

Checklist for finding permanent housing

To help you find housing in Québec, here are some useful links and facts.

What you need to know:

Before you start looking for housing, it is important to become familiar with the appropriate vocabulary. Here are some expressions you should know:

- The lease: this is a rental contract signed between the landlord and the tenant. It is a real contract that sets out the responsibilities and commitments of each party.
- 2 ½, 3 ½, 4 ½: these figures refer to the number of rooms in the housing unit. The half (½) represents the bathroom. This means that a 3 ½ apartment has three rooms (living room, bedroom and kitchen) and a bathroom.
- Semi-furnished apartment: this means that a housing unit is equipped with basic home appliances (stove and fridge), which are included in the rental price.
- Heated or not heated: this allows you to know whether heating costs are included or not in the rent. If the apartment is not heated, you have to contact Hydro-Québec to become a customer.

For more information

Community organizations have been designated by the Ministère de l'Immigration, de la Francisation et de l'Intégration to help you find housing as quickly as possible. You can contact them with full confidence by consulting the following Web site:

Québec.ca/demandeurs-asile

Courtesy translation (Original text in French)

Do you want to look for housing yourself?

Before making a decision, it is recommended that you visit several housing units in order to compare different offers on the market.

Here are a few practical tips:

- If possible, have someone accompany you.
- Examine the state of the grounds: ask to see all the rooms in the housing unit, as well as common areas in the building.
- Get informed about the services (heating, electricity, laundry room, etc.), furniture and appliances included in the rent, as well as the rules of the building.
- Examine the housing unit's safety, tranquility and proximity to services (supermarkets, public transit, schools, etc.).

Where should you look for housing?

After choosing the neighbourhood that you want to live in and estimating your budget:

- Consult the ads in the daily newspapers.
- Walk around the residential streets to find the housing units available, indicated by signs that read «for rent».
- Consult specialized Web sites. Here are some suggestions:

www.kijiji.ca

www.craigslist.org

www.toutmontreal.com

www.logisquebec.com

www.facebook.com/marketplace

Please note that rental costs vary, depending on the sectors concerned.

Signing the lease

Once you have made your choice, you have to sign a lease – in other words, a rental contract.

Before signing the lease, read it in full and very carefully. Make sure that all the conditions discussed with the landlord are listed, especially repairs that the property-owner committed to doing, and, if applicable, the date on which they will be carried out.

Also make sure that the housing unit indicated in the lease is the one you visited and agreed to rent.

Important: The landlord does not have the right to ask you for a security deposit (or bond). The landlord can, however, ask for an advance on the first month's rent, but the amount requested must not be higher than the rent for the first month.

You can consult the Web site of the **Tribunal administratif du logement** for more information on leases and conditions, as well as the respective rights of tenants and landlords at: www.tal.gouv.qc.ca

Where to find furniture at low prices?

After signing the lease, you can start looking for furniture. Here are some suggestions for finding free or inexpensive furniture.

- Contact organizations to see if their support networks can help you furnish your home (e.g., Salvation Army)
- Visit second-hand stores (e.g., Value Village, Renaissance)
- Visit websites like Marketplace and Kijiji