

Friendliest city in the world

Vancouver is a friendly city.

A new survey says it is the “friendliest city in the world.”

Big 7 Travel did the survey. The company asked 1.5 million people to decide.

Vancouver was voted number one.



What makes Vancouver friendly?

- The people are friendly.
- Visitors feel welcome and safe.
- Locals help tourists.
- It is easy to socialize.



Adapted from Vancouver is Awesome; bigseventravel.com Photo: Wikimedia Commons/InSapphoWeTrust from L.A., California

Rainbow crosswalk

North Vancouver has a rainbow coloured crosswalk. The rainbow crosswalk is at Lonsdale Avenue and 14th Street.

People used the crosswalk for the first time on August 16.

A welcome symbol

Rainbows are a symbol of the LGBTQ2+ community.

The North Shore Pride Alliance asked for the crosswalk. It asked the City of North Vancouver to welcome gay people.

“The rainbow flag is a beacon of light to all who feel alone,” said Christopher Bolton, co-founder of the Alliance.

A city for everyone

Mayor Linda Buchanan was one of the first people to use the crosswalk. She joined arms with Christopher Bolton to walk together.

“I’m very proud of our rainbow crosswalk,” said Mayor Buchanan of the City of North Vancouver. “Everyone is welcome in our city.”

Adapted from City of North Vancouver News Release • Photo: City of North Vancouver



This is the rainbow crosswalk in North Vancouver.

Did you know?

LGBTQ2+ is short for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (or sometimes questioning) and two-spirited.

Home sharing

Many young people cannot afford a home. Many seniors have an empty bedroom in their house.

Now, a new service helps seniors share their homes with young people. The service is called Happipad.

How does it work?

Happipad is a home sharing company. Its head office is in Kelowna, BC.

Seniors use the Happipad website to rent out a room. They write about their habits, lifestyle and personality. The online system helps find a renter who is a good match.

How does it help?

Cailin Libby is the co-founder of Happipad. He says home sharing helps everyone save on bills.

“It allows seniors to have some social connections and perhaps some extra income to let them stay in their homes,” said Libby.

Young people save on rent and find a home they can afford.

Adapted from CBC News • Photo: Pixabay



This is a senior and a young woman.

Canada Votes 2019

Canada votes in October 📅

Canada is holding a general election. The election is on October 21.

What are we voting for?

Voters elect 338 Members of Parliament (MPs). Most MPs belong to a political party.

The party with 170 or more elected MPs forms the government.

The leader of the party becomes the Prime Minister.

Why should I vote?

When you vote, you are taking a stand on issues that are important to Canadians.

You are choosing a person or a political party that shares your views on:

- health care
- education
- economy
- human rights
- environment
- taxes
- security

Sometimes a MP wins by only a few votes. Your vote could decide the winner.

Who can vote?

You can vote in this federal election if you:

- are a Canadian citizen
- will be 18 or older on election day
- register to vote in advance or when you go to vote



This is Parliament Hill in Ottawa.



This is a ballot.

How to vote 📅

The first thing you need to do is check to see if you are registered to vote. You can check at elections.ca/register. You can also check to make sure your address is correct.

How do I register to vote?

You can register online, by mail or by calling 1-800-463-6868. You will receive a voter information card in the mail. It will tell you where your polling station is.

You can still register at your polling station on Election Day. It just takes a bit longer.

Where do I vote?

Go to your polling station. Polls are open for 12 hours. Bring your government ID with your photo, name and address.

What happens at the polling station?

Election workers will check to see if you are registered. They will check your ID. Then they will write their initials on a ballot. They will fold it and hand it to you.

How do I vote?

1. Take your ballot behind a voting screen.
2. Mark an X for the candidate you want to elect.
3. Fold your ballot.
4. Give your ballot back to the election worker. They will tear off a tab and give your ballot back to you.
5. Put your ballot in the box.

Congratulations. You just voted!

Learn more at elections.ca

Adapted from *A Guide to Voting: A Literacy Practitioner Workbook for Voting in the 2019 Federal Election* – ABC Life Literacy Canada, abclifeliteracy.ca;

Photos: [wikimediacommons/Saffron Blaze](#), Elections Canada, [Wikimedia Commons/Canada Votes 2008](#), [Flickr/ishmael n. daro](#)



This is a polling station.

Did you know?

- You can vote before Election Day. This is called advance voting.
- Your employer must make sure you have three hours off in a row to vote.
- You can ask for an interpreter in your own language to be at the polling station. You need to ask before October 14.

Spooky places

Some places are spooky. People hear or see strange things.

Some people believe in ghosts. They say spooky places are haunted by ghosts. What do you believe?

Here are some spooky places in BC:

Fairmont Hotel Vancouver

Guests and hotel staff say they have seen a woman in a red dress on the 14 floor. They call her “Lady in Red.” Some people believe she is the ghost of Jennie Pearl Cox. Jennie liked to go to parties at the hotel. She died in a car crash in 1944.



This is the Fairmont Hotel.

Tranquille Sanatorium, near Kamloops

In 1907, a place was built to treat people with tuberculosis. The children stayed on the 8 floor. The place closed in 1958. Today, people say they still hear children crying on the 8 floor.



This is an old building at the Tranquille Sanatorium.

Craigdarroch Castle, Victoria

The builder of the castle died before it was finished. His daughter died two years later. People say they have seen the ghost of a little girl. People say they have heard soft music playing in the castle.

Waterfront Station, Vancouver

The train station is called “the most haunted building in Vancouver.” A security guard says he saw the ghost of a woman dancing by herself. She was wearing clothes from the 1920s. People say they have seen the ghosts of three old women. They say the three ghosts sit on a bench waiting for the train.



This is Waterfront Station.

Adapted from The Huffington Post BC
Photos: Wikimedia Commons/dronepicr, The Barefoot Nomad/Charles Kosman, Wikimedia Commons/sergfokin, Wikimedia Commons/dronepicr



Scan to watch a news story about the Lady in Red.

Did you know?

Spooky means creepy or scary. People like spooky things at Halloween. Some people dress up as ghosts or skeletons.

Calendar

Thanksgiving



Thanksgiving is October 14. In Canada, Thanksgiving is the second Monday in October. People celebrate. They have a special dinner with their family and friends.

Photo: Flickr

International Day of the Girl



International Day of the Girl is October 11. It celebrates girls and their rights. This year’s theme is “GirlForce: Unscripted and Unstoppable.”

Photo: Flickr

Persons Day



Persons Day is October 18. In 1929, a law was passed. The word “person” changed to include women. This year is the 90th anniversary of Persons Day.

Photo: Wikimedia Commons

Halloween



Halloween is October 31. People make jack-o’-lanterns. Children wear costumes. They knock on their neighbours’ doors. They say, “Trick or Treat.” The neighbours give the children treats.

Photo: Pexels

People

Carley finds her family

Carley Lahaise is 82 years old. She was adopted as a baby. She didn’t know where she came from.

One day her daughter got sick. Carley needed to learn her family history to help.

She sent her DNA to Ancestry.com. Her DNA matched!

She has one brother and two sisters still living. They can’t wait to meet.

Carley says: “It’s like a fairy tale.”

Her father worked on her mother’s family farm. They fell in love. They were young. They gave Carly up for adoption.

Her parents got married as soon as they could. They had seven more children.

Carley is happy to learn this story. She says, “I was a love child.”

Adapted from CBC • Photo: CBC



This is Carley.

“Hunky Bill” dies at 88

Bill Konyk was known for making perogies. He sold perogies at the Pacific National Exhibition for 52 years.

Bill died on August 13. He was 88 years old.

“Hunky Bill”

Bill was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba. His parents were immigrants from Ukraine.

People called him “Hunky Bill” when he was a teenager.

Bill started a food stand in 1967. He called the food stand “Hunky Bill’s House of Perogies.”

Standing up for his name

Some people didn’t like the name “Hunky Bill’s.” They said it was an insult to Ukrainian people.

The Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Association of Vancouver made a human rights complaint in 1980. They wanted Bill to change the name of his food stand.

Bill won the case. He kept the name “Hunky Bill’s.”

Adapted from CBC News • Photo: PNE



This is Hunky Bill.



Scan to learn more about “Hunky Bill”

Ryan gets a gift

Ryan Reynolds is an actor. He was born in Vancouver.

Ryan is married to Blake Lively. She gave Ryan a special gift.

Ryan’s gift

Blake gave Ryan a painting of when he was a paperboy.

In the painting, Ryan is delivering *The Vancouver Sun* to a house. The house is where Ryan grew up in Vancouver.



This is a painting of Ryan Reynolds.

Who else is in the painting?

John Candy is in the painting. He is on the front page of the newspaper.

John Candy was a Canadian comedian. He died in 1994.

Ryan says John Candy is his “idol.”

Ryan loves his gift

“This piece of art is the greatest present my wife has ever given me,” said Ryan.

The painting was made by Danny Galieote.



Scan to watch a news story about Ryan’s painting.

Adapted from Instagram/vancityreynolds
Photo: Instagram/Ryan Reynolds

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