provincial and territorial counterparts.

Please note that the adoption of a foreign child requires a visa which can be obtained from Citizenship and Immigration Canada (for details see International Adoption and the Immigration Process above).

For more information on the National Adoption Desk, contact Human Resources Development Canada:

Tel.: (819) 953-8000
Fax: (819) 953-1115
Internet: <http://www.hrhc-drhc.gc.ca>

8.3 Live-in Caregiver Program

A “live-in caregiver” is someone who provides unsupervised care of children, the elderly or the disabled in a private household. The Live-in Caregiver Program provides information to individuals either interested in working in Canada as a live-in caregiver or those who would like to hire someone from outside Canada for this type of work. The program is designed to bring workers to Canada to work as live-in caregivers when there are not enough residents of Canada to fill the available positions. People wanting to work in Canada as live-in caregivers must apply for an Employment Authorization. Live-in caregivers in Canada can apply to become permanent residents after they have worked for two years.

For more information about this program, or to obtain a copy of the Live-in Caregiver Program booklet that outlines the rights and responsibilities of both the caregiver and the employer, contact the nearest Citizenship and Immigration Canada Info Centre:

Toronto (416) 973-4444
Montreal (514) 496-1010
Vancouver (604) 666-2171

or, for access anywhere else in Canada:

Toll-free: 1-888-242-2100
Internet: <http://cicnet.ci.gc.ca>

8.4 New Canadians

A Newcomer's Introduction to Canada

This book provides valuable information to anyone who has recently immigrated to Canada. Included is information on the Canadian environment, getting settled in a community, finding a job and the rights and obligations of Canadians. There is also a helpful section that describes the Canadian way of life.

For a copy of *A Newcomer's Introduction to Canada*, call the nearest Citizenship and Immigration Canada Info Centre:

Toronto (416) 973-4444

Montreal (514) 496-1010

Vancouver (604) 666-2171

or, for access anywhere else in Canada:

Toll-free: 1-888-242-2100

Internet: <http://cicnet.ci.gc.ca>

The Host Program

One of the best ways to get settled in a new community is to meet someone who lives there and can show the newcomer around. The free Host Program may be able to help. While not providing living accommodations or money, the Host Program volunteer will help newcomers learn about the Canadian way of life, including: shopping for groceries and other items; registering children for school; using local transportation; arranging television, phone and utility services; and becoming comfortable with English and French. There is also a handbook available for service provider organizations.

For more information, contact the nearest Citizenship and Immigration Info Centre:

Toronto (416) 973-4444

Montreal (514) 496-1010

Vancouver (604) 666-2171

or, for access anywhere else in Canada:

Toll-free: 1-888-242-2100

Internet: <http://cicnet.ci.gc.ca/english/newcomer/host-fs3.html>

A Workbook for Community Planning: Helping communities work together to help newcomers

This workbook helps communities that regularly receive immigrants and refugees play a role in planning and setting priorities for settlement services. The workbook is for organizations such as municipal governments, school districts, non-profit community agencies, recreation centres, health departments and employment centres, together with the agencies who provide direct settlement services. The workbook takes a group step-by-step through the planning process, using case studies, checklists, group decision-making exercises and specific tools and strategies in order to make the planning process as practical as possible.

For more information, call the nearest Citizenship and Immigration Call Centre:

Toronto (416) 973-4444
Montreal (514) 496-1010
Vancouver (604) 666-2171

or, for access anywhere else in Canada:

Toll-free: 1-888-242-2100
Internet: <http://cicnet.ci.gc.ca/english/newcomer/workbook/wbk-01e.html>

8.5 Studying in Canada: A Guide for International Students

Citizenship and Immigration Canada provides a guide for international students who would like to study in a Canadian primary, secondary, or post-secondary institution. The guide includes information on language, tuition, health insurance, financing requirements, customs benefits, where to apply and the documents required to help process an application.

To obtain a copy of this guide, call the nearest Citizenship and Immigration Canada Info Centre:

Toronto (416) 973-4444
Montreal (514) 496-1010
Vancouver (604) 666-2171

or, for access anywhere else in Canada:

Toll-free: 1-888-242-2100
Internet: <http://cicnet.ci.gc.ca>