

# Chinese Immigrant Orientation Program

## Module 2

### The Day you Arrive in Canada

#### **Objectives**

This module will provide you with information to help you understand the organizations that exist to help you settle into your new life.

#### **Goals**

You will learn about:

Customs and Immigration procedure

Immigrant Organizations

Services provided by the Immigrant Organizations

## ***Customs and immigration***

You will probably find the entry procedure fairly straightforward because you have a passport and other essential documents.

You will be interviewed by a Canada Customs officer. You will need to give the officer a list of all the household and personal items that you will be bringing into Canada. You should also show the immigrant visa to the customs officer, who will refer you to an immigration officer.

The immigration officer will check your visa and travel documents and ask you questions similar to those on the Immigrant Application Form, to verify that you are of good character and in good health. At this time, you may also be asked to show proof of your funds. If there are no difficulties, the officer will authorize your entry to Canada as a permanent resident by signing your Record of Landing or Confirmation of Permanent Residence.

If you arrive at one of the major Canadian airports, you will get a booklet called *Welcome to Canada: What You Should Know*. It has information on most aspects of life in Canada. It also provides addresses and telephone numbers for:  
immigrant-serving organizations across Canada;  
language training assessment centres (which help eligible adult newcomers find free language classes);  
useful federal and provincial government offices.

*Welcome to Canada: What You Should Know* and other useful information for newcomers can be found on the Internet at [www.cic.gc.ca/english/newcomer](http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/newcomer), and at [www.directioncanada.gc.ca](http://www.directioncanada.gc.ca)

### Reception services

If you arrive in Toronto, Montréal or Vancouver, you will find immigrant reception services in the airport. These services are run by immigrant-serving organizations. They help newcomers get the information and services they need, and this help is often available in several languages.

### ***Immigrant – serving organizations***

There are hundreds of immigrant-serving organizations in Canada. Many are staffed by former newcomers to Canada, who understand the challenges that immigrants may face. They usually have people available who speak your language and can accompany you as interpreters. Citizenship and Immigration Canada supports many of these organizations financially, helping newcomers adapt to life in Canada.

Settling in will be much easier if you contact an immigrant-serving organization as soon as you arrive. The people who work for these organizations can help you find a place to live and can answer your questions about shopping, education for your children, transportation, language training and other important matters.

Immigrant-serving organizations can help you:

find a place to live;

get your Social Insurance Number and health-care card;

enrol your children in school;

get language training;

find a family doctor;

find out about government and community services for newcomers;

look for a job;

develop a realistic budget; and

get emergency food aid, if it is needed.

## ***Programs***

Most immigrant-serving organizations offer, or can provide information on, the LINC (Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada) and the Host programs:

LINC is a federal government program for all eligible adult immigrants. It offers:  
free language training for adult newcomers who want or need basic English or French;  
language classes given by school boards, colleges and local organizations;  
the choice of studying part time, full time, evenings or weekends, depending on your needs and your schedule; and  
transportation and child-minding, if necessary.

Your local immigrant-serving organization can direct you to a LINC Assessment Centre, which will then refer you to organizations offering LINC classes. You can also refer to the book *Welcome to Canada: What You Should Know* to find a LINC Assessment Centre in your area.

### ***Host Program***

The Host Program is a federally funded program that matches newcomers with a Canadian family or individual. Host volunteers help you:

- overcome the stress of moving to a new country;
- learn about available services and how to use them;
- practise English or French;
- prepare to look for a job; and
- participate in community activities.

Your local immigrant-serving organization can direct you to a Host Program organization in your community.

### ***Other Immigrant serving organizations***

Immigrant-serving organizations are prepared to help newcomers as soon as they arrive in Canada. These organizations can:

refer you to economic, social, health, cultural, educational and recreational services;  
give you tips on banking, shopping, managing a household and other everyday tasks;  
provide interpreters or translators, if you need them;  
provide non-therapeutic counselling; and  
help you prepare a professional-looking résumé and learn job-searching skills.

The Immigrant Settlement and Adaptation Program (ISAP), a federal government program, pays for these services.

A list of immigrant-serving organizations across Canada can be found on the Internet at [www.cic.gc.ca/english/newcomer/welcome/wel-20e.html](http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/newcomer/welcome/wel-20e.html)