

time visitors may stay. For example, the Bahamas permits visitors to stay up to a total of eight months a year, but each entry is limited to four months or less. Costa Rica allows visitors to stay for up to 90 days. Some countries issue initial tourist visas for as little as 30 days. In some cases, you can lengthen your stay by applying for an extension from within the country, but this is not always possible. Mexico, for example, will extend tourist visas beyond 180 days only for emergency medical reasons.

Many Canadians are reluctant to settle in a country where they have the right of entry only as tourists, especially if they are planning to purchase a home. Some people deal with this issue by applying for residency status, even though they intend to maintain their Canadian residency. In Canada, residency is a matter of fact, not law, whereas in many other countries a resident is a person who has a resident visa or residency permit but does not actually reside in that country for a significant time. Taking out legal residency in another country does not interfere with your Canadian residency.

Holding resident status in the country where you maintain your winter home eliminates limitations on the length of your stays there. It also gives you reasonable assurance that you will be allowed entry, usually without a return ticket. In some cases, you may also be allowed annual duty-free exemptions.

Voting

Canadian citizens can, under certain conditions, vote in Canadian elections when they are temporarily living abroad. The general requirement is that your last stay in Canada was within the previous five years, and your intention is to resume your Canadian residency. In order to vote, you must first register at a Canadian government office abroad; you will be required to provide proof of Canadian citizenship. You will then be provided with a voting kit for an election,

Provide for Return Travel

Do you have prepaid
return tickets with open
return dates?