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...immigration and citizenship

CITIZENSHIP

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WHAT CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP MEANS

Canadians have long valued their traditions of democracy, freedom and tolerance. The rights and values so important to all Canadians are enshrined in the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, the *Bill of Rights*, and provincial human rights codes. Along with these rights come certain responsibilities.

Canadians are also proud of Canada's multicultural heritage, created as generations of immigrants joined the Aboriginal peoples who have lived in Canada for thousands of years. New Canadians are expected to learn one of Canada's two official languages, English and French.

How many people become Canadian citizens every year?

During the last five years, Canadian citizenship was granted to an average of 150,000 persons per year. About 85 percent of immigrants become Canadian citizens.

What are my rights as a Canadian?

Canadians enjoy the following rights and freedoms:

- equality rights
- democratic rights
- legal rights

- mobility rights
- language rights
- freedom of religion
- freedom of expression
- freedom of association

What are my responsibilities as a Canadian?

- obey Canadian laws
- participate in Canada's democratic processes
- respect the rights and freedoms of others
- respect Canada's linguistic duality and multicultural heritage

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