



**WINNIPEG**  
MANITOBA, CANADA

## A Settlement Guide for Newcomers to Canada

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June 2023

## Table of Contents

Checklists.....	4
Pre-Arrival Information .....	6
<b>Important Documents .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Canada Border Services Agency.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<i>Bringing Money Through Customs.....</i>	<i>9</i>
Arriving in Winnipeg .....	10
<b>Dressing for the Weather .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Temporary Housing .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Transportation from the Airport.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Dressing for Winter in Manitoba .....</b>	<b>12</b>
Your First Two Weeks in Canada.....	13
<b>Social Insurance Number (SIN).....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Health Information .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<i>Manitoba Health Card.....</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Private Insurance.....</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Doctors and Healthcare Centres .....</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Family Doctor or Clinic .....</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Urgent Care.....</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Emergency Care .....</i>	<i>19</i>
<b>Financial Information .....</b>	<b>21</b>
<i>Bank Account .....</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>GST/HST.....</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>Income Taxes.....</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>Cost of Living.....</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>Rent or Mortgage.....</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>Utilities.....</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>Other Services.....</i>	<i>26</i>
<b>Family Services .....</b>	<b>27</b>
<i>Education .....</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>Daycare .....</i>	<i>28</i>

Getting Around in Winnipeg .....	30
<b>Driver's License</b> .....	<b>30</b>
<b>Winnipeg Transit</b> .....	<b>31</b>
<b>Cycling</b> .....	<b>33</b>
Settlement and Employment Services.....	34
<b>Immigrant Centre</b> .....	<b>34</b>
<b>Manitoba Start</b> .....	<b>36</b>
<b>Altered Minds</b> .....	<b>38</b>
<b>NEEDS Inc.</b> .....	<b>39</b>
<b>Opportunities for Employment (OFE)</b> .....	<b>40</b>
<b>Welcome to Winnipeg</b> .....	<b>41</b>
Community Activities .....	42
<b>Ethno-cultural Communities</b> .....	<b>42</b>
<b>Places of Worship</b> .....	<b>42</b>
Things to do in Winnipeg.....	43
<b>Attractions</b> .....	<b>43</b>
<b>Family Activities</b> .....	<b>44</b>
<b>Events</b> .....	<b>44</b>
<b>Tours</b> .....	<b>45</b>
<b>Shopping</b> .....	<b>46</b>

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## Checklists

<b>Important documents to bring for yourself and family members accompanying you</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Birth certificates and naturalization/immigration certification
<input type="checkbox"/> Passport and identity documents (current and expired)
<input type="checkbox"/> Marriage certificate (if applicable), divorce certificate or death certificate (of deceased spouse)
<input type="checkbox"/> Adoption records for adopted children
<input type="checkbox"/> Degree, diploma certificates and transcripts
<input type="checkbox"/> Health or medical records including immunization records
<input type="checkbox"/> Private insurance (to have coverage for the first three months you will be in Canada)
<input type="checkbox"/> Repeat medication prescriptions
<input type="checkbox"/> Police/criminal record checks
<input type="checkbox"/> Valid driver's license and driving records
<input type="checkbox"/> Pet documents (if applicable)
<input type="checkbox"/> Cash/credit card for initial expenses and proof of funds
<input type="checkbox"/> Offer of employment letter
<input type="checkbox"/> Inventory of items you are bringing with you (checked luggage or carry-on bags)
<input type="checkbox"/> Inventory of household items shipped to Canada

### Reservations to make ahead of time and items to bring with you

Hotel/motel/Airbnb reservation

Transfer/transportation from airport

Change of clothes according to the weather in Winnipeg when you arrive

### Pre-arrival information

Congratulations on your move to Winnipeg! This perhaps was a difficult decision to make, and while we can imagine how excited you are to move to Canada, we also understand the process can be overwhelming. Leaving family and friends behind can be a challenge.

In hopes of reducing some of the stress that moving can cause, we have prepared this reference guide to help highlight what you will need to do before your move and during the first two weeks after your arrival. We have also provided other resources you can keep handy at all times.

This guide will not answer all the questions you have about Canada and what it is like living in Winnipeg. However, it will provide preliminary information on settling in and introduce you to key contacts, resources and agencies, which you may wish to reach out to as needed.

Welcome to Winnipeg: Canada's best kept secret

[Know what to do next with Arrival Advisor](#)

### Important documents

Before leaving your country of origin, make sure you have **original copies of important documents**, such as birth certificates and passports, as well as a few copies of the original documents that you and your family might need in Canada. Keep in mind these might take some time to collect, depending on the country you are living in, so it is a good idea to apply for/request them shortly after you decide to move.

Examples of these documents include, but are not limited to:

- Birth certificate
- Passport
- Marriage certificate (if applicable)
- Divorce certificate
- Death certificate (for a deceased spouse)
- Educational diplomas, certificates and transcripts
- Health records (including vaccination records and list of prescription medications)
- Driver's license
- Proof of permanent resident status in current country of residence (if applicable)
- Recent police check from your home country

*For a more detailed list, please refer to the checklists at the start of this guide.*

You may need to have some of these documents translated and notarized before coming to Canada. If that is the case, make sure you bring copies of the translated and notarized documents along with the originals. However, keep in mind that translations can also be done in Canada through translation service companies or the Immigrant Centre.

### Canada Border Services Agency

As of October 1, 2022, all COVID-19 related border requirements, including vaccination, use of the ArriveCAN entry app and any testing and quarantine/isolation requirements, have ended for all travellers entering Canada whether by land, air or sea.

Deciding what to bring with you and what to send separately can be difficult. Visit the Canada Border Services Agency's website ([cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](https://cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)) to ensure anything you decide to bring with you (either as a carry-on or in a checked bag) is allowed. There are several restrictions on what you can bring (e.g., animal products), so make sure you learn these restrictions before making decisions.

If you are arriving by plane, you will be required to fill out a Declaration Form. Make sure you answer truthfully and declare everything you are bringing with you. Remember to label/mark all the items that you sent or shipped separately as 'personal,' in addition to declaring them when you arrive. It is also helpful to have a list/inventory in English or French with all the items you have shipped to provide to the customs agent when you arrive in case they ask.

#### Bringing medication into Canada

If you have a prescription for medicine you need to take regularly, it is a good idea to bring at least a six-month supply as you may have to wait a while before you receive your Manitoba Health card. If you do bring medicine with you, you must also bring the original prescription and a version translated to English for the customs officer.

Once you have your Manitoba Health card, bring your prescription to a Canadian doctor to discuss getting a new prescription.



### Bringing money through customs<sup>1</sup>

All travellers must be identified on a Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) Declaration Card. You may list up to four people living at the same address on one card. Each traveller is responsible for their own declaration. Additionally, each traveller is responsible for reporting currency and/or monetary instruments totalling CAN\$10,000 or greater that are in their actual possession or baggage.

Under the law, failure to properly declare goods, currency and/or monetary instruments brought into Canada may result in seizure action, monetary penalties and/or criminal prosecution.

Information from this declaration will be used for CBSA control purposes and may be shared with other government departments to enforce Canadian laws.

Note there are no penalties or limits for monetary instruments over CAN\$10,000 but be sure to declare the full amount to avoid penalties or seizing of your money. For more information, visit CBSA's website at [cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](https://cbsa-asfc.gc.ca).

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<sup>1</sup> Canada Border Services Agency. "E311-Declaration Card" [cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/publications/forms-formulaires/e311-eng.html](https://cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/publications/forms-formulaires/e311-eng.html) Accessed October 4, 2022.

### Arriving in Winnipeg

A couple of days before your move, it might feel like things are happening very quickly. In the blink of an eye, you will be arriving in Winnipeg. What you do once you arrive will depend on how much you were able to plan ahead for your first days here.

#### Dressing for the weather

One of the first things to check a few days before your trip is the weather. This will help you know what to wear the day you arrive in Canada. It's important to note that due to Canada's large geographic size, seasonal weather differs quite a bit from one region to the next. More information on how to dress for life in Winnipeg will be discussed further on.

#### Temporary housing

Whether you stay with family or friends, at a hotel or other temporary rental when you first arrive, make sure you have the address of where you will be staying ready. You may be asked to provide this information once you arrive. If you are looking for a temporary or short-term rental in Winnipeg, there are plenty of options available through [Airbnb](#) and [Booking.com](#).

#### Transportation from the airport

If you're arriving by airplane to the Winnipeg Richardson International Airport, be sure to organize transportation in advance. If you are being picked up by family or friends, try to stay in touch prior to and during your flight and provide updates so they are aware of any flight delays. They can check the arrival schedule by going to the Winnipeg airport's website ([waa.ca](#)).

Most large airports in Canada now offer free Wi-Fi, including the airport in Winnipeg. This makes it easier to stay in touch with your family back home and anyone waiting for you in Winnipeg upon arrival. Note that Winnipeg has one commercial airport so all flights will arrive at the Winnipeg Richardson International Airport.

If you are not getting picked up, there are several options:

- **Taxi:** There are typically taxis lined up outside the airport. In case there aren't any taxis waiting outside, here are a couple of taxi companies you can call:
  - Unicity Taxi 204-925-3131
  - Duffy's Taxi 204-925-0101
- **Ridesharing:** You can book a ride with a registered rideshare driver. Rideshare drivers operate in a taxi-like manner and are generally booked over the internet or through an app. One of these companies in Winnipeg is [Uber](https://www.uber.com), which you can access by downloading the app at [uber.com](https://www.uber.com).
- **Public transit:** You can take a bus from the airport to downtown and then connect to other routes if needed. Information on public transit in Winnipeg is explained later in this guide.
- **Hotel airport shuttle:** If you are staying at a hotel, check if they offer free shuttle service from the airport to the hotel when you make your reservation. Make sure you have their phone number handy.

Alternatively, staff at the airport can tell you the best way to get to where you plan to stay and help you find the correct bus or order a taxi.

### Dressing for winter in Winnipeg

Depending on where you are moving from, our local weather can be unfamiliar and even surprising, which is why it is important for you to prepare for it before you get on a plane.

One of the things you have probably heard a lot about is winter in Winnipeg. While it is true it is cold, as long as you dress accordingly, winter can be a very enjoyable season. Our city offers plenty of winter activities, attractions and events to enjoy.

If you arrive during our winter season (typically from October/November to March/April), you will quickly learn that layering your clothing is key to staying warm. You may be wearing the puffiest coat there is, but that may not be enough if you do not have an adequate number of layers. It is also very important to properly cover your extremities (e.g., fingers, toes, ears, and face) to avoid risks of exposure (i.e., frost bite).

- **Base layer** – This layer will be in direct contact with your skin. Try to find a fabric that is light enough so if you start sweating the fabric will dry quickly (or at least not hold the moisture).
- **Mid layer** – This layer will add insulation and help trap your body heat and keep you warm. It should be comfortable enough for you to move around but tight enough so that it does not let cold air in. An example of this layer is a fleece sweater.
- **Outer layer** – This final layer will protect you from the elements, such as cold air and snow. Like the mid layer, it should be comfortable for you to move around in, but it should also be tight enough to protect you from cold air.

In addition to these layers, investing in a good pair of winter boots, a scarf, a pair of gloves or mittens and a warm hat is essential. Keep in mind that good quality does not have to mean the most expensive.

For more examples on how to dress for winter, visit [wikihow.com/Dress-for-Winter](https://www.wikihow.com/Dress-for-Winter)

### Your first two weeks in Canada

Welcome to Winnipeg!

There is an incredible amount of information available to you, from tips and tricks to help you navigate life in Canada to things to do in Winnipeg and across Manitoba. This section of the *Settlement Guide* provides step-by-step information on applying for the documents you'll need during your first weeks in Winnipeg.

Take your time to read the following sections carefully, as well as to access the links provided.

Once you arrive, you will need to fill out several forms to access important services. You will need to apply for a Social Insurance Number (SIN) and your Manitoba Health Card. Accessing these forms is free of charge, and you can fill them out on your own. However, if you need help, you can get free assistance from settlement agencies such as the [Immigrant Centre](#) or [Manitoba Start](#).

#### Social Insurance Number (SIN)<sup>2</sup>

**Your SIN is confidential.** Do not use it as identification, for rental applications or for job applications. Your employer will ask for it once you are hired and at that time, it is okay to share. It is a good idea to memorize your SIN and keep all the information regarding your SIN (such as the confirmation letter) in a safe place at home.

To apply for a Social Insurance Number (SIN), to request a confirmation of your SIN or to amend your SIN record, you must provide a valid primary document that proves your identity and legal status in Canada.

For newcomers who are not permanent residents, a valid primary document could be your work permit issued by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). As a work permit holder, your SIN will be temporary and it will begin with a nine (9). Once you attain permanent resident status this number will change.

To obtain a confirmation of your SIN or to amend your SIN record in person at a Service Canada Centre, you must bring two valid, government-issued identification documents (ID) with you.

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<sup>2</sup> Government of Canada. "Social Insurance Number – What you need before you apply" [canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/sin/before-applying.html](https://canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/sin/before-applying.html) Accessed October 4, 2022.

### **Why do you need a SIN and how do you apply for a SIN?**

Your SIN is an additional identification document. You will need it to be able to work in Canada and to file your taxes every year.

There are several Service Canada Centres in Winnipeg. Please choose one from the list included on Service Canada's website, [servicecanada.gc.ca](https://www.servicecanada.gc.ca) (current as of May 30, 2023)

- If the name indicated on your primary document is different from the name you are currently using, you must provide supporting documents.
- If you are applying for a SIN for someone else, you may need to provide additional documents. To find out what you will need to apply:  
<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/sin/apply.html>
- After you apply, Service Canada stores your personal information in the Social Insurance Registry.

For more information about your SIN, visit [canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/sin.html](https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/sin.html)

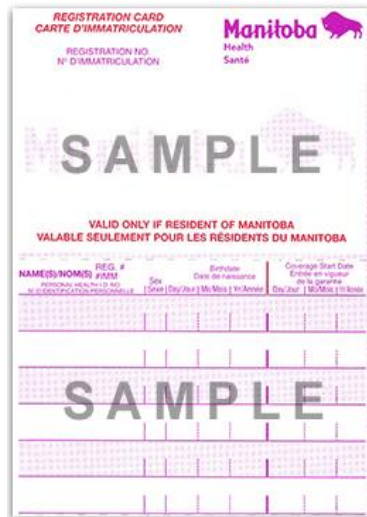
## Healthcare information

### Manitoba Health Card<sup>3</sup>

Manitoba Health issues a card (or registration certificate) to all Manitoba residents, which includes a nine-digit lifetime identification number for each family member.

The white paper card has purple and red print. It includes a six-digit family or single person's registration number, name, address, family member's given name and alternate (if applicable), sex, birthdate, effective date of coverage and nine-digit Personal Health Identification Number (PHIN).

Please make sure you always carry your Manitoba Health card with you. **You will need to present it every time you visit a doctor or access any healthcare services in Manitoba.**



To be **eligible** for Manitoba Health coverage, you must:

- Be a Canadian citizen or have immigration status as outlined in *The Health Services Insurance Act* (e.g., permanent residents or work permit holders and their spouse/dependents, noting that permit validity periods apply);
- Establish a permanent residence in Manitoba; and
- Reside (physically) in Manitoba six months in a calendar year.

<sup>3</sup> Manitoba Government. "Your Manitoba Health Card (Registration Certificate)" [gov.mb.ca/health/mhsip/mbc card.html](http://gov.mb.ca/health/mhsip/mbc card.html) Accessed October 4, 2022

The following are **not eligible** for coverage:

- Tourists
- Transients
- Visitors
- Domestic students temporarily absent from other provinces and territories in Canada to attend educational institutions in Manitoba

**To apply you will need to:**

- Complete a Manitoba Health registration form.
- Provide a copy of your immigration documents and proof of your legal status in Canada (e.g., your work permit).

If your work permit is valid for at least 12 months in Manitoba, you and any family members listed on the work permit are eligible for coverage as of the date it was issued.

If your work permit is valid for less than 12 months, you are not eligible until you receive an extension allowing you to stay in Manitoba for at least 12 months. You will then be covered as of the date of the extension.

**Keep in mind that until your health coverage begins, you will need to find other healthcare coverage (e.g., international health insurance).**

### Where to apply for a Manitoba Health card

**Online:** [Manitoba Health Registration Form | Manitoba Health | Province of Manitoba \(gov.mb.ca\)](https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/mhsip/index.html)

**In person:**

Manitoba Health Insured Benefits Branch  
300 Carlton Street  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 3M9  
Business hours: Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
For more information call: 204-786-7101  
<https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/mhsip/index.html>



### Private Insurance

Before you look into private insurance options, make sure you check with your employer and confirm whether or not you have any group insurance coverage provided through them. If you are not immediately covered by your employer, you can look at purchasing coverage in your home country for the first three to six months after you arrive in Canada.

Reminder: You will not be immediately covered by Manitoba Health when you arrive. Therefore, you will need to plan ahead and find alternate options for the time you are not covered. Do your research and investigate plans from multiple companies before you decide.

One option you can look into in Manitoba is Blue Cross. For more information, visit their website at <https://www2.mb.bluecross.ca/>.

The following private insurance companies in Winnipeg offer top-ups and additional plans once you are covered by Manitoba Health:

- Canada Life - [canadalife.com/insurance.html](https://canadalife.com/insurance.html)
- Manulife - [manulife.ca/personal.html](https://manulife.ca/personal.html)
- Sunlife - [sunlife.ca](https://sunlife.ca)

### Doctors and healthcare centres

Although getting sick is not top-of-mind nor ideal when you are moving, it is certainly possible. It's important for you to understand where to go for appropriate healthcare. This will help you receive the healthcare you need.

There are three different types of [healthcare services available to you](#).<sup>4</sup>

### Family doctor or clinic

Your family doctor or primary care clinic is your medical 'home' where most of your health issues can, and should, be addressed. You should always try to seek care for non-emergency issues with your family doctor or nurse practitioner first.

See your doctor or go to a walk-in clinic for things like:

- Minor illnesses, flu, rashes or infections
- Diagnosis and specialist referral
- Ongoing management of health conditions and preventative care

Prescriptions, vaccinations and inoculations

#### How to find a walk-in clinic or a doctor

**Walk-in Clinics** – There are roughly 90 walk-in clinics in Winnipeg, many located in residential neighbourhoods. Hours vary, with some clinics being open in the evenings and on weekends. For a list of clinics, visit [myrightcare.ca/walk-in-clinics/](https://myrightcare.ca/walk-in-clinics/)

**Family Doctor** – Contact the Family Doctor Finder by calling 204-786-7111 or visit [gov.mb.ca/health/familydoctorfinder/](https://gov.mb.ca/health/familydoctorfinder/)

#### Unsure of where to go?

**Call Health Links – Info Sante at 204-788-8200 or toll-free at 1-888-315-9257.**

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<sup>4</sup> Winnipeg Regional Health Authority. "My Right Care," - <https://myrightcare.ca/> Accessed October 4, 2022

### Urgent care

Urgent care centres are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to address urgent but not life-threatening health concerns.

See urgent care for things like:

- Illnesses or injuries that cannot wait for you to see your family doctor
- Fevers, flu symptoms, rashes or infections
- Dehydration
- Cuts that won't stop bleeding
- Injured limb that might be broken or sprained
- Any other urgent, but not life-threatening, conditions

Urgent care centres are able to provide services not available in many doctors' offices, such as stitches and casts, but are not equivalent to emergency departments. Urgent care centres help conserve emergency department resources for more serious, life-threatening conditions. Patients are seen based on their medical need, not order of arrival.

#### Urgent care centres in Winnipeg

##### **Concordia Hospital Urgent Care**

1095 Concordia Ave  
Phone: 204-661-7194

##### **Seven Oaks General Hospital Urgent Care**

2300 McPhillips Street  
Phone: 204-632-7133

##### **Victoria General Hospital Urgent Care**

2340 Pembina Hwy  
204-269-3570

### Emergency care

Emergency departments in acute care hospitals are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to address the most serious and life-threatening health issues.

Call **911** or go to the emergency department for issues such as:

- Stroke/facial weakness/extremity weakness
- Heart attack/chest pain or tightness
- Unable to wake/unconscious

- Sudden onset of severe headache or confusion
- Seizure and/or severe head injury
- Severe difficulty breathing or trouble speaking
- Uncontrolled or severe bleeding
- Major trauma such as loss of limb
- Severe allergic reaction
- Severe burns
- Major assault such as stabbings or shootings

### Emergency care centres in Winnipeg

#### **Grace Hospital Emergency**

300 Booth Drive

Phone: 204-837-0157

#### **Health Sciences Centre (HSC) - Adult Emergency**

700 William Avenue

Phone: 204-787-3167

#### **Health Sciences Centre (HSC) - Children Emergency**

700 William Avenue

Phone: 204-787-2306

#### **St. Boniface Hospital**

409 Taché Ave.

Phone: 204-233-8563

If your issue is not life-threatening, you may wait longer at an emergency department because more serious cases will be given priority.

**Patients with potentially life-threatening conditions should immediately phone 911. In case of an urgency, you can access the Winnipeg Health Regional Authority's website to check wait times at [wrha.mb.ca/wait-times](http://wrha.mb.ca/wait-times)**

### Financial information

Once you have your SIN and your Manitoba Health card applications underway, the next step is to open a bank account and get a bank card in Canada.

#### Bank account

In addition to your SIN, your employer may ask you to provide your banking information (e.g. bank account information, direct deposit form, void cheque), so they can pay your wages. You may be paid by cheque which you will need to deposit.

The five largest banks in Canada are:

- Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) - [rbccroyalbank.com/personal.html](http://rbccroyalbank.com/personal.html)
- Toronto-Dominion Bank (TD Bank) - [td.com/ca/en/personal-banking/](http://td.com/ca/en/personal-banking/)
- Bank of Nova Scotia (Scotiabank) - [scotiabank.com/ca/en/personal.html](http://scotiabank.com/ca/en/personal.html)
- Bank of Montreal (BMO) - [bmo.com/main/personal](http://bmo.com/main/personal)
- Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC) - [cibc.com/en/personal-banking.html](http://cibc.com/en/personal-banking.html)

Some Manitoba-based credit unions are:

- Steinbach Credit Union - [scu.mb.ca](http://scu.mb.ca)
- Assiniboine Credit Union - [assiniboine.mb.ca](http://assiniboine.mb.ca)
- Cambrian Credit Union - [cambrian.mb.ca](http://cambrian.mb.ca)

Some online banks are:

- Tangerine - [tangerine.ca](http://tangerine.ca)
- EQ Bank - [eqbank.ca/index](http://eqbank.ca/index)
- Neo Financial – [www.neofinancial.com](http://www.neofinancial.com)

Most financial service providers offer products for newcomers, so it is a good idea to do some research on each of them before you choose one. Make a list of what each bank offers and what the costs are for those services. For example, some might charge a monthly fee or the interest rates may be higher than other banks.

### What should you bring to your first appointment?

Generally, banks require **two** pieces of identification. Make sure at least one of the pieces of identification has your photo (such as your passport and work permit). When you call to book an appointment, ask the bank if there are any additional documents you need to bring with you.

Once you have compared bank offerings, schedule an appointment with an advisor at each bank, or the one you decide to use, and ask them to go over their services. It is recommended that you schedule an appointment in advance rather than going to the bank without an appointment to ensure you can meet with a suitable advisor.

When you call, ask if you can make an appointment with someone who speaks your native language if your English language skills aren't strong. Winnipeg is a very diverse city, so many banks have advisors who speak different languages. This could make this first appointment easier for you.

Some key questions to ask your financial advisor are:

- How does direct deposit work? Are there any hidden fees?
- How do I start developing a credit history in Canada?
- What fees should I be aware of with a chequing account?
- What is deducted from each of my paycheques (e.g., Canada Pension Plan, Employment Insurance, taxes)?
- What are the best options available to open a savings account?
- What are Registered Retirement Savings Plans (RRSP) and Tax-Free Savings Accounts (TFSA)?

### Did you know?

The Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation (CDIC) is a federal Crown corporation responsible for providing deposit insurance against the loss of eligible deposits (such as savings and chequing accounts, and Guaranteed Investment Certificates (GIC) in Canada dollars) at member institutions, such as the banks and credit unions listed above, in the event of a failure. This means that your savings will be automatically protected to a limit of CAN\$100,000. For more information: [cdic.ca](http://cdic.ca).

### GST/HST

In Canada, there are two types of retail sales taxes levied: the Provincial Sales Tax (PST) and the Government of Canada's Goods and Services Tax (GST). These taxes are used to fund government programs and services. In Manitoba, the GST is five per cent (5%) and the PST is seven per cent (7%). Each province has a different PST rate, and some provinces combine the federal and provincial taxes as a Harmonized Sales Tax (HST).

For more information about GST/PST visit the Manitoba Government's website at [gov.mb.ca/finance/other/gst.html](http://gov.mb.ca/finance/other/gst.html)

#### Did you know?

In Canada it is common to give a 'tip' or 'gratuity' to reward the person providing service such as servers (eg. waiters/waitresses) and taxi drivers. A tip is usually 10 to 20 per cent of your bill.

### Income taxes

In Canada, anyone who is a resident and who has an income must report it every year by filing taxes. The Government of Canada website defines income as money you earn through employment or self-employment, investments you have or any benefits you receive.<sup>5</sup>

When you file your tax return, you must report income from all sources, both inside and outside Canada. This is true even if you were paid in cash, which may include money you earn as a side job or tips you have received. For more information on how much income tax you may likely need to pay annually, visit [Income Tax Calculator Canada](#).

The income tax year runs from January to December, and income taxes must be filed for the previous year. The deadline to file personal income taxes is April 30 of each year (e.g., 2022 taxes should be filed by April 30, 2023). The Canada Revenue Agency can request your tax documents at any time, so you should keep all your tax files for at least for six years, although the more tax files you retain, the better.

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<sup>5</sup> Government of Canada. "Doing your Taxes." [canada.ca/en/services/taxes/income-tax/personal-income-tax/doing-your-taxes.html](http://canada.ca/en/services/taxes/income-tax/personal-income-tax/doing-your-taxes.html) Accessed October 4, 2022

### **Are you required to file taxes?**

When you have residential ties to Canada (permanent residents, refugees and temporary residents) or if you had earned employment during that time, you are required to file your taxes. There may be some exceptions to this, and it is important to speak with a tax professional if you believe you fall into a non-traditional circumstance.

To determine whether you have residential ties to Canada, [click here](#).

### **Are there tax benefits that could apply to you?**

Yes, you could qualify for income tax credits, which means you could receive a refund. In addition, you could also apply for the GST credit. The GST/HST credit is a tax-free quarterly payment that helps individuals and families with low and modest income offset all or part of the GST or HST they pay. It may also include payments from provincial programs.

### **What documents do you need to file your income taxes?**

When you file your taxes, either with a tax advisor or on your own, you will need your SIN, as well as a copy of your tax receipts. Some examples include:

- Rent statement/receipt
- T4 Statement of Remuneration Paid (Employment). Your employer will provide this to you before tax season begins.

After you file your taxes, the Canada Revenue Agency will send you a Notice of Assessment (NOA). You can request and apply for access to an online CRA account where you can find an NOA once your taxes have been processed, as well as any information and notices the CRA sends you. You can open an online CRA account by using your personal banking information.

Keep in mind that access to an online CRA account may take several days since the government will send you a letter delivered by Canada Post which contains a temporary password. Once you get access to your NOA, read the document(s) carefully as it may include important information such as when you can expect a refund or if there is a balance owing from you.

For more information about income taxes, visit [canada.ca/en/services/taxes/income-tax/personal-income-tax/doing-your-taxes.html](https://canada.ca/en/services/taxes/income-tax/personal-income-tax/doing-your-taxes.html)



### Cost of living

A big question related to moving to Winnipeg will be the cost of living and how much to budget for each month. It is important for you to prepare a budget to know what is affordable for you. This section highlights some of the utilities and services you might need to include in your budget.

### Rent or mortgage

If you are considering purchasing a home upon your arrival, make sure you do your homework and learn more about the neighbourhoods in the city. Asking locals what they recommend is always a great idea. You can also check our website, [liveinwinnipeg.com](http://liveinwinnipeg.com), to learn more about Winnipeg's neighbourhoods. Your employer could also answer some of the questions you have and point you to resources. If you have a financial advisor, add these questions to your list of things to discuss.

However, if you have decided to wait a while before buying a home, you will likely be renting an apartment, condominium, townhouse or house in Winnipeg. If this is the case, learn about your rights as a tenant. Everything you need to know as a first-time renter in Manitoba, including your rights and responsibilities as a tenant can be found on the Manitoba Residential Tenancies Branch website at [gov.mb.ca/cca/rtb/](http://gov.mb.ca/cca/rtb/)

Some helpful questions to ask your potential landlord are:

- How long is the lease?
- When will rent increase?
- What is included in the rent?
- What are apartment complex rules?
- Are pets allowed?

### What do you need to be able to rent an apartment in Winnipeg?

Before you fill out an application, make sure you ask which documents you will need to provide. Often renting companies or landlords might ask for a letter from your employer, a personal reference and sometimes even a **guarantor or co-signer**, which is a person who guarantees to pay a borrower's debt in the event the borrower defaults on a loan obligation. They might also run a credit check. You may also need to pay a deposit, which could be half the amount of the rent or the first and last months of rent. Do not give your SIN information on a rental application.

Before signing a lease, to avoid getting charged for damages, make sure you visit the apartment, document any damages and get the landlord to sign the document. Note that a landlord cannot charge you for damages that existed before you moved in.

Once you find an apartment you like, walk around the neighbourhood and make sure you are near a school (if you have children) and have access to stores you will likely frequent, such as grocery stores. It is also important to consider parking options if you plan to purchase a vehicle.

If you are experiencing financial difficulties, Manitoba's [Rent Assist program](#) may be available to you. Rent Assist is a financial benefit for people who receive Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) and have housing costs to cover. It is also available to other low-income private renters.

### Utilities

As a tenant/renter, one of the first questions you should ask your future landlord is whether or not utilities are included in rent. Sometimes rent includes some, but not all of the utilities. If this is the case, it will be your responsibility to ensure payments are made on time to avoid any negative impact to your credit history. Adding reminders on your phone for when payments are due could be helpful. There are also options to set automated monthly payments online with many providers.

Manitoba Hydro is the provincial government owned and operated electric power and natural gas utility provider in the province of Manitoba. Your landlord will let you know if you need to pay for gas or electricity, and you will be required to open an account with Manitoba Hydro. The cost will depend on how much you use. If you have any questions, you can contact Manitoba Hydro directly ([hydro.mb.ca](http://hydro.mb.ca)) or address your questions to your landlord.

### Other services

In addition to rent and utilities, there may be additional services that are not included in your rent, such as cable TV, internet (Wi-Fi) and a personal landline phone.

These are some of the service providers you can contact in Winnipeg:

#### **TV Cable, Home Security, Home Phone and Internet (Wi-Fi)**

- Bell MTS - [bellmts.ca/personal](http://bellmts.ca/personal)
- Rogers - [rogers.com/consumer/home](http://rogers.com/consumer/home)

- Telus - [www.telus.com](http://www.telus.com)
- Shaw Communications - [shaw.ca](http://shaw.ca)

### Cellphone Service Providers

- Bell MTS - [bellmts.ca/personal](http://bellmts.ca/personal)
- Rogers - [rogers.com/consumer/home](http://rogers.com/consumer/home)
- Telus - [www.telus.com](http://www.telus.com)
- Koodo - [koodomobile.com](http://koodomobile.com)
- Fido - [fido.ca](http://fido.ca)
- Virgin Mobile - [virginmobile.ca](http://virginmobile.ca)

You can explore each of these companies' websites to compare prices. It is a good idea to phone their customer service departments to ask if they have any specials, which may include customized packages based on the services you would like or rate promotions.

### Family services

If you are moving to Winnipeg with a partner and your children, you will need to learn about the services available to you, as well as some of the laws around family in Canada as they may differ from your home country.

### Education

There are public and private school options throughout Winnipeg. Public education in Manitoba is free to all Canadian citizens, permanent residents and eligible temporary residents.

#### Did you know?

Education is a provincial government responsibility in Canada. Children are required by law to attend school when they reach seven years of age or will be reaching seven years of age by December 31 in a given calendar year. It is the responsibility of the parent or legal guardian to send their child to school.

English and French are the two main languages of instruction in Manitoba. Schools that provide French language instruction offer classes for students who speak French as both their first and their second language, and those where French is their second language.

### Winnipeg public school information

There are great public schools in our city that offer instruction in both English and French. You can find more information on how to select a school and enroll here: [winnipeg.ca/ourschools/Pages/default.aspx](https://winnipeg.ca/ourschools/Pages/default.aspx)

### Winnipeg private school information

In addition to public schools, there are a number of excellent private schools in Winnipeg. A list of them can be accessed [here and by searching Winnipeg](#).

### Additional Winnipeg language programs

Some schools in the city offer language programs in Spanish, Ukrainian, Hebrew, Cree and Ojibwe. You can access more info on those schools here:

[Bilingual Programming \(winnipeg.ca\)](#)

### School Catchment Area Finder

Use [Find A School app](#) to determine in which school division in Winnipeg you're located, as well as to identify your home schools. It's mobile friendly.

For more information about going to school in Manitoba visit:

[edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/schools/gts.html](https://edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/schools/gts.html)

## Daycare

There are two types of licensed programs available for your child: **childcare centres** and **childcare homes**.<sup>6</sup>

Licensed early learning and childcare in centres include:

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<sup>6</sup> Manitoba Government. "A Guide to Child Care in Manitoba."

[https://www.gov.mb.ca/fs/childcare/families/guide\\_childcare/index.html#a1](https://www.gov.mb.ca/fs/childcare/families/guide_childcare/index.html#a1) Accessed October 4, 2022

- Infant programs
- Full-time preschool programs
- Part-time programs or nursery schools
- School-age programs

Licensed early learning and childcare in homes include:

- Family childcare homes
- Group childcare homes

You can search for early learning and childcare facilities that meet your needs. You can directly contact the childcare provider of your choice. More information on [Manitoba Child Care Search](#).

For more information about childcare or financial assistance for childcare fees, please contact Child Care Information Services at 204-945-0776, toll-free 1-888-213-4754, or email [cdcinfo@gov.mb.ca](mailto:cdcinfo@gov.mb.ca).

### Getting around in Winnipeg

The best way to start getting to know your new home is to spend time exploring Winnipeg and the rest of Manitoba.

#### Driver's license<sup>7</sup>

If you plan to drive when you arrive, you will need to familiarize yourself with the traffic laws in Manitoba. The information below can help you get started on where to go and what you need to do before you get behind the wheel.

Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI) is a non-profit Crown corporation that provides basic compulsory automobile coverage. Licensing and registration services are provided through centres in 12 communities, and at more than 300 Autopac agents across Manitoba. The corporation is committed to solid coverage, service and rates that are stable, predictable and among the lowest in Canada. Learn more at [MPI.mb.ca](https://www.mpi.mb.ca).

MPI also promotes road safety through awareness and education to address the social and financial impact of unsafe driving.

#### How do you apply for a driver's license?

Here's an overview of the steps to take to get your driver's license:

- **Step 1:** Visit any Autopac agent or MPI Service Centre to become a customer and arrange for driver's education, if required. (Note: If you already have a driver's license from your home province/country, this process may be less complex than if you've never had a driver's license before.)
- **Step 2:** Visit an MPI Service Centre to take the knowledge and vision tests. Once you have successfully completed your knowledge and vision tests, you can book your road test.
- **Step 3:** Exchange your home country's driver's license (if applicable) and take the Class 5 road test to receive your Manitoba Driver's License.

As a new resident to Manitoba, it is your responsibility to learn the laws in Winnipeg, Manitoba and Canada, including traffic laws.

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<sup>7</sup> Manitoba Government. "Crown Services: Manitoba Public Insurance." <https://www.gov.mb.ca/cs/mpi.html>  
Accessed October 4, 2022

If you have a valid driver's license from a country other than Canada, you can drive a passenger vehicle with your valid license for up to three months. You also have up to three months to switch your valid out-of-province vehicle registration (plates and insurance).

For more information about getting a driver's license, as well as MPI's education programming, visit [mpi.mb.ca/Pages/new-to-manitoba.aspx](https://mpi.mb.ca/Pages/new-to-manitoba.aspx)

### Winnipeg Transit

Our public transportation is accessible, and it is a great option to get around in Winnipeg if you don't feel comfortable driving, or aren't licensed to drive.

#### How much does it cost to ride the bus?

There are four options for bus fare: cash, bus tickets, a bus pass, or a reloadable Peggio card. The cost varies depending on the category of fare you need (full or reduced rates for youth, students and seniors) and the payment option you choose.

Here are Winnipeg Transit's current full fares (as of June 2023):

- **Cash** – \$3.15 per person, per ride. Please note you must have the **exact change**. You may request a transfer at the time of payment which allows you 75 minutes to make a stop, then board another bus. Depending on where you're headed, some routes will require more than one bus to connect you to your destination.
- **Bus ticket** – \$2.80 per person, per ride. Tickets are sold in sheets of five or 10 and are available at more than 140 retail outlets throughout Winnipeg, including multiple 7-eleven, Safeway, Shoppers Drug Mart and Winnipeg Transit locations. You are also eligible for a transfer when you use a bus ticket.
- **Bus pass** – \$107.80 for an unlimited monthly bus pass. You can use an unlimited bus pass for any purpose (work, recreation) and as many times as you like in the month. With the Max 5 Pass and Superpass, you'll save from 22% to 38% over cash fares using the weekly pass just twice a day. For frequent users, the full-fare monthly bus pass saves almost 44% over cash fares, if used just twice daily.



### What is a Peggo card?

The Peggo card is a reloadable, electronic bus fare card. It is a more convenient way to carry your bus fare whether you choose to add a specific amount or buy a monthly bus pass.

A Peggo card costs \$5, and \$5 e-cash or any e-pass must be purchased with the card in order to validate the Peggo card. Be sure to **register your Peggo card, as it** protects your balance in the event that you lose your card, any money that you put on the card will still be available to you. Peggo cards can be purchased in person, online or by calling 311. Cards purchased online will be mailed at no cost within 14 days.



Navigo is a helpful online trip planning tool for transit. It is free and accessible to anyone. Go to Winnipeg Transit's website, [winnipegtransit.com](http://winnipegtransit.com), click on 'Navigo,' and enter the information requested. Once you have entered an origin and destination, and selected a date and time, you will be directed to a different page to see the various bus routes available to you, as well as the time it will take to get there.

You can access Winnipeg Transit via the app or online.

### TeleBUS

To check bus times for a specific bus stop you can also call 204-287-7433 and listen to the instructions. It will ask you to say or enter the five-digit bus stop number, which you will be able to see at the bus stop.



For more information about the Winnipeg Transit System visit [winnipegtransit.com](http://winnipegtransit.com) or download the [Winnipeg Transit App](#).

### Cycling

Many Winnipeggers choose to travel by bike or foot, even in the winter. Winnipeg has several projects on the go to improve the pedestrian and cycling network in the city.

There are many cycling shops where you can get a tune-up or pick up a new bike. You can find a list of bike shops at [bikewinnipeg.ca/local-bike-shops/winnipeg-bike-shops/](http://bikewinnipeg.ca/local-bike-shops/winnipeg-bike-shops/).

Before hitting the road, familiarize yourself with Winnipeg's bike lanes and paths. To access cycling maps, learn about bike infrastructure and cycling rules, and follow current path upgrades, visit the City of Winnipeg website at [winnipeg.ca/publicworks/pedestriansCycling/default.stm](http://winnipeg.ca/publicworks/pedestriansCycling/default.stm).

### Settlement and employment services

Even if you secured a job before arriving in Winnipeg, it is important for you to be aware of the settlement services available to you. You might want to improve some of your language skills or learn more about life in Winnipeg. We are fortunate to have several organizations across the city whose mission is to help newcomers and their families overcome challenges they might encounter during their first couple of months.

#### Immigrant Centre

For more than 70 years, the Immigrant Centre has delivered innovative immigration and settlement services to support immigrants in connecting, integrating and fully participating in Canadian society. Their mission is to help newcomers succeed through personalized settlement plans and community partnerships. The Immigration Centre has a large staff of 40+, who between them speak 30 languages and have a combined 200 years of experience.

#### How can the Immigrant Centre help you?

The Immigrant Centre provides new clients with a settlement road map designed to meet your needs, and taking into account educational background and English language skills. During the intake process, the Centre's staff provides internal and external referrals and supportive counselling to empower you to make the best possible decisions. The Centre's services include:

- Driver's education classes
- Employment services
- Neighbourhood immigrant settlement program
- Access English Centre (AEC)
- Language bank services
- Citizenship classes
- Nutrition services
- Computer training
- Settlement services

### **What do you need to bring to your appointment?**

If you have a Manitoba Health card, be sure to bring it with you, as well as your visa and proof of citizenship, such as a passport.

### **Contact info**

You can visit the Immigrant Centre's office, located at 100 Adelaide Street, any time during their office hours. It is recommended to attend in person as they take walk-ins and can better determine how to support you during an initial meeting.

Office hours:

Monday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday: 8:30 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Thursday: 8:30 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Saturday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

To learn more about the Immigrant Centre's services, visit [icmanitoba.com](http://icmanitoba.com).

### Manitoba Start

Manitoba Start connects businesses to a world-class workforce and is the leading provider of career services for newcomers to the province. They address employers' recruitment needs by matching the unique skill sets of qualified, job-ready newcomers with employers' specific job requirements. They are a not-for-profit organization with charitable status and receive core funding from the provincial government's education and training department. All newcomers and staffing services are offered at no charge. Since 2010, Manitoba Start has served over 30,000 new immigrants to Manitoba.

#### **How can Manitoba Start help?**

Manitoba Start can help you with the following:

- Employment preparation workshops
- Qualifications recognition information
- Personalized career coaching
- Resume development
- Job search assistance
- **Did you know?**
- Networking opportunities

#### **How do you schedule an appointment?**

Manitoba Start registration is a drop-in service. No appointment is needed. You can simply go to their office in downtown Winnipeg any weekday between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (Monday to Thursday), or between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on Fridays. Their address is 271 Portage Avenue. The noon hour is busy so you may have to wait longer if you arrive at this time.

#### **What should you bring to your appointment?**

You will require one of these documents for referrals to career, employment and training services:

- Permanent Resident Card and Confirmation of Permanent Residence (CoPR) documents

- Record of landing and passport
- Work/study permit and passport
- Refugee Claim Document with work permit or claim approved

For more information about Manitoba Start and the services they offer, visit [manitobastart.com](http://manitobastart.com)

### Altered Minds

Altered Minds Inc. is an organization that welcomes refugees and immigrants to Manitoba. It promotes the well-being of their families and communities by providing responsive programs and services that assist individuals in adapting to change and overcoming barriers to a good quality of life.

#### How can Altered Minds help you?

In addition to the services available to you when you arrive, Altered Minds can also support you before your arrival via their Settlement Online Pre-Arrival program.

Altered Minds can provide newcomers with information on health, employment, education and places to go in the city. They also offer English language courses and computer classes.

#### How do you schedule an appointment?

You can visit their website to check the schedule for their programs ([Settle in Manitoba – Altered Minds Inc.](#)) and call them at 204-944-0133 to register for one of their programs. **Please note you will need to visit Manitoba Start first and apply for your Client ID before you get access to the post-arrival services Altered Minds offers.**

Alternatively, you can visit their offices on the second floor of 406 Edmonton Street, anytime between 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Monday to Thursday, or between 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. on Friday.

#### What do you need to bring to your appointment?

- Your Client ID number (you must visit Manitoba Start first and apply for one)
- Manitoba Health Card
- Immigration documents (work visa/permit)

For more information about Altered Minds, visit [alteredminds.ca](http://alteredminds.ca).

### NEEDS Inc.

The Newcomers Employment and Education Development Services (NEEDS) Inc. is a non-profit, charitable organization that provides accessible services and support to immigrant and refugee children, youth and their families. NEEDS Inc. Was established in 1999 by immigrant and refugee women for newcomers to Canada.

#### **How can NEEDS Inc. help you?**

Here is a list of some of the programs NEEDS Inc. offers:

- Psycho-social support
- Mentorship program
- Employment program
- Introduction to Canadian education program
- Youth after-school program
- Community connections program

#### **How are appointments scheduled?**

In order to access the services NEEDS Inc. offers, you will need to fill out a registration form, which you can get from their website or by visiting their offices at 251-A Notre Dame Avenue between 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. Monday to Thursday, or between 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. on Friday.

For detailed information, contact the general inquiry line at 204-940-1260.

#### **What do you need to bring to your appointment?**

- Manitoba Health Card
- Immigration documents (Landing paper/Permanent Resident cards or Working Visa)
- Social Insurance Card (this is required only if you are applying for their Employment Skills Program)

For more information about NEEDS Inc. and their services, visit [needsinc.ca](https://needsinc.ca)

### Opportunities for Employment (OFE)

Opportunities for Employment (OFE) offers free employment services designed to connect job seekers and employers to create long-term, sustainable matches and grow our local labour market. On average, OFE job seekers find work in less than 50 days.

#### **How can OFE help you?**

The first step will be to schedule a meeting so OFE can learn about you, such as your work experience, skill set and employment goals. Once they have this information, they will determine which of their programs or workshops is best for you and direct you to these services. They will help connect you with employers through networking and special events so you can fast-track your job search.

#### **How do you schedule an appointment?**

Interested applicants are invited to go to their offices at 294 Portage Avenue (third floor) to get started. They are open 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. No appointment required. If you have any questions, call 204-925-3490.

#### **What do you need to bring to your appointment?**

You will need to know your SIN to apply.

For more information about OFE and their services, visit [ofe.ca](http://ofe.ca)



### Welcome to Winnipeg

Welcome to Winnipeg assists Winnipeg businesses with the personal side of the recruitment or the relocation process. Their clients include the Health Sciences Centre, Winnipeg Clinic, University of Manitoba and the St. Boniface Hospital.

#### **How can Welcome to Winnipeg help?**

Welcome to Winnipeg can provide specialized information about Winnipeg including cost of living, residential or commercial real estate information, family interests, cultural and sporting activities and information about school systems.

In addition, Welcome to Winnipeg can offer neighbourhood tours to new residents, or help you find a residence, including a temporary residence you may need when you arrive.

#### **Contact info**

You can submit a request through an online form at [welcometowinnipeg.ca](http://welcometowinnipeg.ca), or by calling 204-999-8171.

To learn more about Welcome to Winnipeg and the services they offer, or to read about others' experiences with them, visit [welcometowinnipeg.ca](http://welcometowinnipeg.ca).

### Community activities

Once you arrive in Canada, between moving and following the steps to locate and settle into your new job and home, you might feel you need support to cope with this major change in your life. The best way to go about creating a support system in a new country is by participating in community activities. This is an opportunity for you to practice English or French, meet new people and start building relationships in your community.

You will find there are many resources available across Winnipeg to support newcomers. These are often free of charge.

### Ethno-cultural communities

In addition to getting in touch with the settlement agencies available to you, there are cultural communities that can also be a great source of support, especially during the first months after your move. Some of these community-based associations also provide settlement services. For a comprehensive list of these associations, please visit [icmanitoba.com/resources/ethno-cultural-organizations](http://icmanitoba.com/resources/ethno-cultural-organizations).

### Places of worship

Canada is a multicultural society with a high level of respect for everyone, regardless of religious beliefs, ethnicity, cultural background, gender/gender identity or sexual orientation. Places of worship for many religions can be found across Winnipeg.

### Things to do in Winnipeg

Located in the heart of North America, Winnipeg is the happening capital of the province of Manitoba. The city has it all, including world-class attractions, a vibrant performing arts and entertainment scene, historic sites, delightful local restaurants, luxurious spas and great shopping.

We are the gateway to the West, the jumping-off point for Churchill and a four-season destination that celebrates winter and summer alike with festivals and events happening all year long. With more than 100 languages spoken, and a diverse population of more than 830,000 in the city and surrounding bedroom communities, Winnipeg has a cosmopolitan flair.

Our Winnipeg Richardson International Airport, recently named one of the 10 most stylish terminals in the world, is ready to welcome you with 80 flights per day arriving in the city. With all this going on, it is little wonder that Manitoba ranked No. 8 in *Lonely Planet's* Best in Travel list for 2019.

You will have plenty of exploring to do once you are here. Here are some highlights to get you started.

#### Attractions

- **Assiniboine Park and Zoo** - The perfect spot to reconnect with nature along the kilometres of trails, gardens and greenspace, you'll also get an up-close look at northern animals including seals and polar bears at the Journey to Churchill exhibit at the park's zoo. Assiniboine Park also recently opened Winnipeg's latest world-class attraction, The Leaf, a 90,000 sq.ft. indoor garden, home to four distinct biomes, Canada's tallest indoor waterfall and Gather Craft Kitchen & Bar.
- **Canadian Museum for Human Rights** - A place of education and reflection, this national museum encourages visitors to consider the powerful stories of human rights throughout history.
- **Exchange District** - This unique area combines heritage buildings with the trendiest tech start-ups, art galleries, restaurants and shops.
- **Manitoba Museum** - The nine permanent galleries in this award-winning heritage centre will enthrall kids and adults alike. Also features a planetarium and science gallery.
- **FortWhyte Alive** – This is nature right in the middle of a city, with 640 acres of pristine prairie beauty. FortWhyte Alive offers hiking trails, bird watching, up-

close encounters with bison in the summer; skating, ice fishing and tobogganing in the winter.

- **The Forks** - Winnipeg's biggest tourist attraction with shops, markets, global dining, playgrounds, the riverwalk, parks, entertainment and more.
- **Royal Canadian Mint** - Get a behind-the-scenes look at the Mint's high-speed coin production which makes money for more than 75 countries around the world.
- **Unique spas** - Winnipeg Thermëa by Nordik Spa-Nature, Ten Spa and Riverstone Spa.
- **Winnipeg Art Gallery-Qaumajuq** - Canada's oldest civic art gallery featuring 25,000 pieces of Canadian and international historical and contemporary art, along with the largest public collection of contemporary Inuit art.

### Family activities

- **Children's Museum** - There's hands-on fun to be had with more than 12 permanent exhibits that spark creative learning and entertain as they educate.
- **Flying Squirrel** - An indoor trampoline park that's fun for all ages.
- **Oak Hammock Marsh** - Outdoor recreational centres offering year-round activities like canoeing, birdwatching and hiking.
- **Prairie Dog Central Railway** - A fully restored vintage train pulling wooden coaches along the prairie landscape.

### Festivals & Events

- **Folklorama** - Celebrate Winnipeg and Manitoba's multiculturalism with dance, cuisine, art, language, stories, music and more during this two-week festival taking place at more than 40 cultural pavilions across the city.
- **Winnipeg Folk Festival** - Discover some of the best, most diverse folk music from North America and around the world.
- **Festival du Voyageur** - Western Canada's largest winter festival of live music, historical interpreters, gigantic snow sculptures and Francophone food.

- **Winnipeg Fringe Theatre Festival** - North America's second-largest Fringe Festival showcases more than 170 local, national and international theatre companies, offering performances of comedy, drama, improv, dance and more.
- **Canada Day Festivities** - Join in the Canada Day festivities (July 1), where live bands, fireworks and parties happen all around the city.
- **Sporting Events** - Winnipeg boasts an NHL team (the Winnipeg Jets), CFL franchise (the Winnipeg Blue Bombers), soccer team (Valour FC) and many more great sports teams and family-friendly options, including professional baseball and basketball.

### Tours

- **Exchange District BIZ and Downtown Winnipeg BIZ** - Both organizations offer historical walking tours, food tours and other options to highlight neighbourhood gems.
- **Hermetic Code Tour** - This unique tour decodes all the symbols, numbers and hieroglyphics hidden in the Manitoba Legislative Building's architecture.
- **West End BIZ Tours** - Tour the history and culture of Winnipeg's West End on mural and food tours through the neighbourhood.
- **Trolley and Bus Tours** - Explore the city from the comfort of a bus or trolley with Winnipeg Trolley Tours or Wonderful Winnipeg City Tours.
- **Splash Dash Tours** - Climb aboard a Splash Dash guided river tour and see Winnipeg from the perspective of the Assiniboine and Red Rivers.

For more information on culinary, historical, walking and bike tours, download a copy of [Tourism Winnipeg's Winnipeg Experience Guide](#).

### Shopping

- **CF Polo Park** – There are more than 200 stores in this centrally located mall, anchored by a Hudson's Bay department store.
- **Exchange District, Academy Road, Corydon Avenue and Osborne Village** - Each of these neighbourhoods features boutique shops, restaurants and great local purchasing options.
- **Farmers' markets** - Many spring and summer markets are available throughout the city, one of the biggest being the St. Norbert Farmers' Market.

- **Outlet Collection Winnipeg and IKEA** - Outlet Collection has over 100 retailers featuring the best in brand-name fashion, while IKEA is just across the street.
- **The Forks Market and Johnston Terminal** - Browse the multitude of shops with local-made products, souvenirs and specialty items.

For more information about what to do in Winnipeg, visit:

- **Tourism Winnipeg** [tourismwinnipeg.com](http://tourismwinnipeg.com): Offers information and resources about activities and events happening throughout the city.
- **Leisure Guide** [winnipeg.ca/cms/recreation/leisure/leisureguide.stm](http://winnipeg.ca/cms/recreation/leisure/leisureguide.stm): Provides information and resources about seasonal programs available for adults, kids and the entire family.
- **Tourism Winnipeg YouTube** [youtube.com/TourismWPG](https://youtube.com/TourismWPG): Shares videos about life and activities in Winnipeg or check out the [Welcome to Winnipeg](#) video on Economic Development Winnipeg's channel.