



WEATHER TRANSPORTATION

ESSENTIALS

CUSTOMS BAGGAGE

AND

EMERGENCIES CURRENCY

BASICS

POLITICS HISTORY

WOOLFREY AVE.

MARY'S
VARIETY &
GROCERY
STORE



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K-CUP
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CONVENIENCE
VARIETY



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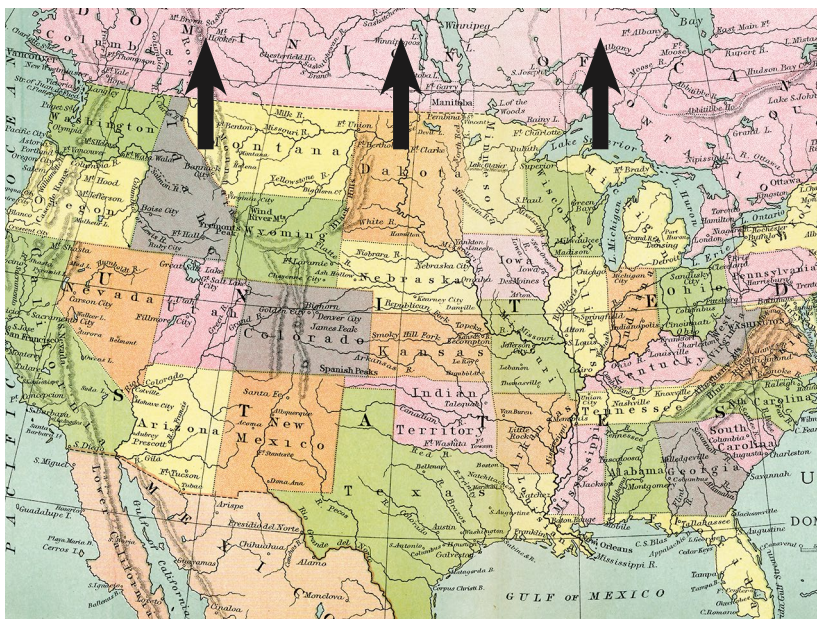


What Is Canada?

CLASSIFIED BY THE rest of the world as a country, Canada stretches from the U.S. in the south to the Ice Pole in the north. Surrounded by almost all of the world's oceans, it has long been considered “ye olde top hat” of the isle of North America.

Canada is divided into four distinct regions: Over There, Down There, Up There, and Nowhere. Visitors to Canada will often think they are Nowhere when in fact they may be Over There or, more likely, Up There. Each region looks and feels different, with its own style of architecture, its own characteristic foods, and its own type of swearing.

Although Canada is filled with vibrant cities, including the metropoli of Hamilton, Regina, St. Albert, Drummondville, and Duncan, it is predominantly a rural country. The influence of “the land” echoes throughout Canadian culture, revealing itself in national legislation which requires every citizen own boots. Perhaps the most astonishing feature of the country is its obscene amount of vast space. From huge tracts of undeveloped land littered with interminable trees to unfathomable expanses with nothing in sight, Canada is an agoraphobic's worst nightmare.



Research indicates that Ottawa is the official capital of Canada, but most residents use Baker Lake, Nunavut—the exact centre of the country—as their primary place of congregation.

In all this vastness, there are endless types of trips to take in Canada: you could visit a city, a region, a river, a drive-through, or a 50-year-old church.

Why Are You Coming?

Before coming to Canada, it is important to ask yourself what you want to get from the visit. It's also important that you have an exit strategy. Many visitors wooed by Canada's charms have found it next to impossible to leave.

If you ask the average Canadian why you should visit Canada, they'd likely say, "I dunno. The only thing I'd wanna do is

maybe go skiing? Niagara Falls? Or maybe take the train from Banff to Vancouver?”

If you're looking to take a romantic trip, consider France. It's full of spots for kissing. Got kids? There are a dozen Disney parks around the world, and none of them are in Canada. If you want fun in the sun, Canada has beaches, but they're not *beach* beaches.

Sometimes you see a person win a trip to Canada on *Wheel of Fortune*, and they kinda shrug and say, “I guess.” That's what your reaction to the country will be if you don't make sure you know what you want from your trip.

The Best Time to Visit

There is positively no reason to visit Canada during the winter months. *Canadians* don't even visit one another then. This means that as a visitor, your travel period is limited to the month of summer.

Beyond that, the single most important factor in deciding when to visit Canada is the bug schedule. It's crucial to recognize that, for three weeks, the entire country is ravaged by either mosquitoes or blackflies. Some have even told of an insect with the face of a hornet and the body of a domesticated turkey. This makes the ideal window for a trip somewhere between July 28th and August 9th.

Be warned: This is also when Canadians take their holidays. Although the country does not close down entirely during this period, a general apathy sets in and a *laissez-faire* cloud hangs over all regions. If you stick to this time frame, however, weather conditions should be ideal, except in the city of Toronto, where merciless heat and humidity can drive you into madness.

TESTIMONIAL

“I was surprised to find out it was a real country, with real things to do.”

AN AMERICAN TRAVELLER

Getting There

Whether you are travelling by air, sea, rail, or road, prices increasingly depend on which of the travel websites owned by the same company you use. Most discount sites offer great fares, but after taxes and surcharges are added, you can expect to pay full price.

- **By Air**

Canada's airports are a cinch to navigate. It's as easy as landing in YYJ, transferring to YYG, and getting a connecting flight through YYC, then landing in YYZ. If you end up in YEG, YVR, YUL, YGE, YOF, or YIK, a local airport representative should be able to tell you why (or Y).

- **By Bus**

Without question, the bus is the best way to get to Canada. Buses in U.S. border towns offer affordable rates, onboard unisex wash-

room, and unnerving amounts of eye contact. Plus you meet the most interesting people on the bus, like Ron. He's starting his life over in Canada but will probably be the reason everyone on the bus gets searched.

TESTIMONIAL

"We quite enjoyed the really flat part in the middle of the country. Watching our dog run away for miles was a thrill."

KING LUIS OF SPAIN

- **By Train**

The railroad played a key part in forming the country, so it makes sense that you can affordably travel with ease by train in Canada. High-speed rail, however, is pretty much nonexistent. And the low-speed trains constantly have to stop when they run into cows. Still, it's pretty romantic, considering the cost of a train trip is four times that of a flight.



Weather by Region

	OVER THERE	DOWN THERE	UP THERE	NOWHERE
January	Rainy	Cold	Cold	Cold
February	Cold	Cold	Brutal	Brutal
March	T-shirt Weather	Cold	Cold	Cold
April	Sorta Cold	Sorta Cold	Sorta Cold	Sorta Cold
May	Cold Again	Cold Again	Cold Again	Cold Again
June	Kinda Warm	Kinda Warm	Kinda Warm	Kinda Warm
July	Actually Nice	Actually Nice	Actually Nice	Actually Nice
August	Too Hot	Gross	Unbearable	Too Hot
September	Won't Make Up Its Mind	Colder Than It Looks	Sorta Warm	It's Crazy Out There
October	Sweater Weather	Sweater Weather	Sweater Weather	Sweater Weather
November	Soup Weather	Chowder Weather	Stew Weather	Chili Weather
December	Warmest Christmas Ever	Cold	Cold	Stupid Cold

- **By Ferry**

Though slower than travelling by plane, the ferries from Britain and Japan offer the cheapest means of travelling to Canada. The length of the trip can vary, but travellers should set aside at least 120 hours. If you are planning on making passage in the cargo hold of a larger ferry, you need to pack food, water, and an empty jug for waste.

- **By Car**

Canada and the USA share the longest unprotected border in the world. The border checkpoints are usually clogged with Canadians who have made day trips to buy VCRs and jeans. To avoid the wait, cross in the winter on one of the many frozen lakes between Minnesota and Manitoba. Also, as a general note to American motorists, no need to waste time plotting your journey with a map—there is a simple rule of thumb: Drive north until you have to turn off the A/C and roll up the windows.

Travel Tip

Going through airport security is a breeze if you remember this simple mnemonic device: B4B&B4BBBBBDO (“Bins for bags and bins for belts but bottles better be disposed of”).

If you act suspiciously, guards tend to be a bit prickly and will make you feel like a toddler who

: has just broken one of Granny's vases. If you act courteously and respectfully, the guards tend to be a bit prickly and will make you feel like a toddler who has just broken one of Granny's vases. No matter how rude and ornery the guards are, give them a break because you're the one going on holiday.

So if you want to join me for a while
Just grab your hat, come travel light—that's hobo style.
Maybe tomorrow, I'll want to settle down,
Until tomorrow, I'll just keep moving on.

EARLY CANADIAN HYMN

From Customs to Customs

There are two types of customs in Canada: the Customs you have to go through and the customs you have to perform.

- **Canadian Customs**

Canadian Customs agents are multilingual, polite, and genuinely interested in where you come from. They also seem to have a keen interest in what's in your bag. They are the kind of people you might consider dating, but they're not marriage material because ultimately you're just too different.

- **Canadian Customs Customs**

When going through Canadian Customs, it's customary for ladies to curtsy, men to tip their hats, and children to perform the "I'm a little teapot" dance. In turn, it's customary for the border guard to offer a selection of biscuits representing the history of Canada. If the biscuits are refused, a tax is levied for each member of the travelling party. Kisses on the cheek are then offered thrice to the eldest member of the party. Simple.

What to Bring

- **Baggage**

When you're starting a relationship, baggage is the last thing you want, but when you start travelling, it's the first thing. Make sure you bring a bag that has plenty of room on the inside and even more on the outside. Because remember: The whole world is just what's happening outside your suitcase.

THREE ESSENTIAL BAGS FOR TRAVEL IN CANADA

The Fanny Pack

If you don't want to look like a tourist, bring a fanny pack. All Canadian men wear fanny packs around their ample hips. It's what gives Canadian men their famous sexy silhouette. Fanny packs are also great for holding lip balms and coupons.

Travel Tip

It's smart to bring enough clean underwear to last your entire trip because, while washing machines are common, it's nearly impossible to calculate a metric load of laundry.

The Clutch

What do classy women from Saskatoon to Moncton have in common? They all carry clutches. The clutch is a must-have accessory that elevates any outfit. Picture yourself strolling down the Kamloops Riviera, carrying a clutch full of a third of the junk you normally carry in your purse.

The Duffel Bag

Kirk Duffel was born in Edmonton, where, after growing tired of more refined luggage, he invented the duffel bag. He wanted a bag that screamed, "I got this for free!" This is also the go-to bag for any mysterious drifter who has to leave town in the middle of the night.

• Clothes

Canada is not a nude country. In fact, during the winter months, most Canadians are covered from head to toe, exposing only their eyes, nose, and mouth. This is one of the factors that keeps Canada's population size in check. In summertime, Canadians wear



A typical stance when looking at Canada

“Lake Clothes.” It’s not hard to follow the dress code in order to fit in with your Canadian hosts. Shorts vary from two to four cargo pockets. T-shirts are obtained as a result of participating in a fun run. Footwear consists of sturdy walking shoes or sandals.

- **Travel Documents**

For most visitors, a passport is all that is needed to visit Canada. If you don’t have a passport, you may use a letter from your head of state or a utility bill.

Travel Tip

The *This is That: Travel Guide to Canada* is required to suggest that you bring photocopies of your passport, plane tickets, and hotel reservations. We realize you probably won't do that, but don't come crying to us when the Moncton Place Hotel has no idea who you are.

Note for American travellers: As of 2018, your driver's licence will not be valid in Canada. Upon arriving in Canada, U.S. visitors will be required to take a short written exam on driving rules and practices, leave the country, and return three months later to take their road test. If they pass, they will be allowed to drive north of the border, as long as a licenced Canadian is in the passenger seat.

- **Children**

There are no laws explicitly prohibiting bringing your children into Canada, although you may have to endure them constantly asking, "Why didn't we go to Hawaii?" Taking kids through Can-

ada is a challenge, as every natural wonder is surrounded by countless wave pools, go-kart tracks, and laser tag arenas, which—let's be honest—are kinda more fun.

TESTIMONIAL

"I brought my baby to Canada and he smiled the whole time, but it turned out to just be gas."

GLEN, DENVER, COLORADO

- **Older People**

It's okay to travel with older people—just remember they're gonna wanna stop in *every* boring store and read *every* placard in *every* museum. While you may want to see the Last Spike, older members of your party may wish to take a picture of every single spike along the railroad.

• Groceries

Canada is the land of self-service groceries. Customers are now expected to bring their own bags, do their own checkout, and pay with their own money. By the summer of 2017, Canadians will be required to make their own checkout-line grocery-divider thingimabobs.

Also, if you're travelling from a country that has a famous delicacy, could you please bring some? We're dying for some Trader Joe's cookie butter, or those Italian Christmas cakes, or a jar of weird British mint cream.

Finally, in Canada, hygiene products like soap and deodorant are widely available. Hint, hint.

TESTIMONIAL

"I went travelling to find myself. I found Canada instead."

MISSING GUY FROM
NEW ZEALAND

• Health Needs

Don't bring any medicine. Ours is free. Pills shoot out of fire hydrants and flood the streets.

Before You Leave

Before entering Canada, it's important to be immunized against the following conditions:

- Butter Rump
- Hat Hair
- Cackle Cough
- The Sniffles
- Mushaboom
- Sore Hips
- West Edmonton Malaria
- Freckles
- Mullets
- Cigarette Dangles
- Advanced Irritable Syndrome
- Bachman Turner Overbite
- The Shoe Flu

Canada's Service Hotlines

Most people only know about calling 911 for an emergency and 411 for information. Did you know about Canada's other service hotlines?

911: Emergency services

There's a fire. My husband is having a heart attack. I'm being murdered.

811: Non-emergency medical

I have a fever. Is this milk okay to drink? I don't feel like playing tennis.

711: 7-Eleven hotline

My Slurpee is melting. Where's the closest 7-Eleven that sells Nibs? Is a Mac's a 7-Eleven?

611: Emergency bear reporting

There's a bear in my yard. There's a bear getting close to a school. A bear stole my car.

511: Non-emergency bear reporting

I see a bear and it's such a beautiful animal, I needed to tell somebody and nobody is around so I called you.

411: Information

What's the phone number for Quiznos? Do you know how late Quiznos is open? Does Quiznos still exist?

311: Municipal issues

The traffic lights are out on my street. My garbage wasn't picked up. What's the mayor really like?

211: Lost sunglasses and keys hotline

Do you know where I left my sunglasses? Can you remember if I had my keys at lunch? Could you check around your office for my car keys?

111: Compliment line

Tell me I'm great. Do you think I look good in this shirt? Help, there's a handsome man trapped in my mirror!

011: Hotline hotline

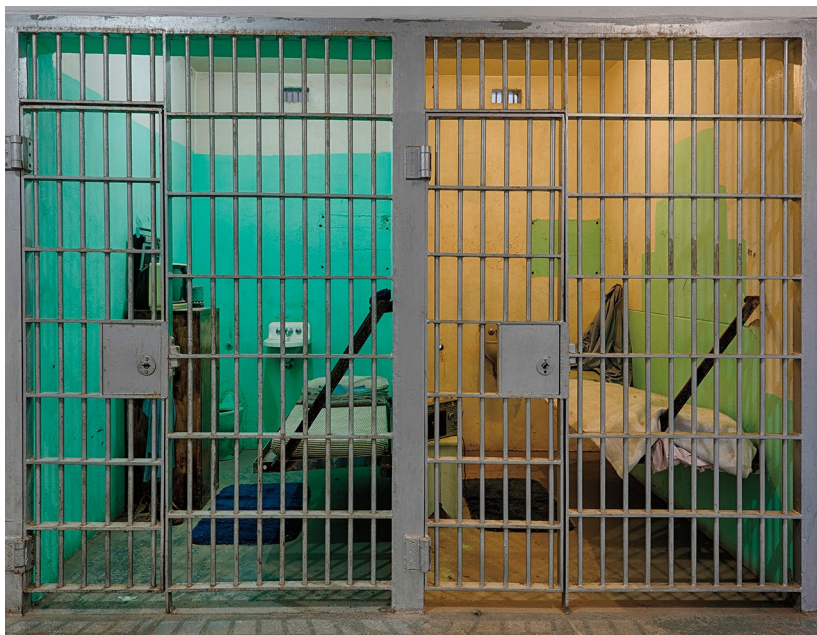
What's the number for 911? Which one is 611 again? Have you seen my sunglasses? Oh, sorry—wrong number.



Travel Advisories

Canada is generally considered a safe place, but exercising caution, especially where your health or money is concerned, is always smart. In crowded areas, it's a good idea to conceal your valuables either in a money belt, under a neck brace, or in a small balloon that you've swallowed.

In order to ensure that your credit cards work in Canada, notify your bank that you're leaving the country. Calling your bank is also a great way to hear 40 minutes of acoustic guitar hold music. And remember: Your call will be monitored for quality assurance purposes.



- **Crime**

From the moment you arrive in Canada, you are subject to Canadian laws. This means no more potty mouth, roughhousing, horseplay, tomfoolery, clowning around, or shenanigans.

For a realistic look at Canada's justice system, track down a copy of *Bon Cop, Bad Cop*, the highest grossing Canadian movie of all time.

- **In Case of Emergency**

Nobody ever plans a trip with the expectation that the worst will happen, but it's best to be prepared. In case of medical emergency, fire, or

violent crime, call 911 immediately. Professional emergency workers will be dispatched right away. Although beware—

Canadians operate at an elevated level of politeness that may work to your disadvantage. While the average passerby is more than willing to help, nobody would want to embarrass you by pointing out that your coat is on fire.

• Imprisonment

There are two types of Canadian jail: *jail* jail and the drunk tank. We don't know too much about *jail* jail, but from what we hear, the drunk tank is actually pretty fun. Kyle once ended up in the drunk tank, and he said it wasn't too bad. The cops were mostly pretty nice, and it didn't go on his record or anything.

NOTE: Nobody ever really plans on ending up in the drunk tank, but as a precaution, many Canadians simply bring a pillow along with them when they hit the bars. Visitors are encouraged to do the same.

While Canadian police wear uniforms, as of 2014 police officers in Saskatoon observe “casual Friday.” So if you're pulled over by a guy wearing a Hawaiian shirt in an unmarked police car, don't worry—it's a police officer.

The Internet

The Internet is relatively new to Canada. Until just a few years ago, email, Google searches, weather reports, and cat videos were still being delivered by Canada Post. Now a wide

variety of three Internet providers proudly offer the world's most expensive—and slowest—connection to the web.

Canada has permission to access almost all of the information the web has to offer, but be warned: geo-blocking is one of the most popular pastimes in the country. If you've chosen to visit Canada because you want to stream the newest music videos or Super Bowl commercials, you are travelling to the wrong place.

Television

To be clear, Canada has televisions. Meaning it has the boxes that play television shows. It has long been a belief that Canada also makes television programs, but these are very hard to come by. Local knowledge dictates that most shows worth watching in Canada are provided by American broadcasters.

WARNING: You may find yourself watching a television show that you assume is real, presented by a U.S. network, when all of a sudden a character will spit out an undeniable “ooot” or “about,” or, even worse, a supposed Chicago street scene is ruined by a passing Toronto streetcar. When this happens, stay calm—you’ve stumbled on a Canadian show. Simply change the channel until you’re certain you’re watching a program made with a budget over \$150,000.

If you’re watching a period piece with the word “Wind,” “Road,” “Green,” or “Mysteries” in the title, that’s also a Canadian program.

Canadian Money

If you’re travelling with any currency above a value of \$10,000, you must declare it to Canada Customs at the border. The officer will likely be very impressed, and may even ask to take a selfie with the actual cash money. Also, let us know. We’d like to get a taste.

Canada’s currency is called the “dollar,” which is pronounced “dollar.” A one-dollar coin is called a “loonie,” a two-dollar coin is a “toonie,” and a nine-dollar coin is a “hoonie noonie.” New coins are minted daily to reflect the Queen’s almost endless supply of new hats.

Travel Tip

Remember, you can’t visit all of Canada in one day. It’s best to break your trip up into manageable chunks. In fact, the Olde English meaning of “province” is “manageable chunk.”



Unit Conversion

It can be difficult to adjust to the metric system if you come from the one country that doesn't use it. Here's a tip: The words "metre" and "litre" can be used interchangeably. Graham the Gram is Canada's official metric mascot. He made his debut at the 1974 Measuring Games.

Canada also uses a number of other unit measures that you'll want to familiarize yourself with before you arrive:

1 Kilometre = 0.621 Miles

1 Litre = 0.264 Gallons

1 Kilo = An amount of drugs the police would show off after a bust
10 Degrees Celsius = 1 Pretty Nice Day

1 Quartz = 2 Quarts

1 Baker's Dozen = 13 Doughnuts

1 Banker's Dozen = 13 Dollars

1 Uvula = That hangy-down thing at the back of your throat

1 *Dragon's Den* = 1 *Shark Tank*



Canadian bills have several security features. The best way to test for authenticity is to run over a bill with a lawnmower. If it gets shredded into a thousand pieces, it's real.

For those who are travelling with large amounts of cash, we always advise that you don't flash it around in public. Consider travellers' cheques, especially if you'll be visiting in 1988.

If you really must have cash, exchanging foreign money is a breeze. Bring a briefcase full of your country's currency to any Canadian post office. The postal workers will exchange your money for a collectible edition of Shania Twain postage stamps. You can use these stamps to write to the bank and ask for some real money.

PLACES TO GO: O CANADA!

• Parliament Hill

These stone buildings in Ottawa are some of Canada's most iconic symbols. Walking through these hallowed halls, you're instantly awestruck at the rich history of the world's 109th oldest country. The building features carvings and stained glass windows depicting the nation's history, as well as oak doors, for that oaky smell.

If you're looking for ideas to decorate your foyer, this is the place for you! It has 19 more foyers than the White House, twice as many as the Kremlin, and a third as many as Buckingham Palace. So, how many foyers does it have? (Pssst... It's 22.)

The building was built in the Modern Gothic Revival style, so make sure you dress in your Gothic clothing: black cloaks, fingerless gloves, and plenty of eyeliner.

Tours

For politicos, a guided tour is a must. It's the only way to get full access to the House of Commons. Maybe you'll catch a glimpse of lawmakers debating a piece of legislation, not listening to one another, and congratulating themselves by clapping, pounding on their desks, and yelling, "hear, hear," or jeering opponents by hissing and sarcastically clicking their tongues. It's a beautiful thing to see democracy at work.

And visit the Senate on Wednesdays for 99-cent wings and oil wrestling.

Travel Tip

Aluminum cans are currency in Canada.

If you find yourself 5 or 10 cents short when making a purchase, you CAN always pay with a CAN.

Statues

If you take a walk around the Parliament grounds, you'll see that the buildings are surrounded by a series of wonderful sculptures depicting the Fathers of Confederation and some famous historical figures and moments, including:

- John A. Macdonald
- Laura Secord and the Butter Bite Riots
- Louis Vuitton
- Simon Fraser and the Unfrozen Tree
- The Horse on Horseback
- John Diefenbaker
- The Rusty Dilettante Affair
- Canada Hat

• Golf Course National Park • Prince Edward Island

Dramatic cliffs rise from turquoise waters along the 18 majestic fairways of Canada's most beautiful and exclusive National Park. Ancient trees block your approach, while diverse wetlands and deep bunkers house plenty of local wildlife. Native species include the red-faced boomer, the drunken whooper, and Dean, who has been cutting the greens a little too long lately.

While every other National Park in Canada costs between \$0 and \$57 for an annual pass, Golf Course National Park visitors pay a one-time \$70,000 fee, plus \$350 monthly and a reasonable per-use cost. Plan your trip early because there is an eight-year waitlist.

Amenities

The facilities at Golf Course National Park make every other national park look like a pile of puke. Most National Parks have campsites, snack bars, and maybe indoor washrooms. Golf Course has a clubhouse, a dining room, a cigar room, motorized



Entrance to Golf Course National Park



carts, caddies, locker rooms, patios, a pro shop, and a 19th hole. Take that, Bruce Peninsula and your crummy visitors' centre! Sit on it, Forillon and your self-service laundry!

History

Golf Course is the only National Park that is also a National Historic Site, because of that one time Barry hit a hole-in-one.

- **Turks and Caicos**

Turks and Caicos is a group of islands located in the Caribbean Sea, a short six-hour plane ride from Toronto (nine if you stop in Miami). The islands are populated almost entirely by Canadian vacationers, along with a few local bartenders, tour guides, masseuses, and chambermaids. There may be other residents,

but it's hard to see over the walls of the resorts, especially if you have reservations for the all-you-can-eat lobster buffet. While it's not official, we're hoping the government will have come to their senses and made it the 11th province by the time this book is published.

This Ain't Your Daddy's Canada

Turks and Caicos receives 99 percent of Canada's annual sunlight and produces 100 percent of Canada's annual conch shells. However, it only produces 3 percent of Canada's annual reggae music, with the other 97 percent produced by cover bands at the University of Waterloo.

Don't Pack!

Flying from Toronto in the middle of winter? Follow the lead of every single other person on your flight, and wear shorts and flip-flops to the airport. "Did they leave their coats in the parking lot?" you'll ask. "Did they get dropped off and race through the curbside slush with bare legs?" We may never know, but straw hats and colourful sarongs can be purchased at Pearson International's many kiosks.

Did You Know?

Until last year the Canadian government required all businesses to impose a strict "No Shoes, No Shirt, No Service" policy. Often viewing this as an archaic rule, Canadians collectively rejoiced

upon learning the law would no longer be enforced. To experience progress at work, why not go shopping for a Slurpee while barefoot or head to Kinkos for some topless photocopying?



Canada Before



Canada After

