



CULTURAL INSIGHTS
Perspectives culturelles

CANADA



a culture crash course every other month, sent right to your inbox!

QUICK FACTS

- Canada is individualistic**
In the business world employees are expected to be self-reliant and display initiative
- Strict timing**
There is drive for speed, innovation and quick-results
- Hierarchy level is low**
It is customary for managers and staff members to consult one another and to share information freely
- Formal rules apply to all**
There tends not to be much attention to particular context and everybody is treated the same; no special favors
- Risk-taking**
Moderately comfortable with ambiguous situations; entrepreneurs are admired and thoughtful change is viewed as progress

FUN FACTS

Canada is the second largest country in the world, has 6 time zones and a population the size of Tokyo!

Le Québec est la seule province canadienne où le français est l'unique langue officielle. Québec is the only Canadian province where French is the only official language.

The five largest foreign-born groups in Canada are from India, China, the UK, United States and Italy

WATCH OUT!

Do not, under any circumstances, compare Canada to the U.S.!



COMMUNICATION IN CANADA

GESTURES



Firm handshakes and direct eye contact communicate sincerity. Gender neutrality is sought--therefore men and women greet each other in the same fashion. Francophone Canadians can be slightly more expressive--both linguistically and in voice tone.

TOUCHING



Canadians rarely touch other than handshakes. Francophone women also shake hands. However, if a friendship develops, some women may kiss on both cheeks to greet each other—but it is best to leave that to the Canadian to initiate to avoid an awkward situation.

SPACE



Anglophones use minimal body movement. Francophones may gesticulate a bit more. Personal space—how close someone stands—is about two feet for both groups.



THE DETAILS

CANADA CULTURAL PROFILE



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