

Canada's Quality of Life and Values



Canada is a land known for its immense natural beauty and as a place where big dreams come true. Put simply, it is the best country in the world to live.

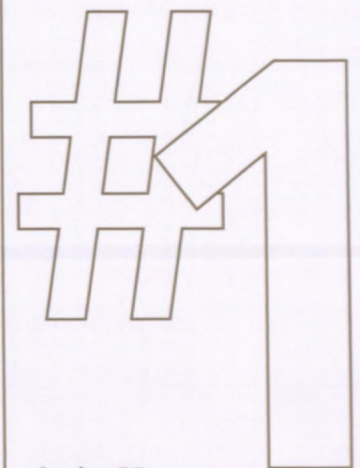
From Canada's publicly funded health-care system, to social programs for less well-off citizens, Canadians believe in a society that works for all. That is why by any international measure of "quality of life", Canada has been ranked as one of the best places in the world to live.

The most well-known of these measures is the United Nation's Human Development Index. On this indicator, Canada was placed first for over a decade in the 1990s and still ranks first in the G7 when it comes to its quality of life, measured by broad indicators such as life expectancy, educational attainment, and income.

Another well-publicized indicator is the 2007 Worldwide Quality of Living Survey by Mercer Human Resource Consulting. The survey found that of 215 cities in the world, the following five Canadian cities ranked among the top 25: Vancouver (3rd place), Toronto (15th place), Ottawa (18th place), Montréal (22nd place), and Calgary (24th place). No other country, with the exception of Germany, had more cities in this Top 25 Cities list. Canadian cities were also the only cities in the entire Western Hemisphere to consistently be included in the Mercer Top 25 Cities list. In areas such as health, sanitation, and the environment, Canadian cities ranked even higher due to the high quality of their medical and health services, the cleanliness of their cities, and the relative lack of air pollution.

The foundations of this high quality of life are a safe and just society that provides for equal opportunity for all of its citizens. Canada is one of the safest places in the G7 to live and conduct business and has one of the most fairly administered judicial systems in the world. It also ranks first in the G7 when it comes to providing equal opportunities for individuals.

What is best about Canada's quality-of-life experience is that the cost of living in larger Canadian cities is much lower than or comparable to other similar North American cities. For example, according to Mercer Human Resource Consulting, Vancouver's cost of living was a full 14 percent below that of Los Angeles while Toronto's cost of living was 6 percent below Chicago's.



in the G7
for quality of life

in the G7
for the equal opportunities
provided to its citizens



in the G7
for property security and
judicial fairness