

The following has been compiled from the Canada Border Security Agency web site  
<http://www.cbsa.gc.ca/publications/pub/bsf5082-eng.html#s2x1>

**This summary is provided for your reference only, full information should be acquired from Official Government Sources.** Items in *italics* have been added as general information.

The CanIRON 8 Team

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## Travelling to Canada:

Tips for all travellers visiting Canada

### **.Have proper identification.**

.Make sure that you are carrying proper identification for yourself and any children travelling with you in the vehicle. A passport is not mandatory for entry into Canada but it is a preferable piece of identification. If you are a Canadian or American citizen or a permanent resident of either country, other acceptable identification includes the following:

- .an enhanced driver's licence;
- .a birth certificate with accompanying photo identification (such as a regular driver's licence);
- .a permanent residence or **green card**;
- .a citizenship card or a **certificate of citizenship or naturalization**; or
- .a Certificate of Indian Status.

.Keep in mind that the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) is now in effect. This is a U.S. law that requires all travellers to the United States to present a valid passport or another approved secure document at the border. One of the following valid documents is now required to enter the United States by land or water:

- .a passport;
- .a NEXUS card;
- .a Free and Secure Trade (FAST) card;
- .an enhanced driver's licence/enhanced identification card; or
- .a Secure Certificate of Indian Status (when this certificate is available and approved by the United States).

.More information is available on the CBSA website at: [www.cbsa.gc.ca](http://www.cbsa.gc.ca)

***Note: The documentation required to re-enter your home country may differ. It is strongly advised that you check your own country's entry requirements.***

### **.Check border wait times.**

.For your travelling convenience, the CBSA provides hourly updates on its website on border wait times. Should you be travelling to Canada via land (driving), we encourage you to visit our website for general idea of anticipated wait times at the border crossing of your choice and/or make alternate arrangements.

.You can access our website at: [www.cbsa.gc.ca](http://www.cbsa.gc.ca)

.A wireless version of Border Wait Times is also available as part of the Government of Canada's **Wireless Portal** at: <http://canada.gc.ca/mobile/wireless-eng.html>

### **.Immigration: Know before you arrive at the Canadian border**

.While most criminal convictions, felony or misdemeanor offences make individuals inadmissible to Canada, persons with previous criminality may be eligible to apply for rehabilitation, which would allow a person permanent admissibility to Canada.

.To be eligible, five years must have passed since the completion of a sentence, or if not yet eligible, one can apply for a Temporary Resident Visa, which would allow entry for a certain period of time.

.For more information, please visit: [www.cbsa.gc.ca](http://www.cbsa.gc.ca) and [www.cic.gc.ca](http://www.cic.gc.ca)

Bringing children into Canada

Border services officers are on alert for children who need protection. Children under the age of 18 seeking to enter Canada are classified as minors and are subject to the entry requirements set out under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act.

A more detailed examination will be conducted for minors entering Canada without proper identification or those travelling in the company of adults other than their parents or legal guardian(s). This additional scrutiny helps ensure the safety of the children.

Minor children travelling alone must have proof of citizenship. We also strongly recommend that the children carry a letter from both parents (if applicable) that authorizes the person meeting them to take care of them while they are in Canada. The letter should include the length of the stay and the address and telephone numbers of the parents.

If you are travelling with minors, you must carry proper identification for each child such as a birth certificate, passport, citizenship card, permanent resident card or Certificate of Indian Status. If you are not the parent or guardian of the children, you should also have written permission from the parent/guardian authorizing the trip. The letter should include addresses and telephone numbers where the parents or guardian can be reached.

Divorced or separated parents should carry custody or legal separation documents and/or a letter of authorization to facilitate their entry into Canada.

If you are travelling with a group of vehicles, make sure you arrive at the border in the same vehicle as your children, to avoid any confusion.

### **What you can bring with you:**

#### Alcoholic beverages

Alcoholic beverages are products that exceed 0.5% alcohol by volume. You are allowed to import only one of the following amounts of alcoholic beverages free of duty and taxes:

- \* 1.5 litres (53 imperial ounces) of wine; or
- \* a total of 1.14 litres (40 ounces) of alcoholic beverages; or up to 8.5 litres of beer or ale.

- 1) *Legal drinking age in Ontario is 19. Expect to provide official ID (see above) to prove your age.*
- 2) *Alcohol may be consumed ONLY at your campsite. It is not permitted in other areas of the CanIRON 8 grounds.*
- 3) *Note that Drinking While Driving penalties in Ontario are serious, and vigorously enforced.*

#### Tobacco products

You are allowed to bring all of the following amounts of tobacco into Canada free of duty and taxes:

- \* 200 cigarettes;
- \* 50 cigars;
- \* 200 grams (7 ounces) of manufactured tobacco; and
- \* 200 tobacco sticks.

*Sale of tobacco to minors is strictly controlled in Ontario. Expect to provide official ID (see above) to prove your age.*

#### Firearms and weapons

You must declare all weapons and firearms at the CBSA port of entry when you enter Canada. If not, you could face prosecution and the goods may be seized.

For more detailed information on importing a firearm into Canada, see the publication called Importing a Firearm or Weapon Into Canada or call the BIS at one of the telephone numbers listed in the section called "Additional information".

For information about applying for a Canadian firearms licence or a firearms registration certificate, or to obtain an Application for an Authorization to Transport Restricted Firearms and Prohibited Firearms (Form CAFC 679) in advance, please contact:

Canadian Firearms Program  
Ottawa ON K1A 0R2

Telephone: 1-800-731-4000 (toll-free in Canada and the United States)  
506-624-5380 (from all other countries)  
Fax: 613-825-0297  
E-mail: [cfp-pcaf@rcmp-grc.gc.ca](mailto:cfp-pcaf@rcmp-grc.gc.ca)  
Web site: [www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca](http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca)

***It is strongly advised that you make NO attempt to bring firearms, ammunition or fireworks into Canada. Penalties are severe and enforced, including mandatory prison time.***

Food products, plants, animals and related products

All food, plants, animals, and related products must be declared. Food can carry disease, such as E. coli. Plants and plant products can carry invasive alien species, such as the Asian Long-Horned Beetle. Animals and animal products can carry diseases, such as avian influenza and foot-and-mouth disease. Furthermore, certain species of plants and animals are protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and their trade is carefully controlled. Because of these risks, the Government of Canada regulates the import of certain food, plants, animals and related products to and from Canada.

Based on emerging threats, the import requirements for food, plants, animals and related products are subject to change on a daily basis. To determine the most up-to-date import requirements for these items, refer to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) Automated Import Reference System (AIRS) at [www.inspection.gc.ca](http://www.inspection.gc.ca). AIRS is an automated reference tool that will lead you through a series of questions about the food, plant, animal or related product you wish to import to determine the applicable regulations, policies and import requirements.

*The general working guideline is not to attempt to transport the following into Canada:*

- 1) *Fresh fruit*
- 2) *Unfinished lumber*
- 3) *Raw agricultural products*
- 4) *Marine animal products*
- 5) *Ivory*

***Note that restrictions for transporting goods back into your home country from Canada may differ. It is advised that you check with your own country's Customs department for specifics.***

Gifts

You can import gifts for friends into Canada duty- and tax-free as long as each gift is valued at CAN\$60 or less. If the gift is worth more than CAN\$60, you will have to pay duty and taxes on the

excess amount. You cannot claim alcoholic beverages, tobacco products or business-related material as gifts.

## ONTARIO TRAVEL INFORMATION

*The official Government of Ontario information for visitors can be found at ;  
[http://www.ontario.ca/en/communities/travel/ONT04\\_025500.html](http://www.ontario.ca/en/communities/travel/ONT04_025500.html)*

### **Currency:**

**Generally do not expect foreign currencies to be accepted for payments.**

- *That being said, many larger businesses will accept American Dollars, but expect there to be an exchange rate (loss) applied.*

- *The best place to exchange currency is at a bank, but even there expect a loss of 2 – 4% off the posted bank rate.*

*ATM's are widely available, so it is possible to withdraw Canadian funds against your credit card (but beware the bank charges involved).*

*For up to date exchange rates, see the Ontario Government currency exchange widget:*

*<http://www.ontariotravel.net/TcisCtrl?site=consumers&key1=travelTools&key2=currency&language=EN&linkType=1>*

### **Sales Tax**

Ontario has a 13% Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) that applies to most goods, purchased gifts, food/beverages, and services.

*The only exclusion of likely value to visitors is that most food items purchased at a grocery store are not subjected to this tax. For the official list of what is taxable / not taxable see:*

*<http://www.rev.gov.on.ca/en/taxchange/taxable.html>*

*It may prove possible to rebate the tax on objects purchased in Ontario which are then transported outside Canada. Be aware that all this is possible, its not exactly easy! See:*

*<http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/bsnss/tpcs/gst-tps/rbts/vstrs/fctp-eng.html>*

### **Health Insurance**

Visitors are strongly urged to obtain health insurance before leaving their home province or country. (Your health insurance plan may not extend coverage outside your country of residence.) If you are taking medicine prescribed by your doctor, bring an adequate supply and a copy of the prescription in case it needs to be renewed by a doctor in Ontario. For further information and insurance details, contact your travel agent or insurance agent.

*Note that residents of Ontario, and through extension, all Canadians, are covered by a Government Healthcare system (in Ontario OHIP). This coverage may not extend to other visitors requiring medical services. Generally the policy in Ontario is 'treat first, pay later'. **All visitors to CanIRON 8 are strongly advised to purchase traveler's medical insurance.***