

# Canadian citizenship document checklist

Eligibility, the adult document checklist, accepted language proof, fees and the steps from test to oath.

Checked against official sources on October 6, 2026

Interactive version: [nclcfrench.com/canadian-citizenship-document-checklist](https://nclcfrench.com/canadian-citizenship-document-checklist)

## QUICK ANSWER

To apply for Canadian citizenship as an adult you need PR status, 1,095 days in Canada in the last 5 years, tax returns filed for 3 of those years, and, if you are 18 to 54, proof of English or French at CLB/NCLC 4 in listening and speaking. The core documents are your passports and travel documents for the period, two pieces of ID, language proof, your physical presence calculation and the fee receipt.

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## Who can apply for Canadian citizenship

Check all of these on the day you sign. Your signature date is the date IRCC counts back from.

### Eligibility basics (adults)

#### ☐ Valid permanent resident status

Your PR card can be expired; your status must not be in question.

#### ☐ 1,095 days in Canada in the last 5 years

At least 730 of them as a PR. Days before PR as a worker, student or protected person count as half, up to 365. Use the [citizenship calculator](#).

☐ **Income tax filed for at least 3 of the 5 years**

If you were required to file. Check your returns in your CRA account before you apply.

☐ **Language proof at CLB/NCLC 4 in listening and speaking** Ages 18–54

Only if you are 18 to 54 on the day you sign. Reading and writing are not assessed.

☐ **Citizenship test** Ages 18–54

Taken after you apply, on Canada's history, geography, government, laws, symbols and citizens' rights and responsibilities.

☐ **No prohibitions**

IRCC will not approve an application while you are under a prohibition. Check its list of situations that prevent citizenship.

## Apply online or on paper?

Most adults apply online through IRCC's citizenship application account. IRCC calls it faster, with fewer errors and an instant confirmation. You must fill in, sign and date the application yourself: a representative can advise you but cannot submit it for you online.

You must apply on paper only if your physical presence includes time outside Canada as a Crown servant (or the family member of one), or if you want a representative to fill in and submit the application for you. Online applicants follow the document list in their account; the paper list below is IRCC's reference list and matches it closely.

- Date the form the day you sign it, never a past or future date.
- On paper, IRCC returns the application if it arrives more than 90 days after the signature date.
- Pay only when you are ready to submit.

## Documents required for Canadian citizenship (adults)

IRCC's adult list for paper applications, in the order you will gather them.

### Forms

☐ **Application for Canadian citizenship, adults (CIT 0002)**

Online, the account replaces this form. Sign and date it the day you finish.

☐ **Document checklist (CIT 0007)** Paper only

Paper applications only: complete it and put it on top.

☐ **Physical presence calculation**

Use IRCC's online calculator. Every trip must match your passport stamps and travel history.

☐ **Use of a representative (IMM 5476)** If applicable

Only if someone represents you.

## Identity and travel

☐ **Passports and travel documents for the last 5 years**

Colour copies of the identity pages of every passport you held in the 5 years before you sign, plus extension stamp pages if any.

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☐ **Two pieces of personal ID**

Copies showing name, photo and date of birth. If one is your PR card, the other must be issued by the federal, provincial or territorial government.

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☐ **Two citizenship photos** Paper only

Identical, printed in colour, to IRCC's citizenship photo specifications.

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## Language and fees

☐ **Proof of language ability** Ages 18–54

One accepted proof at CLB/NCLC 4 in listening and speaking. See the list below.

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☐ **Fee receipt**

Pay online and include the receipt. Adults pay the processing fee plus the right of citizenship fee.

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## If applicable

☐ **Police certificates** If applicable

For each country where you spent 183 days or more in a row in the past 4 years, since age 18. Issued after your last stay there or within 6 months of signing.

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☐ **Translations** If applicable

Any document not in English or French: a certified translation, or a translation plus the translator's sworn affidavit.

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☐ **Name change documents** If applicable

If your name differs between documents: marriage certificate, legal name change, court order.

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☐ **Date of birth or sex/gender identifier change forms** If applicable

IRCC forms IRM 0003 and IRM 0002, only if you are asking for a change.

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☐ **Crown servant residence form (CIT 0177)** If applicable

Only for time abroad as a Crown servant or their family member.

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## Citizenship language requirement proof

If you are 18 to 54, send **one** of these. For third-party tests, IRCC states the level needed in listening and speaking.

| Proof                                                      | What IRCC accepts                                                       |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| TCF Canada or TCF Québec                                   | B1 or higher in listening and speaking                                  |
| TEF Canada (from July 2012), TEFAQ, TEF IRN                | B1 or higher in listening and speaking                                  |
| DELFI                                                      | B1 or higher                                                            |
| DALF                                                       | All results accepted                                                    |
| CELP-IP-G, IELTS General Training, PTE Core                | English tests: the minimum score IRCC lists for each                    |
| Results you sent IRCC for permanent residence              | A copy of those results, even if expired, if they meet the levels above |
| LINC or CLIC training                                      | CLB 4 or higher in speaking and listening                               |
| Secondary or post-secondary education in English or French | Diploma, transcript or certificate, in Canada or abroad                 |
| Some provincial language programs                          | The level IRCC lists for each program                                   |

Convert your TCF or TEF scores with the [NCLC score converter](#) and check the B1 level printed on your certificate. Expired results are only accepted if you already sent them for PR.

### Check B1, not just NCLC 4

IRCC's general rule is CLB/NCLC 4, but for TCF Canada and TEF Canada it asks for **B1 or higher** in listening and speaking. A speaking result that is NCLC 4 but only A2 does not meet that wording. Read our [French test for Canadian citizenship](#) guide, then practise [TCF speaking](#) or [TEF speaking](#).

### No French or English proof yet?

Start with the [free French level check](#) to see how far you are from NCLC 4, then read [French for Canadian citizenship](#) to choose between the TCF Canada and the TEF Canada. Just landed? The [PR landing checklist](#) covers your first months, including free LINC/CLIC classes that can also give you language proof.

## Citizenship application fees

Read on IRCC's fee list on the date at the bottom of this page.

| Applicant           | Fee (CAD) | Includes                                              |
|---------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Adult (18 and over) | \$653     | Processing fee and the \$123 right of citizenship fee |
| Minor (under 18)    | \$100     | Processing fee                                        |

If IRCC has not started processing, you can get a refund. After you receive your acknowledgement of receipt, adults can only get the right of citizenship fee back.

## Citizenship for children under 18

A child whose parent is Canadian, or is applying at the same time, can apply as a minor with a parent or legal guardian applying for them. Minors do not need to prove language or take the test, and do not need 1,095 days in this case. Children 14 to 17 take the oath; under 14 they do not.

A child without a Canadian parent (or one applying at the same time) applies under a different section, through someone who has custody or can legally act for them, and must meet the physical presence requirement. The fee for a minor is \$100.

## After you apply: test, interview, oath

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### AFTER REVIEW

#### Acknowledgement of receipt (AOR)

Once IRCC finds your application complete, it sends an AOR with your application number and client ID. You can then check your status online.

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### AGES 18–54

#### Citizenship test

20 multiple-choice or true-or-false questions in English or French, 45 minutes. You pass with 15 correct, and you get up to 3 chances. Study IRCC's guide *Discover Canada*. The test does not assess your language.

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### IF NEEDED

#### Interview or hearing

IRCC may invite you to an interview to check identity, documents and eligibility, or select you at random for quality review. If you fail the test 3 times, you go to a hearing with an official who can also assess your language.

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**FINAL STEP****Citizenship ceremony and oath**

Bring your invitation, your PR card (even expired) or COPR, and two pieces of ID, one with photo and signature. You take the oath of citizenship and become a Canadian citizen.

## Common citizenship application mistakes

**DO**

- List every trip abroad and check it against passport stamps.
- Count days with the calculator and keep a margin above 1,095.
- Check the B1 level on your TCF or TEF certificate before you apply.
- Make sure your tax returns are filed for the years you need.
- Sign, date and submit on the same day.

**DON'T**

- Don't apply on day 1,095 exactly with no buffer for counting errors.
- Don't send a test result that is NCLC 4 but below B1 in speaking.
- Don't forget police certificates for long stays abroad since age 18.
- Don't leave a missing document unexplained: the file can be returned.
- Don't give a representative your account password.

### Is your French at NCLC 7?

Strong French can add up to 50 CRS points and opens French-speaker draws. Find your level free in 10 questions, then take a full TCF or TEF mock test.

[Check my French level free](#)

Scan to open

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