

Who can become a Canadian citizen, and what are the requirements and responsibilities?

It is a great privilege to become a Canadian citizen, and individuals can derive many benefits after becoming a Canadian citizen. Canadian citizenship allows full and equal participation in Canada's economic, social, and political activities.

Canadian citizenship provides individuals with certain rights and freedoms and imposes some obligations.

The naturalization rate in Canada is the highest among other nations in the world; thus, almost 85% of eligible permanent residents become citizens.

Attributes Of Canadian Citizenship

Right to enter and remain in Canada.

Among the other privileges Canadian Citizens enjoy is the right to enter and remain in Canada, which means that officers at the port of entry may not refuse a person's admission if they establish that the person is a Canadian citizen.

Multiple citizenships

Canada allows a person who becomes a citizen of Canada to retain any previous citizenship. However, this is subject to the other country's law, which may choose to revoke the citizenship of those who acquire citizenship elsewhere.

Rights of Canadian Citizenship

Another benefit of being a Canadian citizen is the constitutional right to vote in provincial and federal elections and be qualified to be a member of parliament or a member of the provincial legislature.

The right to apply for a Canadian passport allows a citizen to return to Canada anytime after travelling or living abroad.

Responsibilities of Canadian Citizenship

The naturalization process to become a Canadian citizen involves learning about the responsibilities of Canadian citizenship. These include:

- Obeying the law
- Taking responsibility for oneself

- Serving as a jury
- Voting in elections
- Helping others in the community, and
- Protecting and enjoying the heritage and environment

Applying For Canadian Citizenship

To apply for a Grant of Citizenship (Naturalization), an applicant must meet the following criteria:

- Lawful admittance to Canada as a permanent resident
- No loss of permanent residency
- Residence in Canada:
 - At least three years (1,095 days) out of the past five years.
 - File a return of income for each of the taxation years. The return of income must be fully or partially within five years immediately before the date of submitting an application).
- Demonstrate an understanding of the responsibilities of the citizenship test (18 to 54 years of age).
- The test has twenty 20 questions, and the pass mark is 75% (15 out of 20 questions correctly answered)
- An applicant with difficulties meeting the language and knowledge requirements due to physical and mental health challenges may request a waiver of the conditions on compassionate grounds and a case-by-case basis.