



GENERAL INFORMATION

The following information has been compiled for the benefit of the participants travelling to Vancouver (Canada) for the 2nd ITUC World Congress.

1. Congress Centre

The Congress will take place at the:

[Vancouver Convention Centre](#)

1055 Canada Place

Vancouver, BC, V6C 0C3

Canada

Tel.: +1-604-689-8232

Fax: +1-604-647-7232

2. Immigration Regulations

All visitors entering Canada must possess a passport valid at least for the period of their intended stay.

Some participants will need a temporary resident visa prior to entering Canada and we recommend that all Congress participants consult the Canadian diplomatic mission in their respective country (or in charge of their respective country) about the visa procedure.

- To know which Canadian diplomatic mission is in charge of your country, please click [here](#).
- To know if you need a temporary resident visa, please click [here](#)
- To know how to apply for a temporary resident visa, please click [here](#)

In order to avoid unexpected delays in obtaining a temporary resident visa, you are recommended to make your application as soon as possible. Participants who wish to transit or to take flights in one of the countries of the European Union should check if they need a "Schengen visa" for that country.

Participants travelling via the United States must have an American visa even if they do not leave the plane.

Those encountering difficulties in obtaining a visa should immediately contact the ITUC and provide their full name, gender, date and place of birth, nationality and passport details (number, date and place of issue and date of expiry).

3. Health Regulations – Immunisation

There are currently no inoculations required for entering Canada.

4. Smoking Regulations

Canada has some of the strictest anti-smoking laws in the world, with heavy fines for non-compliance. Smoking is not permitted in public buildings or within at least 6 metres of building entrances. Many hotels apply heavy financial penalties for smoking in non-smoking rooms and the ITUC can adept no financial responsibility for any breaches of these hotel policies or of rules which apply to public spaces . Smoking is not permitted in any part of the Vancouver Convention Centre or on any of the terraces around the Centre. Tobacco products are not displayed openly in shops, so those wishing to purchase cigarettes, cigars etc will need to ask the shop assistant.

5. Customs

Alcoholic beverages:

If you meet the minimum age requirements of the province or territory where you enter Canada, you can include limited quantities of alcoholic beverages in your personal entitlement. These items **must** accompany you on your arrival.

Minimum ages for the importation of alcoholic beverages, as prescribed by provincial or territorial authority, are as follows:

- 18 years for Alberta, Manitoba and Quebec; and
- 19 years for Yukon, the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador.

You are allowed to import only **one** of the following amounts of alcohol free of duty and taxes:

- 1.5 litres (53 imperial ounces) of wine;
- 1.14 litres (40 ounces) of liquor;
- a total of 1.14 litres (40 ounces) of wine and liquor; or
- 24 x 355 millilitre (12 ounces) cans or bottles (maximum of 8.5 litres) of beer or ale.

Tobacco products:

You are allowed to bring in **all** of the following amounts of tobacco free of duty and taxes:

- 200 cigarettes;
- 50 cigars or cigarillos;
- 200 grams (7 ounces) of manufactured tobacco; and
- 200 tobacco sticks.

You may bring in additional quantities but you will have to pay full duty and taxes on the excess amount.

For more information, visit the [Canadian Border Service Agency website](#)

6. Currency

The Canadian currency is the Canadian Dollar (CAD).

Approximate value on 21 April 2010:

1 CAD (\$) = 1.003 USD (\$)

1 USD (\$) = 0.996 CAD (\$)

1 CAD (\$) = 0.749 EUR (€)

1 EUR (€) = 1.334 CAD (\$)

If you are importing or exporting monetary instruments equal to or greater than 10,000 CAD (or the equivalent in a foreign currency), whether in cash or other monetary instruments, you must report the amount to the Canadian Border Service Agency when you arrive or before you leave Canada.

7. Getting to Vancouver from the airport

Taxi to city centre takes about 30 minutes. The approximate fare to downtown Vancouver is between \$30 - \$40 (taxes included).

The SkyTrain Canada line is connecting the airport to downtown Vancouver in 26 minutes. The SkyTrain is Vancouver's rapid transit rail link. Trains run from 5am to 1am everyday, every 4 to 6 minutes. Oneway fare is less than 10 CAD. For more information about the SkyTrain Canada line, please click [here](#)

8. Insurance

The ITUC has not taken out any accident or health insurance. Participants are therefore advised to arrange any insurance they feel is necessary.

9. Climate

In June, temperatures in Vancouver range between 12°C and 20°C.

10. Time difference

Local Time = Vancouver is Pacific Standard Time, GMT-7 during Daylight Savings during June.

11. Electricity

Canada uses the standard North American non-grounded socket. The electrical supply is 110 Volts and 60 Hertz. For more information about sockets and wall plugs in Canada, please click [here](#)

12. Mobile phones

There are two different systems for mobile phones in Canada; CDMA and GSM, and they operate in the 800, 850 and 1900 MHz frequency range.