

# Canadian Citizenship: Facts and Perspectives

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## I. What is Canadian Citizenship?

- A legal concept
- A set of rights and responsibilities
- Rights:
  - vote or to be a candidate for elections in Canada
  - apply for a Canadian passport
  - be educated in the official language of choice
  - enter, remain in or leave Canada
    - Canadian citizens are not subject to residency requirements and cannot lose their status
    - Canadian citizens cannot be deported
- Responsibilities:
  - vote in elections
  - obey Canada's laws
  - express opinions freely while respecting the rights and freedoms of others
  - help others in the community
  - care for and protect our heritage and environment
  - eliminate discrimination and injustice

## II. How does one Become a Canadian Citizen?

- Acquisition of Canadian citizenship
  - By birth
  - By naturalization
- Requirements of naturalization
  - Permanent resident status
  - 18 years + (parents can apply on behalf of minors)
  - Has lived in Canada for 3 out of the 4 years preceding application for citizenship
  - Ability to communicate in English or French
  - Knowledge of Canada, including the rights and responsibilities of citizenship
- Application for citizenship – process
  - Application form and fee
  - Citizenship test
  - Citizenship ceremony and the citizenship oath

## III. Benefits of Canadian Citizenship

- In addition to the rights set out in section I:
  - The federal government gives preference to Canadian citizens in hiring
  - Some scholarships are available only to Canadian citizens
  - Under the provisions of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the Canada-Chile Free Trade Agreement, qualified Canadian citizens can benefit from facilitate admission into the U.S., Mexico and Chile for business and work-related purposes

## IV. Dual Citizenship / Nationality

- Canada allows and recognizes dual citizenship / nationality
- Canadian law does not require a person to renounce his/her other citizenship before becoming a Canadian citizen
- Some countries do not recognize dual citizenship / nationality; so if you are a citizen of another country and are concerned about the effect of your becoming a Canadian citizen, contact the consulate for that country for information

## V. Additional Information

Citizenship and Immigration Canada - Citizenship  
<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/citizen/index.html>

CBC - Becoming Canadian: From Immigrant to Citizen  
<http://www.cbc.ca/news/becomingcanadian/index.html>

Toronto Public Library - Canadian Citizenship  
[http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca/mul\\_ser\\_citizenship\\_test.jsp](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca/mul_ser_citizenship_test.jsp)

Richmond Public Library - Canadian Citizenship Practice Test  
<http://www.yourlibrary.ca/citizenship/>

# Sample Canadian Citizenship Test

Source: Richmond Public Library, Canadian Citizenship Practice Test. Available online at <http://www.yourlibrary.ca/citizenship/>

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- 1) Why are the Aboriginal peoples of Canada working towards self-government?
  - a) In order to secede from Canada.
  - b) They are trying to regain control over decisions that affect their lives.
  - c) So they can form more provinces.
  - d) To obtain better representation in parliament.
- 2) Why did early explorers first come to Atlantic Canada?
  - a) To establish agricultural communities.
  - b) To escape religious persecution.
  - c) To mine coal.
  - d) To fish and trade with Aboriginal peoples.
- 3) When did settlers from France first establish communities on the St. Lawrence River?
  - a) 1200s.
  - b) 1700s.
  - c) 1900s.
  - d) early 1600s.
- 4) What important trade did the Hudson Bay Company control?
  - a) Fishing.
  - b) Agriculture.
  - c) Fur.
  - d) Oil.
- 5) Name two fundamental freedoms are protected by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.
  - a) Freedom of religion and freedom of speech.
  - b) Equality rights and to care for Canada's heritage.
  - c) Basic freedoms and obey laws.
  - d) Aboriginal peoples' rights and to volunteer.
- 6) Which province is the only officially bilingual province?
  - a) New Brunswick.
  - b) Quebec.
  - c) Ontario.
  - d) Prince Edward Island.
- 7) What are the territories of northern Canada and their capital cities?
  - a) Alaska (Juneau) and Yukon Territory (Whitehorse).
  - b) Northwest Territories (Yellowknife) and Alaska (Juneau).
  - c) Northwest Territories (Yellowknife).
  - d) Yukon Territory (Whitehorse), Northwest Territories (Yellowknife), and Nunavut (Iqaluit).
- 8) In what industry do most Canadians work?
  - a) Natural resources.
  - b) Tourism.
  - c) Service.
  - d) Manufacturing.
- 9) What country is Canada's largest trading partner?
  - a) Mexico.
  - b) United States of America.
  - c) China.
  - d) Japan.
- 10) Who is Canada's Head of State?
  - a) Governor General of Canada.
  - b) Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.
  - c) Prime Minister.
  - d) Lieutenant Governor.