

Common identification

This is a list of the most common identification required to access benefits.

In Canada, there are many benefits that can increase your income. You usually need some type of identification to apply for these benefits. For some people, the barriers to getting this essential documentation can stop them from getting benefits. Helping a person obtain the identification they need to get benefits can increase their financial and overall well-being.

The examples below illustrate the common forms of identification that benefits require, but you should check what is specifically needed for a certain benefit before helping a client with getting ID.

Type of ID	Common examples
Health Card	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Valid health card with no photo, name and address (may not always be accepted)• Valid health card with photo, name and address• MCP (Medical Care Plan) number• Valid ambulance/dental services card• Department of Immigration, Skills and Labour identification number• Department of Immigration, Skills and Labour file number (Income Support Card)
Photo ID	<p>A government-issued document with your photo, name, and date of birth on it.</p> <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Driver's license• Passport• Other government-issued photo ID, such as a non-driver photo ID (Saskatchewan), British Columbia Services Card, Ontario photo card, General identification card (Nunavut), Voluntary ID (PEI), etc.
Proof of birth	<p>A document with first name, last name, and date of birth.</p> <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Birth certificate or birth registration• Hospital record of birth or record of the physician/nurse/midwife who attended the birth• Passport• Record of landing or confirmation of permanent residence issued by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada• Citizenship certificate• Note of decision or temporary resident's permit issued under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act• Certificate of Indian status card• Provincial identity card

<p>Proof of death</p>	<p>A document that provides the name, date, and place of death. The document must also be on official letterhead or contain a seal and provide the name and/or signature of the person or authority issuing the document.</p> <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burial certificate or death certificate • Certification of death from another country • Life or Group Insurance Claim along with a statement signed by a medical doctor • Medical Certification of Death • Memorandum of Notification of Death issued by the Chief of National Defence Staff • Notarial copy of Letters of Probate • Official Death Certificate • Official Notification from the Public Trustee for a Province or Territory • Registration of Death • Statement of a medical doctor, coroner, or funeral director • Statement of Verification of Death from the Department of Veterans Affairs
<p>Proof of legal status</p>	<p>A document showing citizenship or immigration status in Canada.</p> <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizenship certificate • Confirmation document • Record of landing, confirmation of permanent residence; • permanent resident card • visitor record • temporary resident permit • study permit • positive notice of decision • verification of status document • registration date with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada • passport or foreign passport
<p>Proof of marital/common-law status</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marriage certificate • Statutory Declaration of Common-law Union

<p>Proof of primary responsibility for the care and upbringing of the child</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A letter from the day care or school authorities indicating the child's home address and contact information on file • A letter from a social worker, physician, a band council, or a resettlement officer stating that they have personal knowledge that the child lived with you for the period you indicated • A registration form or a receipt from an activity or club the child was enrolled in for the period you indicated • A court order, decree, or separation agreement that explains the type of custody arrangement you have (for example, shared custody) and clearly shows the living arrangements for the child • Any other document showing that the child lived with you for the period you indicated
<p>Proof of residency in province</p>	<p>Documentation that proves you live in the province you claim to.</p> <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lease agreement • Rent receipt • Household bill • Gas • Electricity • Cable television • Telephone • Driver's license • Vehicle registration or car insurance • Membership in social or professional organization <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank information • Employment information
<p>Proof of housing situation</p>	<p>Documentation that proves your current housing situation.</p> <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter from landlord about your housing situation • Eviction notice • Disconnection notice • Police report about an incident involving your housing • Moving company quote or invoice • List of repairs needed in home • List of expenses for renovations needed for independence in the home • Proof of home ownership (mortgage, property ownership)
<p>Proof of residency in Canada</p>	<p>A document that displays your name and current home address and confirms that your primary place of residence is in the province or territory that is providing the benefit.</p> <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driver's license • Mortgage, rental or lease agreement • Child Tax Benefit Statement

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employer record (pay stub or letter from employer on company letterhead) • Income tax assessment (most recent) • Insurance policy (home, tenant, auto or life) • Monthly mailed bank account statements for savings or chequing accounts (does not include receipts, bank books, letters or automated teller receipts) • Mortgage, rental or lease agreement • Motor Vehicle Permit (plate or vehicle portions) • Property tax bill • School, college or university report card or transcript • Statement of Direct Deposit for social assistance or income assistance in your province or territory (for example, Disability Assistance, Hardship Assistance, Income Support, Assured Income, Social Solidarity, etc.) • Statement of Employment Insurance Benefits Paid T4E • Statement of Old Age Security T4A (OAS) or Statement of Canada Pension Plan Benefits T4A (P) • Statement of Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP), Registered Retirement Income Fund (RRIF), or Registered Home Ownership Savings Plan (RHOSP) from a financial institution (bank, trust company, credit union) • Utility bill received by mail (home telephone, cable TV, public utilities commission, hydro, gas, water) • Valid Provincial or Territorial Driver's Licence • Temporary Driver's Licence (you must also show a photo license card with the same address) • Workplace Safety and Insurance Board Statement of Benefits T5007 • Canada Pension Plan Statement of Contribution • Valid Photo Identification
Social Insurance Number (SIN)	<p>A SIN number is a 9-digit number that allows you to work in Canada or access government programs and benefits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmation of SIN letter • Plastic SIN card (non-expired)
Notice of Assessment (NOA)	<p>A statement from Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) to each taxpayer, every year, after you have filed a tax return. It tells you the amount of income tax you owe, or the amount of the refund you will get.</p>
Certificate of Indian Status	<p>A document showing that you are registered as an Indian under the Indian Act. For example, a Secure Certificate of Indian Status (secure status card) or a Certificate of Indian Status (status card).</p>
Record of Employment	<p>This is an official form, filled out by your employer, that says how long you worked and how much you earned when you worked for that employer. When you leave your job for whatever reason, your employer must give you a Record of Employment within 5 days after your last day of employment.</p>
Rental form or lease agreement	<p>An agreement between you and your landlord that says where the residence you are renting is located and the terms of your rent.</p>

Pay stubs	A document (can be paper or digital) that your employer gives to you each time you are paid. It says how much you were paid, and how much was deducted (taken away) from your pay for things like taxes and other benefits (like Employment Insurance).
Bank statements	A document that is sent by your bank (usually every month) that lists all the transactions for your bank account during that month. Can also be a printed copy of your online statement.
Statement of disability	A certificate signed by a medical practitioner, learning disability assessment, document of federal or provincial disability assistance receipt.
Proof of expenses / cost estimates	For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receipts • Fuel • Electricity or oil consumption bills • Services and equipment estimates • Medical expenses • Student loans • Property taxes • Mortgage payments • All others
Proof of primary responsibility for an adult	For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power of attorney for care • Power of attorney for property
Proof of income	For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay stubs • Pension statements (Canada Pension Plan, Old Age Security) • Rental property income • Income tax returns • Income tax notice of assessment • Business/rental/farming income • Disability or veterans affairs pension • Child and spousal support payments • GST credit
Proof of school enrollment	For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-secondary student ID # • Letter of acceptance • Post-secondary degree • Canada Student Loan • Provincial Student Loan
Proof of Post-secondary degree	For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degree/transcripts