

Immigrating to Isle Madame

INFORMATION TOOLKIT

1.0 Education

Secondary Schools

Provincial and territorial governments administer the secondary school system in Canada.

For inquiries about all levels of education in Nova Scotia, please contact:

Nova Scotia Department of Education.....1-902-424-5168
Website.....www.ednet.ns.ca

Public schools are financed through taxes and are free. School attendance is compulsory from age six to sixteen.

Preschool/Daycare

Preschool children may attend the Isle Madame Day Care or La garderie des petites étoiles but space is limited and you must register early.

Isle Madame Day Care.....902-226-0399
La garderie des petites étoiles.....902-226-0058

Finding Childcare

Once you are registered in school, you may need to register your children into a childcare centre or daycare. This is a wonderful opportunity for children to learn English and they will be better prepared when they start school. Please note, not all programs will take young babies.

You will be responsible to arrange and pay for your own childcare; it is not the responsibility of employers. If your income is low, you may be eligible to

receive government assistance to help pay for day care. Only some day care centers will take children on a subsidy. There may be a waiting list. When you apply for subsidy you must have the following information:

- Your income
- Rent payments
- Debt payments
- Food bills
- Other expenses

School Holidays

Schools in Canada are closed in July and August so that everyone can enjoy the warm summer weather. There is also a two-week vacation at Christmas and New Year, and one-week vacation in March called March Break. Holidays occur at Heritage Day (third Monday in February), Easter (March or April), Queen Victoria's Birthday (Monday before May 24), Thanksgiving (second Monday in October) and Remembrance Day (November 11). Several times a year, classes are cancelled so that teachers can attend Professional Development Days. During the winter, school is sometimes cancelled when the weather is very bad. School closings are announced on the radio.

Special Needs Programs

For programs for children with special needs contact the Strait Regional School Board.

French Language

Contact the school administration at Conseil scolaire acadien provincial at csap.ednet.ns.ca.

Post-Secondary Education

If English is not your first language, you may want to improve your vocabulary by taking some courses in your area of expertise. You may also want to take other courses like writing skills. For University admission, you may be asked to take a test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). For information on English Second Language (ESL) training in the Isle Madame area, please contact the Richmond County Literacy Association at 902-226-0383 for a list of times and instructors.

Student Loans and Bursaries

Tuition fees are required at all post-secondary schools. You may be eligible for special assistance in paying the fees. Inquire at the schools' business offices, MISA or the Department of Community services. Money can sometimes be borrowed from Student Aid and paid back when your education is completed. Contact the student aid office at the school/university or:

Nova Scotia Student Assistance Office.....1-800-565-8420

National Student Loans Services Centre-Students attending public institutions1-888-815-4514

Adult Education

Universities, Colleges and the School Board offer adult education programs in basic academic subjects, recreation and general interest. Their brochures are available at the Eastern Counties Regional Library which has one branch in the Isle Madame area. For further information please contact:

Petit de Grat Library

3435 Highway 206, P.O. Box 151, Petit de Grat, NS, B0E 2L0

Phone/Fax: (902) 226-3534 E-Mail: pétitdeg@nsme.library.ns.ca

Universities offer continuing education programs for credit or general interest in the evenings and at summer school. For further information:

Nova Scotia Community College (Port Hawkesbury).....902-625-2380

Nautical Institute (Port Hawkesbury).....902-625-4228

Richmond Academy (Louisdale).....902-345-4949

C.S.A.P. (Conseil scolaire acadien provincial)902-226-5230

Richmond County Literacy Association.....902-226-0383

Cape Breton University (Sydney).....1-902-563-1136

St Francis Xavier University (Antigonish).....1-902-863-3300

2.0 Cultural Orientation

People, who speak your language, come from your country and/or have common interests, can help you ease your transition to a new country. There are many sources of support.

Cultural Associations

Multicultural Association of Nova Scotia (MANS).....1-902-423-6534
1113 Marginal Rd., Halifax, NS, B3H 4P7

Website.....www.mans.ns.ca/index.html

E-mail.....admin@mans.ns.ca

3.0 Municipal Services

Police and Emergency Services

911

Nova Scotia is serviced by a 911 emergency response system. For all emergencies (fire, medical and police services) please call 911. Please ensure that the civic number for your property is visible and be prepared to provide the operator with your location and contact information.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)

Isle Madame is serviced by a local branch of the RCMP, located on Highway 206 in West Arichat. For emergencies during regular work hours (8:30 AM to 4:30 PM) please call 902-226-2533 or 911 after hours.

Crime Stoppers

To report criminal activity to the police, Cape Breton Island is serviced by a Crime Stoppers tip line, where informants can anonymously notify the RCMP of known criminal activity. You do not need to divulge any personal information that could identify you – the goal is for you to remain anonymous.

To assist the investigators, please keep your story clear and concise, including where, when, why, how and what.

To report a crime, please call 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS)

Keep your tip number confidential. Do not give it to anyone. You will never have to give your name or testify in court and you may be eligible for a cash reward. Crime Stoppers does not have call display or caller ID.

Fire Safety

Isle Madame Fire Services are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to assist in emergencies such as fires, automobile accidents, and search and rescue. To contact the Fire Department in case of emergency, please dial 911.

The Volunteer Fire Department is located on Hwy 320 in Arichat and new members are always welcome.

Garbage Collection

Garbage is collected regularly on a specific day. Place your garbage in clear bags for regular garbage and blue bags for recyclable items like newspapers, glass bottles, cans and plastic bottles. This keeps our community clean and environmentally friendly. Back yard composting is required for biodegradable items.

For information on curbside pick up, recycling or back yard composting, please contact:

Municipality County of Richmond
Public Works Dept.....902-226-2400

4.0 Owning and Operating a Car

A car is a major expense and responsibility. To find out what's involved, obtain the *Driver's Handbook* (free) from the Registry of Motor vehicles located in Port Hawkesbury.

The Registry of Motor Vehicles.....1-800-898-7668

Driver's License

A license from a foreign country may be used in Nova Scotia for 90 days. To obtain a Nova Scotia license, a written exam, a vision test and a driving test must be passed. If you cannot write in English, you may take an oral test. The minimum age for the test is 18 years, or 16 with parents' consent. Be sure to carry your license with you at all times when driving. Note the "expiry date" on the license. If the license is not renewed by this date, you will need to take the above noted tests again.

Learning to Drive

Apply for a Learners License from the Registry of Motor Vehicles. For a list of driving schools, look in the Yellow Pages under "Driving Instruction."

Vehicle Registration

Apply for vehicle registration at the Registry of Motor Vehicles. You will receive a Certificate of Registration (to be kept in a safe place), a Motor Vehicle Permit (to be kept in the car), and a sticker for the back license plate with the expiry date. Bi-annual (every two years) renewal forms will be sent to you by mail. You can renew in person, by mail or on the Internet.

Safety Inspection

A bi-annual safety inspection is compulsory. This may be done at any garage displaying the sign “Official Inspection Station.” A sticker giving the month of expiry will be applied to your car’s front windshield.

Purchasing a new or used vehicle

You may chose to buy a new or used vehicle car from a variety of Car Dealers across Cape Breton Island (see “Automobile Dealers – Used Cars” in the Yellow Pages). You may also wish to buy a used car through a private sale (family/friend member or classified ad in the local newspaper). Check that:

- The car has had a recent safety check;
- The registration is valid. Call the Registry of Motor Vehicles to ensure that the name and address on the registration is identical with that on the driver’s license;
- The car has not been used as collateral for a loan, as it can be seized if the loan is not repaid.

Winter Road Conditions

Winter driving can be hazardous at times. It is recommended that either snow or all-season tires be well maintained during the winter season. If road conditions are icy, use extreme caution; avoid driving unless the roads have been cleared and salted.

For winter road information call.....511

Seat belts and car seats

Nova Scotia law requires that adults and youth wear seat belts at all times while driving. Infants must be placed in approved car seats.

5.0 Recreation Clubs

Isle Madame ATV Riders Association Tony Pierce.....	902-226-9601
Janvrin's Island Sports & Recreation Association Brian Rose.....	902-227-8482
Rocky Bay Irish Club Alice Doyle.....	902-226-3463
Richmond County Wildlife Association Hubert Doyle.....	902-226-2856
Isle Madame Tourism and Trade Association Lisa Boudreau.....	info@imtta.ca
North Isle Madame Community Access Society Ronnie LeBlanc.....	902-226-2954
Royal Canadian Sea Cadets 824 Jarrod David.....	902-226-0288
Royal Canadian Legion Br 150 Ladies Aux Aurine Richard.....	902-226-3089
Royal Canadian Legion Br 150 Donald Goyetche.....	902-226-3089
New Horizons Seniors Club Velma Martell.....	902-226-1915
Isle Madame Fire Dept Eugene Samson.....	902-226-3660
St Anne Centre Ladies Aux Margaret Herdman.....	902-226-2880

Telile Community Television
Cora LeBlanc.....902-226-1928

Little Anse Social Action Club
Alexander or Rod Samson902-226-2001