



ARCHIVED – Notice – New Citizenship Certificate

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January 26, 2012 — The document which Citizenship and Immigration Canada issues to prove Canadian citizenship will be changing soon. As of February 1st, 2012, CIC (Citizenship and Immigration Canada) will no longer produce the current plastic wallet-sized citizenship certificate. Instead of the wallet-sized card, new citizens and those applying for proof of citizenship will receive a letter-sized paper citizenship certificate, which will display information that can be validated through a new electronic validation system.

This certificate will also replace the commemorative certificate which is currently presented to new Canadians at citizenship ceremonies.

The new certificate will contain a unique number and basic information about its holder, such as names, date of birth and gender. This will allow other government departments to validate citizenship information via an electronic validation system, reducing the possibility of citizenship fraud.

The electronic validation system will be made available to Passport Canada, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Service Canada in February 2012.

Like the plastic card, the new certificate is a legal status document, not an identity document or a travel document. Unlike the plastic card, the new certificate will not contain a photo. The citizenship certificate's sole purpose is to prove Canadian citizenship.

Recipients of the new certificate who are scheduled for a citizenship ceremony will need to wait at least two business days after their ceremony before they can apply for services such as a passport.

Citizenship certificates issued before February 1, 2012, remain valid. This means that any Canadian who currently holds a citizenship certificate does not need to apply for a replacement.

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Date modified:

2010-12-26



Documents that prove your Canadian citizenship

- [Valid proofs of Canadian citizenship](#)
- [Invalid proofs of Canadian citizenship](#)

Valid proofs of Canadian citizenship

If you need to prove that you're a Canadian citizen, find out

- [what documents you can use](#)
- [when and how to use them](#)

Documents you can use

You can use these documents to prove your Canadian citizenship:

- ✓ [citizenship certificates](#)
 - [electronic certificates \(e-certificates\)](#)
 - [paper certificates](#)
 - [older paper citizenship certificates](#)
- ✓ [citizenship cards](#)
- ✓ [other acceptable proofs](#) like

- some birth certificates
- naturalization certificates

✓ Citizenship certificates

A citizenship certificate is an official document that proves your Canadian citizenship. You'll get the certificate **after we approve your application**

- to become a Canadian citizen (citizenship grant).
- for a Canadian citizenship certificate
- to resume your Canadian citizenship after giving it up

When you apply, you need to choose between the electronic **or** paper format of the certificate in your application.

▶ Exceptions for some citizenship applications

Electronic certificates (e-certificates)

The e-certificate is the digital format of the citizenship certificate. It's a **valid proof of Canadian citizenship** that has

- a certificate number that starts with an "X"
 - This is the **only** difference with a paper certificate (where the number starts with a "K")
- your unique client identifier (UCI)
- your family name and given name(s)
- your date of birth
- your gender (male, female or another gender)
- the effective date of citizenship

Learn more about e-certificates, including how to

- download and print the e-certificate
- contact us if there are any issues

Example of an e-certificate



Paper certificates

A paper certificate is a 8½ x 11-inch document that's **valid proof of citizenship**. It has the same information as an e-certificate:

- the certificate number that starts with a **"K"**
 - This is the **only** difference with an electronic certificate (where the number starts with an **"X"**)
- your unique client identifier (UCI)
- your family name and given name(s)
- your date of birth
- your gender (male, female or another gender)
- the effective date of citizenship

Example of a paper citizenship certificate



Older paper citizenship certificates

We gave out different citizenship certificates in the past. These older certificates are still **valid as proof** of Canadian citizenship.

Examples of older citizenship certificates



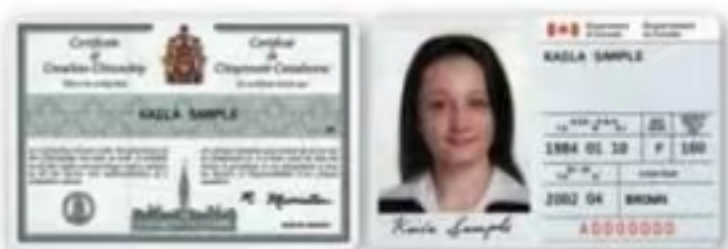
✓ Citizenship cards

We stopped giving citizenship cards and the commemorative certificates that came with them in February 2012.

If you have a citizenship card, it's still a **valid proof** of Canadian citizenship.

- The date on your citizenship card is **not** the date you became a Canadian citizen (it's the date we produced the card).
- To update or replace your citizenship card, apply for a citizenship certificate.

Example of a citizenship card



✓ Other acceptable proofs

- **birth certificates** from a Canadian province or territory (there are exceptions)
- **naturalization certificates** issued before January 1, 1947
- **registration of birth abroad certificates** issued between January 1, 1947 and February 14, 1977
- **certificates of retention** issued between January 1, 1947 and February 14, 1977

When and how to use a proof of citizenship

You can use the proof document as evidence of your Canadian citizenship when applying for

- ✓ a Canadian passport
- ✓ a pension or government benefit
- ✓ your social insurance number (SIN)
- ✓ a job

✓ and more

Make sure you follow the instructions for your application.

- You may have to submit the original or a copy of the proof.
- If you have an e-certificate, you may need to print it.

You **cannot** use a proof of citizenship as

✗ a passport or travel document

✗ an identity document

- A citizenship proof is evidence of your Canadian citizenship, but it **doesn't** prove your identity.



Don't re-laminate or laminate your proof of citizenship

Re-laminating or laminating a proof of citizenship document will make it **invalid**.

If you have a citizenship **card**, it was already laminated when you received it from us. You must not re-laminate the card (even if the original lamination peeled) because it will

- blur the security features of the original laminate
- make it difficult to detect a fake card

If you have **other** proofs (such as a printed e-certificate, paper citizenship certificate or birth certificate), don't laminate them because it can affect the readability of the document.

Protect your proof of citizenship

To prevent loss, misuse or fraud, be sure to keep your proof of citizenship document in a **secure location** (whether it's a digital file or paper document).

If you lost a proof of citizenship document

You can replace a lost proof of citizenship document. How you replace it depends on the type of proof that was lost.

Type of proof	How to replace it
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Citizenship certificate• Citizenship card• Naturalization certificate• Registration of birth abroad certificate• Certificate of retention	You can <u>apply for a citizenship certificate</u> .
Canadian birth certificate	Contact the provincial or territorial authority that issued your birth certificate. You can also <u>apply for a citizenship certificate</u> . <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This will give you a citizenship certificate and not a birth certificate (if we approve your application).

Date modified:

2024-09-11