

WORK CENTRAL AB

Relocation Guide

Your Step-by-Step Timeline for Moving to Central Alberta

A Career Resource from Work Central AB

Your Central Alberta Relocation Guide

Moving to a new region involves dozens of small tasks that are easy to overlook until they become urgent. This guide lays out a practical timeline for relocating to Central Alberta - covering Red Deer, Lacombe, Sylvan Lake, Blackfalds, Olds, and the surrounding communities - so you can settle in smoothly, whether you're moving from elsewhere in Canada or from abroad.

1. Two to Three Months Before You Move

- Research communities within Central Alberta to find the best fit for your budget, commute, and lifestyle - see our Cost of Living guide for a comparison.
- Start browsing housing listings to understand the rental or buying market in your target area.
- If you have children, research school divisions and registration timelines (see our School Registration guide).
- Notify your current employer, landlord, or school of your planned move, respecting required notice periods.
- Begin researching job opportunities through the Work Central AB job board if you don't already have a role secured.

2. One Month Before You Move

- Secure housing and sign a lease or finalize a purchase (see our Finding Housing guide).
- Book movers or a moving truck well in advance, especially if moving during summer, the region's busiest moving season.
- Set up utilities and internet to be active on your move-in date (see our Utilities & Internet guide).
- Open or transfer a bank account to a branch in your new community (see our Banking in Alberta guide).
- Update your mailing address with Canada Post, employers, and any subscriptions.

3. Two Weeks Before You Move

- Transfer or cancel current utility, internet, and insurance accounts effective your move-out date.
- Arrange for school records to be forwarded if you're relocating with children mid-year.
- Confirm moving day logistics: parking, elevator bookings (if applicable), and building access at both ends.
- Pack an essentials box with documents, medications, chargers, and basic kitchen and bathroom items for your first few days.

4. Your First Weeks in Central Alberta

First-Month Priorities

- Register for Alberta Health Care (AHCIP) - coverage should be applied for as soon as you establish residency.
- Get your Alberta driver's licence or vehicle registration updated if you're relocating from another province or country.
- Register children for school if you haven't already.
- Apply for your Social Insurance Number (SIN) if you don't already have one.
- Locate a family doctor or walk-in clinic near your new home.
- Explore your new community - libraries, recreation centres, and local events are great ways to start building connections.

5. Moving From Outside Canada

Newcomers relocating from another country have a few additional steps: confirming your immigration documents are in order, applying for a SIN, registering for AHCIP once eligible, and connecting with local settlement services, which can help with everything from housing to credential recognition. See our Newcomer Resources section for more detailed guidance.

6. Moving Day Tips

- Label boxes by room, and keep an inventory of higher-value items in case anything needs to be claimed on moving insurance.
- Confirm arrival windows with your moving company the day before, especially if travelling a longer distance into the region.
- Take photos of your new unit or home on move-in day, particularly of any existing damage, before you unpack.
- Keep important documents - identification, lease or purchase paperwork, medical records - with you personally rather than in the moving truck.

7. Common Relocation Questions

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to update my licence plate right away? New Alberta residents are generally required to register vehicles and update licensing within a set window after establishing residency - check current requirements at a registry office.

Can I start job hunting before I move? Yes - many Work Central AB employers are open to remote interviews, and having a job lined up can make the rest of your move easier to plan.

What if my housing isn't ready when I arrive? Budget for a short stay in temporary accommodation (see our Finding Housing guide) rather than rushing into a housing decision that doesn't fit.

Relocation Checklist

- ✓ Researched communities and housing options
- ✓ Secured housing and confirmed a move-in date
- ✓ Booked movers or a moving truck
- ✓ Set up utilities and internet for move-in day
- ✓ Updated your mailing address and key accounts
- ✓ Registered for AHCIP within the required window
- ✓ Registered children for school, if applicable
- ✓ Located a family doctor or clinic near your new home

Keep Planning Your Move With Work Central AB

Use the full Moving to Central Alberta series - Cost of Living, Finding Housing, Banking, and more - for a complete, step-by-step relocation plan. Visit workcentralab.ca/resources.