

CANADIAN RELOCATION SYSTEMS, "MOVING TIMES" SEPTEMBER 2005

A Relocation "Survivor" Story featuring the Taylor Family

Meet the Taylor family. They are a family of 5, father, mother and three children. The father is an executive with a global firm and the family has relocated many times. His wife is not eligible to work in Canada but she can volunteer. Their three children are accustomed to attending private, international schools. This is their story.

ON SETTLING IN

"Having been an expat for 5 years prior to moving to Canada, I guess one has certain expectations of how easy it will be or indeed difficult. You expect to take three months to settle in, meet new friends, sort out your unpacking and get on with life."

"Canada is a beautiful country and we loved our time here. Knowing what to expect ahead of time would have been very beneficial. An example of this was the newcomers clubs. It took us almost a year to discover this organization and

get involved in the community. Other issues were tackled in an ad hoc fashion, which could have been avoided with information about our new area prior to the move."

ON HOUSING

"With a low vacancy rate in some urban areas, it can be stressful finding suitable accommodation. The rental market inventory is so small, the race to secure a property is won by the fast and those whose company lawyers are poised, literally hour by hour, to approve lease contracts."

ON DRIVING

"In the province we moved to, we were surprised to find out that only U.S. and Japanese transferees could exchange a drivers license without having to take their G2 test. For any other drivers, even with many years of driving experience, the G2 test was mandatory. Technically this means one cannot drive at night or on the expressways until passing the G2 test. This can take some time to arrange."

The ministries of transportation governing such rules are provincially established governments and so, rules of the road vary from province to province.

BACK TO SCHOOL

It is that time of the year again where the kids head for school and the parents breathe a sigh of relief. Gone are the "dog days of summer" Fall is looming on the horizon and here are some tips on dressing for school.

All of us want to look our best but children, especially teens, can be very sensitive to how they look compared to others of their age. This can cause problems.

Stores claim they are only providing what kids want. TV shows, music videos and fashion magazines have a lot of influence. Yet it is the parents who pay for the clothes. There can be battles between what a child asks for and what mom and dad are willing to buy.

Most School Board says that each school decides its own rules for what students may wear. Inappropriate dress means clothes that do not meet the school's rules. No school allows clothes that are not decent or have words or pictures on them that are profane (curse or "dirty" words), show violence, or have gang slogans or words or discrimination of any kind. This includes race, religion and gender. The rules must allow for religious clothing to be worn.

Some schools are choosing to use school uniforms. Uniforms mean less shopping for parents and less of the expensive "fashion contest" where kids beg for the latest style of jeans and jackets.

Of course, people wear clothes for more than just style or show. We must protect ourselves from cold, heat, sun, wind or other forces. Children and teens tend to think more of how they look rather than the practical reasons for their clothes.

You can spend a lot of money for the latest style outfits from high-priced stores. You can shop with more thrift (carefulness with money) at department and discount stores. You can visit "second-hand" stores such as Goodwill or the many other small "used clothing" stores around the city. If you look carefully in these stores you can often find real bargains - clothes that are still in good condition and cost very little.

Whatever your children wear on their exciting first day of school, we all wish them success with their studies and happiness with new friends. Have a great year!