

What Nobody Told You About Canada
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7gnDGBXACFk>
Transcript: <https://dontveter.com/ec/canadaproblems.pdf>

Canada is the best country in the world, it's one of the most welcoming countries in the world and it's one of the most developed countries in the whole world.

We've all heard about this pitch in Canada and some of it is certainly true but in this video we want to talk about some of the unspoken truths about Canada.

It will be about something that doesn't normally come up when talking about Canada but it's definitely going to be something that you will encounter on a daily basis here.

We will cover 8 things that might shock, upset, disgust, or disappoint you about Canada.

And we will try to get to the bottom of why it is the way it is, so let's go let's talk about eight things that nobody told you about Canada.

One of our subscribers who is a newcomer to Canada has recently made a post on our Facebook group expressing her shock about the amount of homeless people wandering the streets in the city.

And that's something that not many people talk about because probably they just get used to it.

Canada is a tolerant and liberal country and that also means that it's tolerant and liberal towards humans of all walks of life.

Homeless people and drug addicts are also people and they are in fact protected from discrimination in Canada by law.

Canada spends more than 2 billion dollars every year to fund social services aimed at helping the country's homeless population and this year this number has doubled.

Homeless people get social aid and have the right to shelter and food.

There are nearly 200,000 government and non-profit organizations around the whole country that address the problem of homelessness.

Canada has gone as far as given the drug addicts their daily dose of drugs.

Yes, Canadian taxpayers pay for drug addicts to shoot up.

They do that to control and address the opioid addiction crisis.

See, it's better for everyone if drug addicts have a safe and controlled environment to do their thing instead of letting them wander on the streets and committing crimes just so that they can get their hands on the next dose.

As a result you will see a lot of homeless and funky people on streets especially in major cities in Canada.

They mostly flock to downtown to beg for pennies and it's not uncommon in each city to have a sketchy neighborhood where you have the whole settlement of homeless folks.

In colder cities this issue is less apparent than in warmer cities like Vancouver and Toronto.

Everyone else just get used to it and eventually you stop noticing it as much.

Mostly those folks are harmless and non-aggressive but don't push your luck.

This topic doesn't get talked about much in Canada because it's so proud of its multiculturalism.

Every fourth person in Canada is an immigrant and there are many neighborhoods in Canada that are predominantly non-white, yet there are many reports of silent and systemic racism in Canada.

And it doesn't get talked about much so we didn't even know about that ourselves until we published our video on why people leave Canada.

And many of you started pointing that out in the comments. Thank you for doing that.

So we looked deeper into the subject and here's what we found.

We stumbled upon some interesting stats, this one in particular is interesting as it reports that according to census Canada, the black population makes less annual income than other non-visible minorities.

Hate crimes are also more likely to be committed against black, Arab and the Asian population and besides the numbers, silent racism is silent for a reason.

Unlike the US, Canada is subtle about it, except for Quebec, maybe.

For instance, in the province of Quebec they openly discriminate against the Muslim population by banning hijabs from employees and government and teaching jobs.

The Quebec officials have also made numerous racist remarks in the past and the worst part is the federal government lets them get away with that.

That's silent racism. If you're not yet convinced pick any bank, go ahead.

Let's look at RBC for example, one of the largest banks in Canada.

Let's open up their leadership page. Oh, look, all white people, not a single non-English last name. How about that as an example of silent racism.

Last but not least, Canada's relationship with indigenous people deserves a special video.

There is some really dark history around how indigenous people, especially children have been treated and arguably still being treated today.

That dark history is something Canada will always be apologizing for.

Before you move to Canada, make sure you do all your medical tests, all your checks and stock up with all your medication in advance, because once you get here it might take a while before you get to see your first doctor.

Hit the like button below if it took you a while to see a family doctor.

We are working on making a full breakdown of how the Healthcare System in Canada works in one of our future videos.

Let us know in the comments below what you want to know and we will include it in that video, but in this video we will cover just a few things.

First of all, Medicare services in Canada are restricted by the government and provincial budgets.

In other words, Canada is just not producing enough doctors to be able to serve its growing population and some of the doctors are simply choosing to practice medicine elsewhere.

One interesting thing we found when doing research for this video is that when Anastasia reached out to a couple of her friend that were studying medicine a while back, and she was surprised to learn that every single one of them have moved to the US.

None of the Canadian med student graduates she knew have stayed in Canada to practice medicine.

They all left, mostly to the US for higher salaries and better working conditions.

Depending on the city and the province you're from, it might take a while for you to find a family doctor.

For instance, in Toronto it took me about four calls to four different clinics in my area before I landed on a doctor that is taking new patients.

He was a fresh graduate, practicing medicine for just three years.

And my experience is considered easy by my friends from Quebec who can be in search for a family doctor for months and months and months.

All older doctors' practices are already full and it's nearly impossible to get an experienced family doctor in Canada, especially if you're a newcomer, unless you get lucky and some of the the older patients die and free up a spot for you.

Once you get a doctor, it actually takes some time convincing the doctor to give you a referral to a specialist or advanced medical test.

Specialists and medical equipment supply is limited by budgets and everyone is simply overworked, so unless you can convince your doctor that what your experience needs to be addressed and sounds very important to your doctor, they might just end up sending you home and tell you something like, take Advil or drink more water.

True story. This has actually happened to my friends.

Sometimes I've heard doctors ask people, "Did you do your own research online to figure out what it could be?"

Well, I really hope they are not asking people to help them with diagnosis.

As for long waiting lines, if you want to see for yourself, some provinces have waiting times published on constantly updated official websites.

Ontario health, for instance, lets you see Medical Imaging and surgery times.

Getting an MRI for instance can make you wait for up to 162 days if your doctor doesn't think your issue is life-threatening.

If you're coming from Europe, the US or Asia one thing you'll notice here is a bit of a technology gap.

We talk a lot about conservatism and risk aversion of Canadians on this channel and that leads them to making slower changes and slower adoption of new technologies.

The large territory and low population with poor infrastructure certainly contributes to the case and large tech companies like Amazon have noted on multiple occasions that Canadians are slow to work with.

And the places where Canada's adoption of technology lags the most are the most important sectors of the economy and the society.

Take healthcare for example, in Canada, most of us can't even communicate with our family doctor's office by email or secure website.

In Sweden, for instance, more than 90 percent of doctors offer online communication. How hard can it be?

Take another critical sector, for instance, finance.

Canada has strict regulations that limit entrance of new financial products that make it easier to send money, spend money, or invest your money.

The power of finance in Canada is locked in to just five banks who hold all the keys to how we move and manage money in this country.

They're not incentivized to innovate much because they simply don't need to compete with anyone, they'll have clients either way.

Telecom is another example. Affordable, unlimited home internet didn't exist in Canada until just about a decade ago.

An unlimited mobile data plan is just something Canadians are starting to adopt now, but it's still super overpriced.

All that while, Europe has enjoyed fast and cheap data plans for almost a decade now.

When the power is in the hands of the few, what kind of innovation can we actually talk about?

In this point we will not complain about how high Canadian tax is, in fact it ranks on the 21st among the 38 most developed countries in the world.

Which is not bad, but it's not great either, especially if you come from less developed countries and countries with high corruption rates.

One thing you will notice is that how obvious and unknown the tax we pay here is.

And it's obvious from two perspectives. First, all prices you see in Canada are before tax so each time you're shopping around you have to do some mental math and add between 10 to 15 percent on top of your total bill.

It's not the case in many countries, so when you arrive in Canada take it easy on calling out your seller for overcharging you.

On one side it's good, you know exactly how much goes to the seller and how much goes to the government.

On the other hand it's frustrating because tax adds up for bigger items fast, like buying electronics, a car, or a house.

And, second point, your annual income and hourly wages are also talked about before tax terms.

So if an employer pays you 100K annually, or 50 dollars per hour, you will actually never see 100K in your bank account within any given year.

This is because the employer is required to deduct your tax at the source so instead of making 100K you will actually end up making up to 65 or 75k in actual cash depending on which province you're in.

It also costs more to be rich and making a big salary in Canada.

In Ontario for instance, if you're making more than two hundred and twenty thousand dollars per year, your tax will eat up half of your salary.

You should also be careful working several jobs in Canada because your employers are withdrawing the tax based mostly on the amount they're paying you, which means you might end up under paying tax and get hit with the big tax bill at the end of the year.

Have you ever held two jobs? What was that experience like? Let us know in the comments below.

Lastly, you have to file your own tax report in Canada.

Each person is responsible for collecting all the documents necessary and reporting their income and tax paid throughout the year by April 1st each year.

And if you're late on submitting your tax report or paying your tax due, the penalties you pay are pretty big.

Oh yeah, you probably heard about this one.

Canadian employers are hesitant about hiring newcomers without Canadian work experience and that's a fact.

Let us try to explain why. Many newcomers struggle finding a job for many reasons.

They can't articulate their background, their English is not that strong, or they don't use the Canadian resume format.

By the way, make sure you watch our career series to make sure you're well set to search for your first job.

And if you're looking for some personalized help we offer coaching services. Check out the link in our description for more information.

Some Canadian professions are also licensed, which means you need to pass some courses and professional evaluation in order to even be able to get a job in fields like engineering, medicine finance, education and many skill trades.

And, lastly, Canadians are risk averse.

Their hiring process can be long and many want to hire someone who looks familiar, speaks familiar, and has worked at familiar companies with a familiar culture.

Some may call it discrimination, but most Canadians are just trying to protect their own ass because the cost of hiring and firing in Canada is very high.

It costs at least half of the candidate's salary to hire a new worker and the process of firing someone can last for months, so what do you do?

You volunteer. You network. And you make sure you invest into building a stellar resume.

We will leave the link to all the resources below.

Honestly, I'm hopeful about this one.

Looking at the projected immigration targets by immigration Canada, there will be almost 1.5 million new immigrants in Canada by year 2025 and given that many employers struggle in hiring post-pandemic, Canadian employers will have no choice but to become more open-minded to hiring newcomers.

There is a huge housing crisis in Canada. We all know that, but the quality of that housing isn't great either.

Building homes in Canada is expensive, in part due to lack of infrastructure, high immigration, expensive labor and historically low interest rates.

So builders cut corners and accelerate construction any way they can. We'll get to this in a moment.

Overall, there are just not enough homes being built and way too many immigrants are coming to Canada every year, so the low housing supply causes bidding wars where the crappiest houses end up being sold for hundreds of thousand dollars.

Many believe that housing prices have skyrocketed due to an increase in foreign investors buying out homes in Vancouver or Toronto but looking closer there is no real evidence that's the case.

However, every second home in Canada is owned by an immigrant.

On the flip side, what we do know is that the significant part of apartments in downtown Toronto is owned by landlords who don't even live in Canada.

It could very well be that many immigrants buy properties in Canada and eventually move back to their home countries, so when your pipe blows up or your tap needs fixing, good luck getting your landlord to come in and help.

And many condos in downtown Vancouver just sit empty because nobody can afford to rent them, while the owner is somewhere in China.

Coming back to quality, depending on where you're coming from, you might have to lower your apartment quality expectations in Canada.

It's very common for apartments to have very thin carton-like (or curtain-like) walls and very poor sound isolation between apartments.

If you're renting a home in an older building, insulation will become a real problem once winter hits. Your heating bill will be through the roof.

And don't get me started on the sizes and the actual practicality of apartment layout design. Toronto is famous for its million dollar shoe boxes.

What else should be talked about a lot more in Canada?

What are we being silent about? Let us know in the comments below.

And make sure to share this video with a fellow friend who is moving to Canada soon.

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