
speak to anyone who answers; in person-to-person calls, you specify the person to whom you wish to speak and pay nothing if the operator fails to reach that person. It is very expensive to call persons in other countries, and you should determine what the cost will be before placing such a call.

Telegrams: Within Canada, telegrams are sent over Canadian National and Canadian Pacific lines and can be handed in at CNCP offices. If you telephone your message, you will be billed for it later at your address. The basic rate for a telegram in Canada is based on a fixed cost, according to the length of the message. Night letters are less expensive, and are transmitted overnight.

Some social customs

Learning new social customs takes time; however, the following points may be useful for you to know at the start of your stay in Canada.

Most Canadians attach importance to punctuality. It is customary for invitations to be answered promptly, and for appointments to be kept. If you have promised to go to a home or to meet someone, you should do so at the time agreed on unless you send word that you cannot keep your appointment.

After you have received hospitality, it will be appreciated if you phone or send a "thank-you" note to your host or hostess. The Eastern custom of taking a gift when visiting a home for the first time is very gracious, but it is not necessary and could become expensive. It is quite proper to accept an invitation from someone you have never met if this has been arranged by a mutual acquaintance. Although the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays have no significance for many overseas students, many Canadians like to invite friends to share their family celebration on these holidays. Guests in Canadian homes frequently offer to help with the dishes, and overnight guests make their own beds.

In minor things, it is good to conform to the customs of the people among whom you are living, but it is important to maintain your own values. For instance, if religious beliefs or personal preferences prevent you from eating certain foods or from drinking alcoholic beverages, you should not be embarrassed to explain this to your host or hostess.

In Canada, relations between the sexes are quite informal. This freedom may sometimes be misinterpreted. For instance, if a man and woman share a seat on a train or bus, they may talk to each other but this should not be taken to indicate that either wishes to continue the chance acquaintance. Similarly, on campus, when men and women invite each other to join in various social activities, it need not imply sustained interest.

Further information about life in Canada and at a Canadian university can be obtained from individual universities and campus organizations.