

Newcomer Starter Guide

English Translation



**Kababayan
Multicultural
Centre**
Working towards a just
Canadian society with
immigrant communities

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KABABAYAN MULTICULTURAL CENTRE



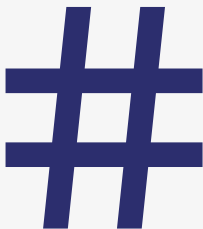
Find a place to live

Tourism Ontario (1-800-668-2746) can help you find and reserve a hotel room. [Settlement.org](https://www.settlement.org) has many resources to help you rent or buy an apartment or house to live in long-term. The [City of Toronto website](#) also has information about housing in Toronto. If you need emergency housing, there are free shelters in Toronto. You can call the central line at 1-877-338-3398 to access them.



Apply for a Health Card (OHIP)

The Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) pays for most basic and emergency medical services for residents of Ontario. There is no waiting period, and you should apply as soon as you arrive. To apply, go to a ServiceOntario location and bring proof of your identity, immigration status, and proof that you live in Ontario. You can find more information about applying for a Health Card on the [Ontario website](#).



Apply for a Social Insurance Number

You must have a Social Insurance Number (SIN) to receive services from the government, and to be paid by your job. You can apply [online](#) or in person at a Service Canada centre. You will need proof of your identity and your immigration status in Canada.



Open a bank account

Banks and credit unions are both safe places to keep your money. Having a bank account will also help you build a credit history, which is important when you borrow money or apply for a credit card. You can open an account by walking into a bank or credit union and asking about their services. You will need 1 or 2 pieces of identification, and usually one will need to have your photo on it.

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Apply for a driver's license or Photo Card

If you want to drive a car in Ontario, you need an Ontario driver's license. Settlement.org has a guide on how to get your license. The process depends on whether you have a license from somewhere else or if you are driving for the first time.

If you don't want to drive, an Ontario Photo Card is an alternate form of government-issued photo identification. You can apply for a Photo Card at a ServiceOntario centre. More information is available on the [Ontario website](#).



Find a job

It may be difficult to quickly find a job in Canada. Many community organizations, including Kababayan Multicultural Centre, will help you find a job. These services are free. You can make an appointment to meet with an employment counsellor on [our website](#). [Settlement.org](#) also has many resources to answer your questions about finding employment. The job search can be stressful, but you are not alone.



Access education for you and your family

In Ontario, all children from ages 6 to 18 must go to school. Many children begin school when they are 4 or 5 years old. All children can attend Ontario public schools for free, regardless of immigration status. The [Toronto District School Board](#) has many resources for newcomers and can help you register your child for school.

As an adult, you may be able to take free classes in English or French to improve your language skills. The [Ontario website](#) has information about how to access these classes. [Settlement.org](#) also has information about how to assess your knowledge of English and sign up for lessons.

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Apply for the Canada Child Benefit, if applicable

The Government of Canada gives money every month to parents of children under the age of 18. This is to help with the cost of raising children. You can apply as soon as you arrive in Canada. You can apply online through the [Canadian government website](#) or by mail.



Find a doctor

A family doctor, also known as a family physician or general practitioner (GP), will provide most of your medical care and is the first person you should see if you require care and are not having an emergency. In case of an emergency, you should go to a hospital or call 911. You can find a family doctor through the government's free Health Care Connect program, [online](#) or by phone at 1-800-445-1822.



Get help and connect with your community

There are many free and low-cost resources available in your community to help make your new life in Canada easier. Here at Kababayan, we offer training in English and computer skills, help with employment and education, and counselling. We have services specifically for youth, women, and seniors. Visit [our website](#) to learn more and register for our services.

More Resources

Click the logos below to go to the organization's website.

