

## CHALLENGES TO WORKING IN CANADA

### Communication Skills

---



Newcomers may face challenges finding a job in Canada. Statistics Canada identifies four labour market challenges faced by newcomers to Canada. One challenge is communication skills.

Canada has two official languages: English and French. Depending on where you decide to live, you might be required to work in English, French, or in both languages.

### The Importance of Language Skills for Working in Canada

A **newcomer's** ability to communicate and work in English or French is important to finding a job. Learning English or French is a challenge for many newcomers.

Many organizations such as **educational institutions**, **regulatory bodies** and **employers** may ask you for proof of your language skills. Getting proof, such as language test results, will cost you money. Some organizations only accept certain types of tests. Check with the organization before you take a language assessment to ask:

- Are there special language requirements?
- What language test results are needed?
- Where can I get tested?

### Getting Your Language Skills Tested

If you don't know what your English or French language level is, visit one of the Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC) centers. The LINC centers will test your language level and direct you to the appropriate language training program.

### Improving Your Language Skills

The federal government provides free language training programs for adult newcomers to Canada in cooperation with provinces, territories and non-governmental organizations.

- The Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC) 🇨🇦 [[www.cic.gc.ca](http://www.cic.gc.ca)] program provides basic English language and literacy classes.
- The Enhanced Language Training (ELT) 🇨🇦 [[www.cic.gc.ca](http://www.cic.gc.ca)] program provides advanced level and job-specific language training.

Some provinces have language training programs that are different from LINC and ELT.

- In British Columbia, the government provides the *English Language Services for Adults (ELSA)* program,
- In Manitoba, basic English language training is provided through the *ENTRY* program.
- In Québec, to improve your French language skills, contact *the Ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés Culturelles (MICC)* 🌐 [[www.micc.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.micc.gouv.qc.ca)].
- There are also many other organizations in Canada that offer English and French language programs that you must pay for. Visit the Studying in Canada section of the [www.goingtocanada.gc.ca](http://www.goingtocanada.gc.ca) 🇨🇦 Web site for a list of English and French language programs across Canada.

#### **TIP**

If you would like to practice your English, the guide "Practice English on your Own" developed by the Metropolitan Immigrant Settlement Association (MISA) has some great ideas and resources for English Language Learners.