



INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL
TRADES PEOPLE MOVING TO BRITISH COLUMBIA

EU-STEP



SCHOOL

If your family includes school age children, you can consult School District 39 (representing Vancouver) to find schools in your catchment area.

Go to the Vancouver School Board website at:

<http://www.vsb.bc.ca/>

WORK BOOTS

In Vancouver, the best store to purchase work boots and work clothes is Mark's Work Warehouse. Three of the Vancouver locations are listed below.

You can find additional locations and see what they offer online at:

<http://www2.marks.com>

Vancouver Kingsgate
#117- 370 East Broadway
Vancouver, BC V5T 4G5
(604) 872-8271

Vancouver W Kitsilano
1885 West 4th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6J 1M4
(604) 736-2678

Burnaby Brentwood
226, 4567 Lougheed Highway
Burnaby, BC V5C 3Z6
(604) 291-0370



HEALTH INSURANCE

British Columbia's health insurance (Medical Services Plan oder MSP) will grant you membership after 3 months so until then you will require an interim health insurance.

You can register with a health plan online at Pacific Blue Cross:

<http://www.pac.bluecross.ca/travel/viscan/default.html>

They offer a Foreign Worker Plan or a Landed Immigrant Plan. If you would like to compare their coverage to other insurance companies you can google the following: visitors canada travel medical plan

It is important that you register for health care as soon as you arrive in BC. For information about registering go to:

<http://www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/msp/infoben/index.html>

To download an application form go to:

<https://www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/exforms/msp/H102fil.pdf>

SOCIAL INSURANCE NUMBER (SIN)

Immediately after your arrival you should apply for a Social Insurance Number. This number is required by your employer, the Revenue Agency and other offices.

Please consult the following website for information:

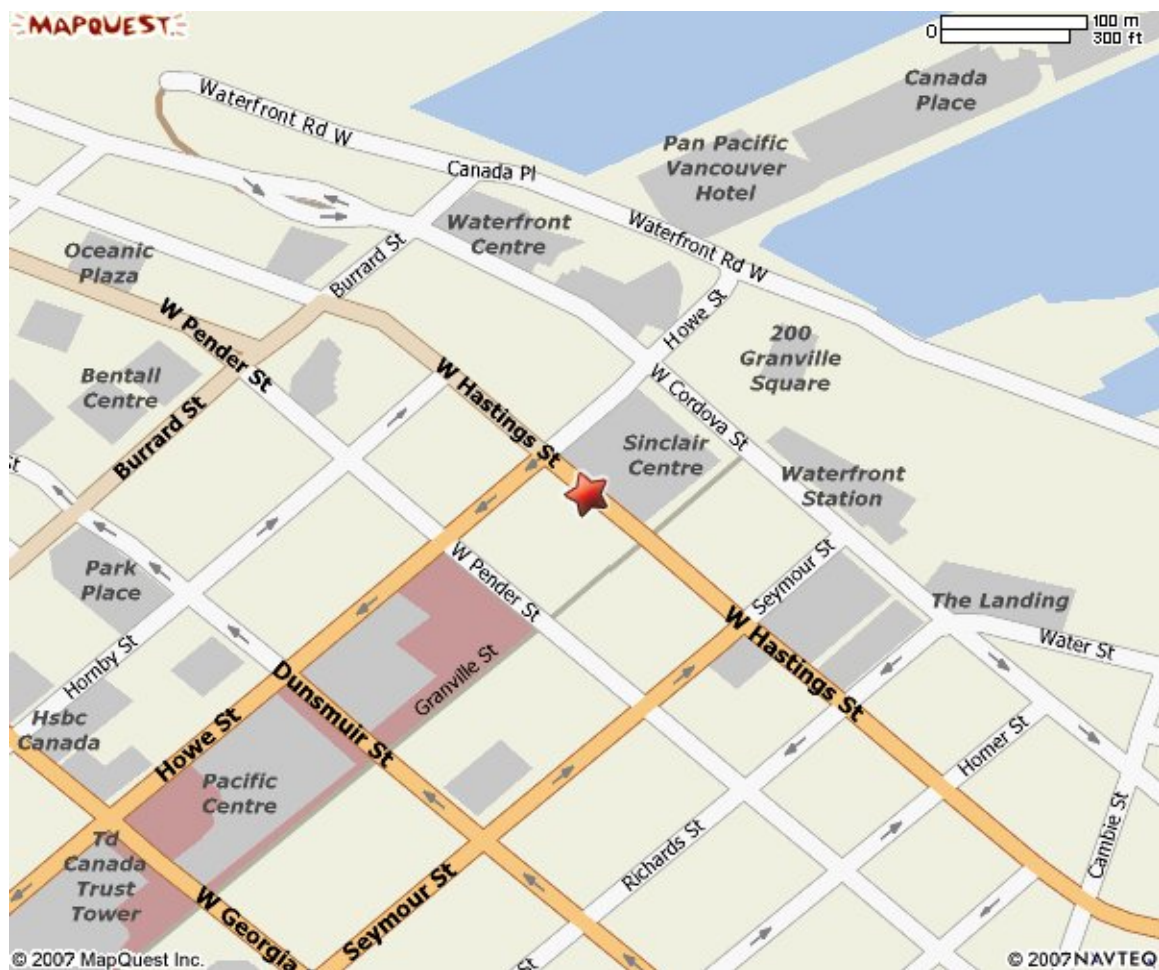
http://www.sdc.qc.ca/asp/gateway.asp?hr=en/cs/sin/0300/0300_in105.shtml&hs=sxn

You may download a form at:

<http://www1.servicecanada.qc.ca/en/cs/sin/010.shtml>

Canada's Human Resources Development office in downtown Vancouver:

Sinclair Centre,
Suite 415, 757 West Hastings Street,
Vancouver, B.C. V6C 1A1



BANKING

Learn more about the basics of banking in Canada by visiting www.rbc.com/canada. RBC makes it easy to start banking in Canada. There are two ways to open an account: Just visit your local branch or open an account online at www.rbc.com/canada

To find a an RBC representative who speaks your language, you can use the online branch locator at: <http://maps.rbc.com/>

Below is a list of some RBC branches located in the Vancouver area:

Royal Centre
1025 W. Georgia St
Vancouver, BC
V6E 3N9
Phone: 604-665-6991
Hours: Mon - Friday 9:00 - 5:00

North Road and Lougheed Branch
439 North Rd
Burnaby, BC
V3K 3V9
Phone: 604-927-5653
Hours: Monday - Friday 9:30 - 4:00

Newton Branch
13681 72nd Avenue,
Surrey, BC
V3W 2P2
Phone: 604-665-8414
Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 9:30 - 4:00



DRIVER'S LICENCE

New B.C. residents who hold a Canadian, American, Austrian, German, Swiss, Japanese or South Korean driver licence must apply for a B.C. driver's licence within 90 days of moving to British Columbia. A new equivalent class B.C. driver's licence will be issued in most cases without a road test or knowledge test. New residents who hold any other types of driver's licence will be required to take a road test.

You may drive for up to 6 months as a visitor or non-resident worker in BC. You may be exempt from transferring to a BC licence if you are attending a designated institution for study. If you hold an International Driving Permit, you must also carry the accompanying foreign licence.

For more information on getting a valid drivers license in BC, contact one of the following Drivers Services Centres in Vancouver or go to the following website:

<http://www.ag.gov.bc.ca/immigration/before/license.htm>

Drivers Services Centre:
2750 Commercial Drive
Vancouver, BC
V5N 5P4
Phone: 604-661-2255
Fax: 250-978-8035
Operational Hours:
8:30 - 4:30 Mon. to Fri.



Drivers Services Centre:
4126 MacDonald Street
Vancouver, BC
V6L 2P2
Phone: 604-661-2255
Operational Hours:
8:30 - 4:30 Mon. to Fri.

For more Drivers Services Centre Locations in Vancouver go to:

<http://www.icbc.com/locator/licensing.asp>

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

BC Transit is the most affordable method of transportation in Vancouver and the surrounding areas. Along with regular busses, Vancouver public transportation includes sea busses and a sky train line. Regular fare for an adult traveling one zone is \$2.25 – paid in exact coin fare. There is also the option to purchase a day pass (valid for unlimited travel on the day of purchase), a book of 10 faresaver tickets or a monthly bus pass. The monthly passes, books of tickets and day passes are available for purchase at various locations such as Shoppers Drugmart, Safeway, 7-Eleven and London Drugs.

For more information on public transit in Vancouver and to view bus schedules go to: <http://www.translink.bc.ca>

