Thinking about moving to Canada? There are few things to consider first. It’s more involved than just packing up your belongings and finding a new residence. Moving takes time and careful planning. Whether your motive for relocating is for a work assignment, to attend school or to just simply live, it’s important that you know what to expect and be prepared for things to do before and after you arrive to make your transition successful.

The first and most important step of the relocation process is to have all your paper work in order. Gather any official documents including your birth certificate, passport, up-to-date vaccination records and any other documents that’ll help verify your identify. If your documents are not in English or French (Canada’s official languages) they will need to be translated. This is typically done by a certified translation agency.

Next is deciding which type of residency is applicable to you. There are several featured immigration programs like the Express Entry, Quebec-selected skilled worked and family-related sponsorships. Most of these programs will grant you access to taxpayer-funded medical care and make you eligible for a Social Insurance Number (SIN). But you won’t be able to apply for Canadian citizenship just yet- that’s another process and something to consider after you’ve lived here for a length of time.

Settling into your new home can be a challenge. Take some time and learn about the different resources available to you. Travel around get to know the local community and what it has to offer. Make arrangements ahead of time for a place to stay while you search for more permanent accommodations. Larger metropolis areas will usually offer temporary housing solutions while you’re still looking for a place to rent or buy. If your intention is to find work in your new area, apply for a SIN in advance so you can start your employment search right away. You won’t be able to work without one.

This is a very simplified overview of what you’ll need to do, so it’s best to research on your own and put together a check list based on your situation and specific needs. Several online resources are available to help you prepare including [City of Toronto](http://www1.toronto.ca/wps/portal/contentonly?vgnextoid=8e79f9be8db1c310VgnVCM1000006cd60f89RCRD), [Canada.ca](http://www.cic.gc.ca/englIsh/immigrate/index.asp) and other reliable sources. We hope you’ve found this information helpful and you’re ready to call Canada your home.

Please contact Marini Law if you’d like additional information on the immigration process or if you’re interested in learning about the resources available to you from our law firm. You can reach us by phone at 647-351-7795 or send us an email at info@marinalaw.com.