



IMMIGRATION Canada

Applying for a Travel Document

Permanent Resident Abroad



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(Permanent Resident Abroad) (IMM 5524)
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This application is made available free by
Citizenship and Immigration Canada and
is not to be sold to applicants.

**Cette trousse est également
disponible en français**

Contact Information

Web site

For more information on the programs offered by Citizenship and Immigration Canada, visit our Web site at www.cic.gc.ca. For some types of applications you can inform us of a change of address and find out what is happening with your application through [on-line services](#) on the Web site.

Within Canada

If you are in Canada, you can also phone our **Call Centre**. An automated telephone service is available seven days a week, 24 hours a day and is easy to use if you have a touch-tone phone. You can listen to pre-recorded information on many programs, order application forms, and for some types of applications the automated service can even update you on the status of your case.

When you call, have a pen and paper ready to record the information you need. Listen carefully to the instructions and press the number for the selection you want. At any time during your call, you may press * (the star key) to repeat a message, **9** to return to the main menu, **0** to speak to an agent, or **8** to end your call. If you have a rotary phone, wait for an agent to answer you.

If you need to speak to an agent, you must call Monday to Friday between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. local time.

From anywhere in Canada, call

1-888-242-2100 (toll-free)

Using a text telephone?

Call our TTY service from Monday to Friday between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. local time at: **1-888-576-8502** (toll-free).

Outside Canada

If you are outside Canada, you can contact a Canadian embassy, high commission or consulate. Consult our [Web site](#) for addresses, phone numbers and Web site addresses of our visa offices.



This is not a legal document. For legal information, refer to the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act and Regulations* or the *Citizenship Act and Regulations*, as applicable.

This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.

Overview

This application is for permanent residents who are outside Canada and who do not have a valid permanent resident card to return to Canada. Travel documents are issued to permanent residents abroad to provide proof to a transportation company that the holder is entitled to re-enter Canada as a permanent resident.

Note to holders of a:

- Record of Landing (IMM 1000)
- Confirmation of Permanent Residence (IMM 5292)
- Returning Resident Permit

These documents are **not** valid for travel back to Canada. You require a permanent resident card or a travel document to re-enter Canada by train, plane, boat or bus.

Who should not apply for a travel document?

- Canadian citizens or registered Indians under the Indian Act
- Permanent residents with a valid permanent resident card
- Permanent residents in Canada

Note: Permanent residents inside Canada should apply for a permanent resident card using the application kit [Applying for a Permanent Resident Card](#) (IMM 5445).

Application requirements

To obtain a travel document you will need to prove your identity and your permanent resident status. You also need to meet the [residency obligation](#) of a permanent resident. Refer to the [Document Checklist](#) for more information on the documents you will need to submit with your application.

Residency Obligation

Calculating Days Present in Canada

To meet the residency obligation, you must have been physically present in Canada for a minimum of 730 days within the past five years. If this is not the case, you may also count the days you spent outside of Canada in the following circumstances:

A. Accompanying a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident outside Canada

Accompanying a Canadian citizen

Each day that you are accompanying a Canadian citizen outside Canada is considered a day for which you satisfy the residency obligation provided that the person you are accompanying is your spouse, common-law partner or parent (if you are a child under 22 years of age).

The total number of days that you spend accompanying a Canadian citizen may be added to the total number of days for which you otherwise satisfy the residency obligation.

Accompanying a permanent resident

Each day that you are accompanying a permanent resident outside Canada is considered a day for which you satisfy the residency obligations provided that:

- the person you are accompanying is your spouse, common-law partner or parent (if you are a child under 22 years of age); and
- the person you are accompanying is in compliance with their own residency obligation.

The total number of days that you spend accompanying a permanent resident may be added to the total number of days for which you otherwise satisfy the residency obligations.

Evidence that you are accompanying a Canadian citizen or permanent resident

You must provide supporting documents to prove that:

- the person you are accompanying is a Canadian citizen or permanent resident;
- you are the spouse, common-law partner or child of that person; and
- if applicable, the permanent resident you are accompanying meets his or her own residency obligation.

Refer to the [Document Checklist](#) for a list of suggested supporting documents.

B. Employment outside Canada

Acceptable employment

Each day that you are working outside Canada is considered a day for which you satisfy the residency obligation provided that your employment meets the following criteria. You are an employee of, or under contract to, a Canadian business or the public service of Canada or of a province, and are assigned on a full-time basis to:

- a position outside Canada;
- an affiliated enterprise outside Canada; or
- a client of the Canadian business or the public service outside Canada.

Canadian business

For the purposes of this application, a Canadian business is defined as:

- a corporation that is incorporated under the laws of Canada or of a province and that has an ongoing operation in Canada; **or**
- an enterprise that has an ongoing operation in Canada and is capable of generating revenue and is carried out in anticipation of profit, and in which a majority of voting or ownership interests is held by Canadian citizens, permanent residents, or Canadian businesses as defined above; **or**
- an organization or enterprise created by the laws of Canada or a province.

Evidence of acceptable employment

You must provide supporting documents indicating that your employment outside of Canada meets the requirements of the residency obligation. Refer to the [Document Checklist](#) for a list of supporting documents.

C. Humanitarian and Compassionate Grounds

If you or a family member is unable to meet the residency obligation, it may still be possible to retain your status as a permanent resident of Canada. You will need to present evidence that, due to circumstances beyond your control or due to factors that have kept you living outside Canada, you wish to have humanitarian and compassionate grounds considered in the assessment of your application for a travel document.

Factors that might justify such a consideration would be those resulting hardships you would face if you lost your permanent resident status, and that would be **unusual** and **undeserved**, or **disproportionate**. You must provide proof:

- that there are compelling humanitarian and compassionate factors in your individual circumstances that merit the retention of your permanent resident status;
- describing why you were not able to comply with the residency obligation; and
- that the extent of any hardship that the loss of residency status may cause to one or more family members who would be directly affected by this decision, taking into account the best interests of a child directly affected by the determination.

To have your application considered on humanitarian and compassionate grounds, you must complete question 18 of the application form. There are no guidelines on what supporting documents you should submit for consideration on humanitarian and compassionate grounds. You are free to make submissions on any aspect of your personal circumstances that you feel would warrant retention of your permanent residence.

An officer will weigh the factors of your unique case against the extent to which you did not comply with your residency obligation and make a decision based on the evidence in your file.

Completing the Forms

Each applicant in your family, regardless of age, must fill out a separate application form. Make sure you make enough photocopies before you start filling it out.

The following section does not contain instructions for all the questions on the form. Most questions are clear; instructions are provided only when necessary. You must answer all questions. If you leave any sections blank, your application will be returned to you and processing will be delayed. If any sections do not apply to you, complete the section by answering “N/A” or “Not Applicable”. If you need more space, attach a separate sheet of paper and indicate the number of the question you are answering. Print clearly with a black pen.

Warning: It is a serious offence to provide false or misleading information on these forms. We may check to verify your responses.

Application for a Travel Document (Permanent Resident Abroad) (IMM 5524)

Preferred language

Decide which of English or French you are more comfortable with, and check the appropriate box.

1. Print your full **family name**, **first name(s)** and **middle name(s)** as they appear on your Record of Landing (IMM 1000) or Confirmation of Permanent Residence (IMM 5292). Do not use initials.

Other names: Print all of the names that have been associated with you (for example, maiden name, son/daughter of, other family name, other given name, nicknames, etc).

5. If you are a citizen of more than one country, give details on a separate page.
- 12c. This is the address we will use to mail correspondence regarding your application. Print your address in English or French and, if required, in the applicable script.
13. If you answered “Yes” to any of the questions, provide details such as dates, document numbers, and other information as applicable.

16 and 17.

For information on acceptable proof of status and employment, refer to the [Document Checklist](#).

18. For more information, consult [Section C. Humanitarian and Compassionate Grounds](#).

Declaration

Read over your answers carefully. Sign and date on the lines provided. By signing, you certify that you fully understand the questions asked, and that the information you have provided is complete, truthful, and correct. If you do not sign, the application will be returned to you.

Applicants who are less than 14 years of age:

The application must be signed by one of the applicant’s parents or legal guardian(s).

Applicants who are 14 years of age or more but less than 18 years of age:

The application must be signed by the applicant **and** one of the applicant’s parents or legal guardian.

Use of a Representative (IMM 5476)

Complete this form if you are appointing a representative.

If you have dependent children aged 18 years or older, they are required to complete their own copy of this form if a representative is also conducting business on their behalf.

A **representative** is someone who has your permission to conduct business on your behalf with Citizenship and Immigration Canada. When you appoint a representative, you also authorize CIC to share information from your case file to this person.

You are not obliged to hire a representative. We treat everyone equally, whether they use the services of a representative or not. If you choose to hire a representative, your application will not be given special attention nor can you expect faster processing or a more favourable outcome.

The representative you appoint is authorized to represent you only on matters related to the application you submit with this form. You can appoint only **one** representative for each application you submit.

There are two types of representatives:

Unpaid representatives

- friends and family members who do not charge a fee for their advice and services
- organizations that do not charge a fee for providing immigration advice or assistance (such as a non-governmental or religious organization)
- consultants, lawyers and Québec notaries who do not, and will not, charge a fee to represent you

Paid representatives

If you want us to conduct business with a representative who is, or will be charging a fee to represent you, he or she must be authorized. Authorized representatives are:

- immigration consultants who are members in good standing of the Canadian Society of Immigration Consultants (CSIC)
- lawyers who are members in good standing of a Canadian provincial or territorial law society and students-at-law under their supervision
- notaries who are members in good standing of the *Chambre des notaires du Québec* and students-at-law under their supervision

If you appoint a paid representative who is not a member of one of these designated bodies, your application will be returned. For more information on using a representative, visit our [Web site](#).

Section B.

5. Your representative's full name

If your representative is a member of CSIC, a law society or the *Chambre des notaires du Québec*, print his or her name as it appears on the organization's membership list.

8. Your representative's declaration

Your representative must sign to accept responsibility for conducting business on your behalf.

Section D.

10. Your declaration

By signing, you authorize us to complete your request for yourself and your dependent children under 18 years of age. If your spouse or common-law partner is included in this request, he or she must sign in the box provided.

Release of information to other individuals

To authorize CIC to release information from your case file to someone other than a representative, you will need to complete form *Authority to Release Personal Information to a Designated Individual* (IMM 5475) which is available on our Web site at www.cic.gc.ca/english/applications/release-info and from Canadian embassies, high commissions and consulates abroad.

The person you designate will be able to obtain information on your case file, such as the status of your application. However, he or she will **not** be able to conduct business on your behalf with CIC.

You must notify us if your representative's contact information changes or if you cancel the appointment of a representative.

Fees

You must pay a processing fee when you submit your application. **The processing fee is CAD \$50.00**, or the equivalent in any of the currencies accepted at the visa office where you submit your application.

Once initial processing of your application has begun, the processing fee will not be refunded. If your application is refused, the processing fee will not be refunded.

Document Checklist

Your application will be delayed if you do not enclose all required documents.

Enclose the following items with your application:

- Your completed and signed *Application for a Travel Document (Permanent Resident Abroad)* (IMM 5524).
- If applicable, *Use of a Representative* form (IMM 5476).
- This *Document Checklist*.
- One recent passport-size photograph of each of the applicants (the name and date of birth of each applicant must be printed clearly on the back of each photograph).
- Your passport or travel/identity document from your country of citizenship.
- Evidence of your permanent resident status in Canada, such as:
 - a Record of Landing or Confirmation of Permanent Residence or, if the document was lost or stolen, a police report documenting the circumstances of the loss.
 - an expired permanent resident card or, if your card was lost or stolen, a police report documenting the circumstances of the loss.
 - a Returning Resident Permit.

Supporting documents proving that you meet the residency obligation.

- If you are accompanying a Canadian citizen or permanent resident, these may include:
 - marriage licence
 - child's birth certificate, baptismal document, and/or adoption or guardianship document
 - school and/or employment records
 - association or club memberships
 - passports or other travel documents
 - documents indicating the status of the person you are accompanying
 - documents indicating that the person you are accompanying meets his or her own residency obligation.
- If you are working outside Canada, you must enclose a letter of declaration signed by an official of the business that indicates:
 - the position and title of the signing official;
 - the nature of the business and how it fits the description of a Canadian business (see definition in **Residency Obligation** section);
 - details of your assignment or contract outside Canada; and
 - confirmation that the business has not been created primarily for the purpose of allowing you to satisfy your residency obligation.

You may also include:

- articles of incorporation and business licences
 - partnership agreements and/or corporate annual reports
 - corporate Canadian Income Tax Notices of Assessment and/or financial statements
 - copies of the Employee Assignment Agreement or Contract
 - copies of any agreements between the Canadian business and the business or client outside Canada concerning your assignment to that client or business
- To be considered on humanitarian and compassionate grounds, enclose supporting documents that support your request to retain your permanent residence. Refer to the **Residency Obligation** section for more information.

Documents indicating consent for children to travel as unaccompanied minors

- Children under 16 years of age who are travelling alone must carry written information about the person who will be responsible for them. If a child included in this application is the subject of a custody order or is travelling with one of his or her parents, you must provide a proof of custody or the other parent's consent for the trip. Children travelling without their custodial parent(s) require a letter of permission to travel from the non-accompanying parent(s).

Submitting your application

Place all of the documents and your completed *Application for a Travel Document (Permanent Resident Abroad)* (IMM 5524) in a sealed envelope. Submit your completed application to the Canadian visa office responsible for the country where you are currently located.

To find out which visa office will serve you, consult the *List of Countries and Corresponding Canadian Visa Offices* found on our Web site at www.cic.gc.ca/english/offices/apply-where.html or contact a **Canadian embassy, consulate or high commission**.

What Happens Next

An officer at the visa office will assess whether you meet the requirements for a travel document. If you need to provide additional documents, the visa office will contact you requesting the missing information.

If your application is complete and you meet the requirements, you will be issued a travel document counterfoil in your passport, normally issued for a single entry to Canada. The travel document is the only document that you will need from the visa office to meet the requirements for re-entry to Canada.

Once in Canada, you should apply for a permanent resident card. Unlike the travel document, the permanent resident card allows you to enter Canada multiple times without having to apply for a travel document each time. The application kit *Applying for a Permanent Resident Card* (IMM 5445) is available on our **Web site** or from our **Call Centre** (service available in Canada only).



APPLICATION FOR A TRAVEL DOCUMENT (PERMANENT RESIDENT ABROAD)

All individuals, regardless of age, must complete their own application form. Parents or legal guardians must complete and sign application forms for children under the age of 14.

Use an extra sheet of paper if you need more space to answer a question. Print your name at the top of the sheet and indicate the question number.

Space reserved for applicant's photo

Date of receipt stamp at post

I want service in: English French

PART I - PERSONAL INFORMATION

1. **Your full name** (as it appears on your Record of Landing (IMM 1000) or Confirmation of Permanent Residence (IMM 5292) or Permanent Resident Card)

Family name

Given name(s)

Other names (for example, maiden name, son/daughter of, other family name, other given name)

2. **Your sex** Female Male

3. **Your date of birth** Day Month Year

4. **Your place of birth**
Town/City
State/province
Country

5. **Country of citizenship**

6. **Passport number**

Expiry date Day Month Year

7. **Your marital status (choose one)**
 Single Widowed Engaged Separated
 Married Divorced Other

8. **Date and place you became a permanent resident of Canada**
Date Day Month Year
City
Province

9. **The number on your Record of Landing, Confirmation of Permanent Residence or Permanent Resident Card**

10. **When were you last physically present in Canada?**
Date Day Month Year

11. **When do you intend to return to Canada?**
Date Day Month Year

12a. Your permanent address in Canada

Street and no.		
City	Province	
Country	Postal code	
Telephone number	Area code ()	Number

12b. Your current address outside of Canada

12c. Your mailing address outside Canada (if different from above)

If we need to reach you while we process your application:

Your telephone number Country code Area code Number

Your e-mail address (if available)

13. Answer Yes or No:

	Yes	No
a. Were there any terms and conditions applied to you at the time you were granted permanent residence or landed in Canada?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Have you ever lost your status as a permanent resident of Canada?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Have you ever submitted an appeal to the Immigration Appeal Division of the Immigration and Refugee Board against a decision on the residency obligation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Have you ever been issued a Returning Resident Permit or a Travel Document?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you answered "YES" to any of the questions above, provide details below. Use an extra sheet of paper if you need more space.

14. Your activities and employment

Give details of what you have been doing during the past five years. Include jobs held, periods of unemployment, time spent studying, etc. **If you became a permanent resident less than five years ago:** list your activities and employment from the time you became a permanent resident to present.

From		To		Activity/Employment	Name of company, school, etc.	City/Town, Province/State, Country
M	Y	M	Y			

PART II - RESIDENCY OBLIGATION

Refer to the guide for more information on meeting the residency obligation and on acceptable supporting documents.

15. Time spent in Canada

When were you physically present in Canada? List all periods you spent in Canada during the past five years. **If you became a permanent resident less than five years ago:** list time spent in Canada from the time you became a permanent resident to present.

From		To		Address	City/Town, Province	Total number of days
M	Y	M	Y			
TOTAL						

If the total number of days is **equal to or greater than 730 days**, skip to the **Declaration**.
 If the total number of days is **less than 730 days**, answer the following questions.

16. Absence while accompanying a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident outside Canada

Have you accompanied a Canadian citizen or permanent resident while outside Canada?

No

Yes ► Name of person you accompanied
Family name Given name(s)

Relationship to you ► Spouse Common-law partner Parent
 (Provide proof of the person's relationship to you)

He or she is a ► Canadian citizen. (Provide proof of his or her Canadian citizenship)

► Permanent resident of Canada who is employed outside of Canada on a full-time basis by a Canadian business, or by the federal or provincial public service in Canada.
 (Provide proof of the person's status in Canada and proof of employment)

List the periods when you were outside of Canada and accompanying the person above during the past five years.

If you became a permanent resident less than five years ago: list the periods from the time you became a permanent resident to present.

From		To		Address	City/Town, Country	Total number of days
M	Y	M	Y			
TOTAL						

17. Absences while employed by a Canadian business

Have you been employed outside of Canada on a full-time basis by a Canadian business or by the public service of Canada or of a province of Canada?

No Yes ► (provide proof of this employment)

List the periods when you have been outside of Canada and employed on a full-time basis by a Canadian business or by the public service of Canada or of a province of Canada during the past five years. **If you became a permanent resident less than five years ago:** list the periods from the time you became a permanent resident to present.

From		To		Address	City/Town, Province	Total number of days
M	Y	M	Y			
TOTAL						

Calculation

Total number of days from question 15

Total number of days from question 16

Total number of days from question 17

GRAND TOTAL

If your grand total is **equal to or greater than 730 days**, skip to the **Declaration**.

If your grand total is **less than 730 days** and you have been a permanent resident for five years or more, answer question 18.

Note: If your grand total is **less than 730 days** and you have been a permanent resident for **less than five years**, you may wish to answer question 18. The visa office will consider your answer to this question if it is apparent that you will not meet the residency obligation.

18. Humanitarian and Compassionate Grounds

If the visa office determines that you do not meet the residency obligation, are there humanitarian and compassionate considerations that would justify the retention of your permanent resident status? If applicable, also include humanitarian and compassionate considerations relating to the best interests of a child who may be directly affected by this residency determination. Use an extra sheet of paper if you need more space.

Declaration

- I certify that the information given on this form and in any documents attached is correct, complete and accurate.
- If this form pertains to a child under the age of 14, I certify that I am one of the child's parents or guardians.
- I understand the foregoing statements, having asked for and obtained an explanation on every point that was not clear to me.
- I further understand that the information provided by me may be verified and hereby consent to such verification activities.
- I also understand that it is a serious offence to provide false or misleading information and that the provision of false or misleading information may result in loss of my permanent resident status and may be grounds for my prosecution or removal from Canada.

Signature

Date

Signature of parent or guardian (if applicant is under the age of 14)

Date

The information you provide on this form is collected under the authority of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* and will be used in determining whether you meet the terms and conditions of your permanent residency according to the requirements of the Act. It will be retained in a Personal Information Bank CIC PPU 068 *Determination of Permanent Resident Status* identified in **Infosource**. It may be shared with other organizations in accordance with the consistent use of information under the *Privacy Act*. Under the *Privacy Act* and the *Access to Information Act* individuals have the right to protection of and access to their personal information. Details on these matters are available at infosource.gc.ca and through the Citizenship and Immigration Call Centre. **Infosource is also available in Canadian public libraries.**



USE OF A REPRESENTATIVE

A representative is someone who has your permission to conduct business on your behalf with Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) and Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA). You may have **one** representative only. If you appoint an additional representative, the previous representative will no longer be authorized to conduct business on your behalf and receive information on your case file.

Your dependent children aged 18 years or older must complete their own copy of this form if they have a representative.

- I am: appointing a representative. **Complete Sections A, B and D.**
 cancelling the appointment of a representative. **Complete Section A, C and D.**

SECTION A: APPLICANT INFORMATION

1. Your full name

Family name (Surname)

Given name(s)

2. Your date of birth

Day	Month	Year

3. If you have already submitted your application:

Name of office where the application was submitted

Location of office

Type of application (permanent residence, extension of study permit, etc.)

4. Your Citizenship and Immigration Canada Identification number (if known)

Client Identification (ID) or Unique Client Identifier (UCI) number

SECTION B: APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE

- I authorize the following individual to serve as my representative and to conduct business on my behalf with Citizenship and Immigration Canada and Canada Border Services Agency.
- I authorize Citizenship and Immigration Canada and Canada Border Services Agency to release information from my case file and that of my dependent children under 18 years of age to my representative. This authorization is in accordance with the *Privacy Act*.
- I am aware that any information which would be subject to exemption, if I had the right of access under the *Privacy Act* or the *Access to Information Act*, will likely not be released.

5. Your representative's full name

Family name (Surname)

Given name(s)

- 6. Your representative: (choose one)**
- is UNPAID and is a:**
- family member or friend
- member of a non-governmental or religious organization
- member of the Canadian Society of Immigration Consultants, a Canadian provincial or territorial law society, or the *Chambre des notaires du Québec*.
- other

is or will be PAID and is a member in good standing of:

the Canadian Society of Immigration Consultants (CSIC)

 ▶ Membership ID number

a Canadian provincial or territorial law society

 ▶ Which province or territory?

 ▶ Membership ID number

the *Chambre des notaires du Québec*

 ▶ Membership ID number

7. Your representative's contact information

Name of firm or organization (if applicable)			
Mailing address			
Postal code/ZIP			
Telephone number	Country code	Area code	Number
	()	()	
Fax number	Country code	Area code	Number
	()	()	
E-mail address (if applicable)			

8. Your representative's declaration:

- I declare that the information in Section B is truthful, complete and correct.
- I understand and accept that I am the person appointed by the applicant to conduct business on the applicant or sponsor's behalf with Citizenship and Immigration Canada and Canada Border Services Agency.

Signature of representative

Date

Day	Month	Year

SECTION C: CANCEL THE APPOINTMENT OF A REPRESENTATIVE

I withdraw my authorization for this person to serve as my representative, to receive information on my case file and to conduct business on my behalf with Citizenship and Immigration Canada and Canada Border Services Agency.

9. Your representative's full name

Family name (Surname)

Given name(s)

Name of firm or organization
(if applicable)
SECTION D: YOUR DECLARATION**10.**

- I declare that the information I have given is truthful, complete and correct.
- I understand all the foregoing statements, having asked for and obtained an explanation for every point that was not clear to me.

Signature of applicant

Date

Day	Month	Year

Signature of spouse or common-law partner
(if applicable)

Date

Day	Month	Year

Warning! It is a serious offence to give false or misleading information on this form.

The information you provide on this form is collected under the authority of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* and will be used in assessing your application according to the requirements of the Act. It will be retained in a Personal Information Bank identified in **Infosource**. It may be shared with other organizations in accordance with the consistent use of information under the *Privacy Act*. Under the *Privacy Act* and the *Access to Information Act* individuals have the right to protection of and access to their personal information. Details on these matters are available at infosource.gc.ca and through the Citizenship and Immigration Call Centre. **Infosource is also available in Canadian public libraries.**