



### Newcomer Support

Welcoming diversity  
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### EthniCity Catering

A taste of diversity  
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### Our Multicultural Heritage

Celebrating diversity  
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### Exploring Alberta's Parks



Landscapes of diversity  
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The Calgary Stampede turns 100!

Discover your western spirit.

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Alberta Awaits  
Alberta Enterprise and Advanced Education  
Labour Force and Immigration  
4th floor, Commerce Place, 10155-102 St.  
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5J 0T6  
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## Newcomer Support

It takes a lot of courage and optimism to start a new life in a new country. In Alberta we understand that, and want to help make it as easy as possible for you and your family to settle into your new community.



### Vladimir's story

Originally from Ukraine, Vladimir arrived in Alberta looking for work in his field of thermal physics, but faced challenges integrating into the Canadian job market when he first arrived. Vladimir soon found the Calgary Catholic Immigration Society, a non-profit organization that provides settlement and integration services to immigrants and refugees in southern Alberta. Vladimir completed the organization's four-week Service Rig Hand Training Program and received two job offers within two weeks. [Read the whole story.](#)

### Immigrant Serving Agencies

The Alberta Association of Immigrant Serving Agencies has 18 agencies across the province to help ease your transition into Canadian society. These agencies offer assistance with things like:

- Canadian citizenship classes
- English as a second language classes
- programs for children, youth
- mentoring programs
- training programs
- counselling services
- career and employment services
- recreational/social networking
- language assessments
- translation services
- programs for immigrant women
- programs for seniors
- skill development programs

For more information on Alberta's settlement services, see [Alberta Association of Immigrant Serving Agencies](#).

[Newcomer information and services search tool](#)

To search for services in Alberta, try our interactive [newcomer information and services search tool](#). You can search close to 200 organizations by town, city or region, or by the services they provide.

### Public libraries

Public libraries are also a great resource for newcomers. You can find newspapers, books and CDs in different languages, English as a Second Language programs, and conversation circles to practice your language skills and meet new people. Many libraries offer free classes on things like getting a driver's licence, preparing a resume and finding a job, or learning computer skills.

To learn more about Alberta's library services geared toward helping newcomers settle in their new life, [see the following video](#):



You can also read more about Alberta libraries at [The Alberta Library website](#).

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## EthniCity Catering

### History

EthniCity Catering is a great example of a successful training program offered by a newcomer centre in Alberta. In 1997, members of the [Centre for Newcomers'](#) peer support groups for immigrant women started to get requests to sell their traditional cooking. By 1998 they had received funds to set up a commercial kitchen, and have been growing ever since.

EthniCity Catering is now a successful business, serving authentic multi-ethnic food to the community. It also provides Canadian work experience, training, and a support network to women who are new to Canada.



[Watch a video about the EthniCity Catering training program.](#)

### The EthniCity experience

All the women working at EthniCity are new to Canada and some have never worked outside their homes before. They often find it difficult to get a job due to their English language skills, lack of Canadian work experience, and feeling isolated in an unfamiliar culture.

EthniCity employees work part time for an average of three months while they learn about working in Canada, build their skills, make new friends and look for a permanent job.

The women practice their skills in communication and teamwork while learning what Canadian employers expect. Employees also receive training related to working in a commercial kitchen, and how to find and keep a job in Canada.

### Ready to move forward

Being part of the EthniCity Catering program helps build confidence in its members, gives them a sense of achievement and acceptance, and sets them on the path to succeed as citizens of Canada. [Read more about EthniCity Catering.](#)





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## Our Multicultural Heritage

### Alberta's heritage

The Aboriginal Peoples of Canada were here many thousands of years ago, long before Canada became a country. In Alberta, it wasn't until the 18th Century that Europeans started to arrive. Now Alberta is home to people from all over the world. Whether our families have lived on this land for thousands of years, immigrated here centuries ago, or just arrived, we take pride in celebrating and sharing our heritage.

Did you know?

- One in every five Albertans was born outside of Canada.
- Canada has an award for people who have helped advance multiculturalism and the integration of newcomers. [You can read about the Paul Yuzyk Award for Multiculturalism and its winners.](#)
- Alberta and other parts of Canada have a civic holiday to celebrate our multicultural heritage.

### Heritage Day

Heritage Day is a civic holiday dedicated to celebrating Alberta's multicultural heritage. It lands on the first Monday of August. Communities across the province put on festivals to celebrate their diverse heritage.

[Heritage Days in Edmonton](#) is one of the largest multicultural festivals in Alberta. Heritage Days celebrates Alberta's diversity with traditional music, dance and food from all over the world. Hosts at each country's pavilion are happy to share their culture with you. In the following video, immigrants to Alberta tell their stories about what it is like to live here.



[Celebrating our multicultural heritage.](#)

[Festivals and celebrations throughout the year](#)

Alberta communities honour cultural diversity by hosting more than 7,000 festivals and celebrations each year. Here are just a few examples:

- Scottish Robbie Burns Day
- Chinese New Year
- Tet Nguyen Dan or Vietnamese New Year
- [Cariwest](#) and [Carifest](#) Carribean Festivals
- [Ukrainian Vitaemo Festival](#)
- [Hinton's Fohn Festival](#)
- [Greek Festival](#)
- [ExpoLatino](#)
- [Afrikadey](#)
- [La Fête franco-albertaine](#)
- [Métis Fest](#)

Did you know?

- February is [Black History Month](#).
- May is [Asian Heritage Month](#).
- [National Aboriginal Day](#) is June 21 and is the highlight of a week-long celebration of Aboriginal Peoples.
- June 27 is [Canadian Multiculturalism Day](#).

#### World music


Alberta communities host a variety of world and folk music festivals every summer. Festival concerts are held in [Edmonton](#), [Calgary](#), [Canmore](#), Drumheller, Athabasca, Lesser Slave Lake, Hinton, Fort McLeod, Stony Plain, Carstairs, Medicine Hat and more. The larger festivals draw performers from around the world.

You can read about the many festivals in Alberta at [Travel Alberta](#) or [Discover Alberta](#). Or check [Immigrate to Alberta](#) for more about Alberta's cultural diversity.

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## Explore Alberta's Parks

From snow-capped mountains and turquoise lakes to desert, hoodoos and dinosaur beds, Alberta's landscape is as diverse as it is beautiful.

### **National and Provincial Parks**

Alberta is home to five National Parks and over 60 Provincial Parks and recreational areas.



### [Waterton Lakes National Park](#)

Located in the southwest corner of the province, Waterton is where the mountains meet the prairie. See landscape shaped by wind, water and fire.



### [Writing on Stone Provincial Park](#)

In southeast Alberta, you can find petroglyphs and pictographs of the First Nations peoples dating back thousands of years. This is sacred ground.



### [Dinosaur Provincial Park](#)



### [Elk Island National Park](#)



A UNESCO World Heritage Site in south eastern Alberta, world famous for its dinosaur fossil finds. You will see hoodoos, desert, badlands and canyons.



[Banff National Park](#)

A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Banff lies one hour west of Calgary in the Rocky Mountains. Enjoy hot springs, shopping, skiing and natural beauty.

Less than an hour east of Edmonton, Elk Island is home to herds of free roaming bison, moose, deer, and elk, and over 250 bird species.



[Wood Buffalo National Park](#)

The nesting ground of the threatened whooping crane, this northern park is one of the largest in the world. Contains bison, birds, salt flats and sunsets.



[Jasper National Park](#)

A few hours north of Banff along the Columbia Icefields Parkway, Jasper has the world's largest Dark Sky Preserve.




[Watch the video](#) to get a glimpse of Alberta's diverse landscape.

For everything you ever wanted to know about Alberta Parks, visit [AlbertaParks.ca](http://AlbertaParks.ca). You can subscribe or download a copy of [Explore Alberta Parks magazine](#). Or visit [Travel Alberta](#).

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## Discover Your Western Spirit

### Centennial

Known as The Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth, the [Calgary Stampede](#) celebrates its 100th anniversary this July! From July 6 - 15, this world-famous rodeo and exhibition will attract over 100,000 visitors from around the world.

Learn about the Aboriginal Peoples, or the early settlers and how they survived. From bull riding to country music, midway rides to Alberta beef, the Calgary Stampede is a celebration of Alberta's western heritage. See what this year's [Stampede](#) has in store.



### Reaching out to communities

Stampede organizers are reaching out to build closer ties to local groups by consulting with business and community associations, youth groups, and ethnic and cultural organizations.

Marichu Antonio, executive director of the Ethno-Cultural Council of Calgary points out that, "It's making the Stampede more accessible to newcomers to Canada . . . The newcomers and the immigrants and the ethno-cultural communities are now serving as informal ambassadors of the Stampede in their own communities. They rave about experiences and of course it's generating a lot of interest." [Read the whole story.](#)

### A warm western welcome

During the Stampede, experience western hospitality at the Stampede grounds, and throughout the Calgary area as well. Communities welcome visitors to pancake breakfasts, dances and barbecues. People of all backgrounds join in the fun by dressing as cowboys and getting into the western spirit.

Visitors from the Netherlands loved their first trip to Canada and the Calgary Stampede so much, they decided to make Canada home. [Read the whole story.](#)



Explore the [many events](#) at the Calgary Stampede. Or plan a trip to Alberta and the Calgary Stampede with a [Travel Alberta vacation guide](#). We look forward to welcoming you!

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