

# **CANADIAN RELOCATION SYSTEMS, "MOVING TIMES" SEPTEMBER 2006**

## **STATISTICS AS A RELOCATION TOOL:**

If you are in the planning stages of relocating, one very important tool for you to use is the statistic material available for you to compare your current city with your new one.

Most material is free of charge but if you are looking for Cost of Living Reports, be prepared to invest some money in them (one for the city you are leaving and the one that you are moving to). This will give you a very good idea about the differences in cost of living in the two cities and provides you with a tool when negotiating with your company (if it is company relocation). If you are doing your own relocation at least you can compare the two cities and then make a decision on whether the move is financially worth it.

A good source for information are the City and Chamber of Commerce websites. Here are some places to look for information that will help you make your decision on relocating easier.

<http://www.relocatecanada.com/statsinformation.html>

<http://www.statcan.ca/>

<http://www.relocatecanada.com/crseri.html>

## **FIVE TIPS ON WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A NEIGHBOURHOOD:**

You've selected the city you're moving to, but which neighborhood is right for you? Here are a few things to look for when shopping for the right area for you and your family:

1. Municipal services - Be sure to check if there are local police and fire stations relatively close to your new home. Taxes - Property and school taxes need to be taken into consideration when selecting a neighborhood.
2. Public transportation - In these days of rising gas prices, it's important to note if public transportation, such as buses, trains and/or subways, are close to your neighborhood. The cost of commuting may offset your potential fuel costs.
3. Schools - Checking out the proximity of neighborhood schools to your home is important, especially if you are sharing carpools or need to seek out after school care for your child.
4. Shopping - Are there enough grocery stores, dry cleaners, convenience stores and service stations in the area?

5. Remember, when you are new to an area, you don't know your way around so the less you have to travel, the better off you'll be.

## **CANADIAN LANGUAGES**

There are a multitude of languages spoken in Canada, but only English, French and certain aboriginal languages have official status. The Constitution of Canada itself recognizes two official languages, English and French, and all constitutional acts since 1982 have themselves been enacted in these two official languages. The English version of earlier Constitutional Acts is the only official version. Inuktitut notably has official status in the Northwest Territories, in Nunavut and in Nunavik, Quebec.

The first major step towards official recognition of languages other than English took place on July 7, 1969, when the federal Canadian Parliament adopted the Official Languages Act, making French commensurate to English throughout federal institutions. Since then, Inuktitut, Dene Suline, Cree, Dogrib, Gwich'in and Slavey have also gained limited official status, although only English and French are used for administrative matters by the federal, provincial and territorial administrations.

According to the 2001 census, Anglophones and Francophone represent roughly 59.3% and 22.9% of the population respectively. The rest of the population represent persons whose mother tongues are Chinese, Italian, German, Aboriginal languages, or other.

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