

A NEWCOMER'S GUIDE TO
City of Morden



References and information for settlement.
Prepared by City of Morden (Issue 5-17)
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Morden 

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1-877-822-5088 info@mordenmb.com

WELCOME HOME!

As you begin your new life in Morden, we are confident that you will quickly feel welcome and realize that you made the right decision to make Morden your new home.

Our community is made up of people from all over the world who have chosen to make Morden their home. We all have similar goals and dreams for ourselves, our families and our community. Aside from building a better community, inclusiveness is mandated by a variety of Canadian laws, as well as countless social protocols. It is against Canadian culture and laws to belittle or discriminate against anyone based on any protected quality, such as: race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, etc. Morden is known for its welcoming and inclusive nature. Join us in welcoming the world to Morden!

We have taken great care to ensure the information in this guide is accurate and up-to-date at the time of printing (April, 2017). If you would like to suggest any additional resources or are aware of any errors, please contact us at info@mordenimmigration.com. You can also check for updated information at mordenimmigration.com and mordenmb.com.



GREETINGS FROM THE MAYOR OF MORDEN!

On behalf of the City of Morden, I extend a warm welcome to you and your family. You have selected a great new home.

Few places in the world can offer the range of opportunities you will find here in terms of natural beauty, culture, education, recreation, housing, health care, business potential – and an exceptional quality of life. Morden is a wonderful, friendly place, but we need you and your contributions as a neighbor, a parent, an employee, a business partner, a volunteer, a citizen – to continue to grow and thrive.

It is our genuine hope that this Newcomer's Guide and the resources listed within, will answer some of the most essential questions about life in Morden and help you make it your home.

Respectfully I remain,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Wiebe'.

Ken Wiebe, Mayor



INFORMATION TO HELP GET YOU STARTED ON THE CHECKLIST:

RENTAL ACCOMODATIONS:

Ask Regional Connections for a list of some of the main apartment buildings and landlords.

- Look at 'MCDII Arrivals' Facebook group, peminavalleyonline.com, varagesale.com for open apartments and rental houses.
- All rental houses and apartments have a kitchen with a refrigerator and oven provided by the landlord. Some rentals are furnished, but most will only include a refrigerator and stove. You can buy new furniture at local furniture stores or used furniture at private garage sales, classified ads, on peminavalleyonline.com, varagesale.com, or at the Morden Thrift Store.

PURCHASING A HOME:

Visit a local real estate agent for information about buying a house. Find an agent at: www.peminavalleylifestyles.com/realtors.

Utilities for home purchases - Visit the Morden Civic Center to arrange for water, sewer and garbage collection services (100 - 195 Stephen Street).

FINDING A JOB:

- Check peminavalleyonline.com (or, Manitoba.localjobshop.ca)
- Check local newspapers
- Follow the Morden 'MCDII Arrivals' Facebook page
- Personal contact: Speak to as many people as you can, volunteer at non-profit agencies, arrange times to meet with local businesses to introduce yourself and ask about job opportunities.
- Employment Manitoba (1 - 160 Stephen Street) offers additional resources for those who are having difficulty finding a job or who would like to pursue other career opportunities.

STARTING A BUSINESS:

If you are planning to start a new business, or you are interested in purchasing an existing business in Morden, contact the Community Development Officer at 204-822-5088, or at the Morden PDO Building located at 133 - 7th Street.

TRANSPORTATION

- To legally drive in Manitoba you must have a valid driver's license from Manitoba or your country of origin.
You must obtain a Manitoba Driver's License within 3 months of your arrival. See www.mpi.mb.ca or visit a local insurance agent (BSI Insurance B-630 Thornhill Street), Morden Agencies (339 Stephen Street).
- If you buy a vehicle, it must have a valid safety certificate before you can license it. ***Licensing your vehicle is mandatory.*** In order to register your new vehicle, you will need two pieces of ID with a Morden address on it. Commonly, this will be a letter from your bank and a lease agreement for your transition apartment or permanent address.
- Taxi Service is available by calling Boundary Trails Taxi at 204-325-3370, or Kasper's Shuttle Service - Taxis at 204-871-1537.



- Join New Arrivals Facebook page, if you haven't already. Search for "Morden MCDII Arrivals" on Facebook and request to join.
- First Accommodation - If you require temporary, furnished housing to rent when you first arrive, contact info@mordenimmigration.com. You can also temporarily stay with friends / family, or local hotel / bed and breakfast. You will now want to start looking for more permanent accommodation for you and your family.
- Regional Connections - Settlement staff offer assistance with completing child tax and GST forms, registering your children for school, getting a healthcare card, registering for language classes, translation services, information on finding a family doctor and much more. You can also request an additional appointment for job search assistance and credentials assistance and advice. Contact: 34 Stephen Street, 204-822-4387, regionalconnections.com.
- Social Insurance Number - apply at Service Canada (158 Stephen Street) before your appointment with Regional Connections.
- Bank Account - visit a local bank and set up an appointment to open a standard bank account.
- Phone - visit Bell MTS (180-B 5th Street) for immediate assistance in setting up a local cell phone plan. **All phone numbers are 10 digits, even if you only write down the last seven numbers.** The most common area code in Manitoba is "204", so if you are calling the number 822-4434, you would dial 204-822-4434. If it is a long distance call (outside of Morden, or local area), you must dial "1" before the 10 numbers.
- Mail - If you are in temporary accommodation such as a transition apartment, you will be provided an address where you can collect your mail. Do not use the transition apartment's physical address for mailing purposes or courier deliveries. Once you have found permanent accommodation, you can go to the post office (101 - 8th Street) and arrange postal services for your address. Some paid courier services deliver to Morden from worldwide.
- Prepare for Winter - If it is winter when you arrive (December to March), the temperature is usually below zero degrees Celsius (0°C) and sometimes dropping below -25°C; the temperature may feel colder with a fast wind--this is called '*wind-chill factor*'. Skin can freeze quickly and cause painful burns called '*frostbite*'. To avoid this, wear a good winter wardrobe outside: a thick wind-resistant coat, a warm scarf for your neck and face, gloves or mittens, winter hat that covers your ears, and warm boots. **If the weather is extremely cold, listen to a local radio station or go to peminavalleyonline.com to see if school or other events are cancelled for the day.**
- Visit the library and get a library card (514 Stephen Street)
- Finding a job or starting a business
- Transportation - Apply to obtain a Manitoba Driver's Licence

SPORTS, ARTS, CULTURE AND RECREATION

There are many opportunities for recreation, sports activity, arts, and cultural events. There are always new groups and activities being started (or you may want to start your own!), but a good place to start is by looking at the community events calendar at www.mordenmb.com.

The Community Services department for the City of Morden offers many great activity options for all ages. Check out the Access Event Center Facebook page, or see mordenmb.com/recreation-programs. You can also visit the Access Event Center in person (111 Gilmour Street) to visit the Recreation Programmer during business hours.

REGIONAL CONNECTIONS EVENTS - See regionalconnections.ca or their Facebook page for event notifications.

SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS - Baseball, hockey, curling, golf, swimming, skateboarding, spray park, Paddle Club, figure skating, Tai kwon do, soccer, rugby, basketball, tennis, and much more. Most of these sports organizations have their own websites and/or Facebook pages. There are also sports offered through the school system such as volleyball, baseball, hockey, basketball, track and field, wrestling and more.

ARTS AND CULTURE - Morden has many local festivals, Pembina Hills Arts Centre, Canadian Fossil Discovery Center, Danceworks and Candlewick productions (dance and theatre), private music teachers are available in the community.





PLACES OF WORSHIP

There are several places of worship to choose from in Morden. See mordenmb.com/living-in-morden/placesofworship for a listing.

FOOD AND NEW PRODUCTS - The main grocery stores are Co-op Foods (945 Thornhill Street), Giant Tiger (288 North Railway Street), Kolos European Grocery (886 Thornhill Street). Check mordenchamber.com for a complete list of local grocery stores, retail stores, and restaurants.

USED HOUSEHOLD ITEMS - Thrift Store (220 North Railway Street) or garage sales (where people sell used items at their own home), classified listings on peminavalleyonline.com, and varagesale.com.



CITY SERVICES

Waste / Recycling / Compost

Morden offers curbside pickup for household waste, recyclable items, and organic waste materials, however many apartments will have only garbage and recycling options. There is detailed information at mordenmb.com/city-services/sanitation-services/recycle-zones. You can also ask any questions at the Civic Centre (100-195 Stephen Street) or call the City of Morden at 204-822-4434.

CITY BY-LAWS

Please read information at mordenmb.com/city-govt/by-laws for information on the local laws pertaining to:

- Pets (cats, dogs, and others)
- Noise levels
- Snow removal
- and other useful information

Other important laws to keep in mind -

DRINKING ALCOHOL - The legal age for drinking in Manitoba is 18. It is illegal to serve alcohol to anyone under 18 in bars, restaurants, and other public places. It is illegal for anyone to drink alcohol in public places such as streets or parks. It is illegal to drive a vehicle if you have been drinking.

SMOKING - You must be 18 years old to buy cigarettes or cigars. It is illegal to smoke in public buildings. It is also illegal to smoke in a vehicle when children under 16 years of age are in the vehicle.

RELATIONSHIPS - The law in Manitoba discourages parents from using harsh physical punishment on their children. Manitoba has a zero tolerance policy for any type of domestic abuse (parent to child, adult to adult, etc.) It is also illegal to leave young children at home alone. Babysitters must be at least 12 years old.





HEALTHCARE

Many medical services are paid for by Manitoba Health, and are accessible with your Manitoba Health card.

Emergency medical services - are located at Boundary Trails Health Centre (located at the intersection of Highway 3 and Highway 14, east of Morden). The Emergency Service is open 24 hours per day. You can also call 911 in case of an emergency. (See page 10)

Walk in Clinics - If you need to see a doctor without an appointment, Agassiz Medical Centre (15-30 Stephen Street) has regular walk-in clinic hours. See <http://www.agassizmedicalcentre.com/walk-in.html> for hours and other information.

Regular appointments - Regular appointments with your family doctor or another doctor or health care professional can be made at Agassiz Medical Centre (15-30 Stephen Street). Call: 204-822-4474.

Health Links Help Line - You can speak to a registered nurse at any time (24 hours per day, 7 days per week) by calling 1-888-3158-9257.

Mental Health - For assistance or more information contact: Community Mental Health (1-888-310-4593), After Hours Crisis line (1-866-588-1697) or Agassiz Medical Centre.

Other medical practitioners such as dentist, eye care, physiotherapy, naturopathy, massage, etc. are often not covered by Manitoba Health, but may be covered through your employer's medical plan. See mordenchamber.com for listings of these professionals under the business listings.

EDUCATION

Your children will be registered for school during your Regional Connections appointment. Your children will be assigned to a school based on location of your accommodation or by available classroom spaces. In the public school system, there are two Early Years schools, one Middle Years School, and one Senior Years school/Collegiate. Morden also has an adult education centre. See mordenmb.com/living-in-morden/education for information about public schooling, preschool, and post-secondary options. You can also learn more about the schools at www.westernsd.mb.ca.

SOCIAL AND FAMILY SERVICES

There are many services available for a variety of needs.

Genesis House
Family Crisis Help Line
& Family Violence Assistance
1-877-977-0007 or
genusishouseshelter.ca.

Eden Health Care Services
Responds to the mental health needs of
Southern Manitoba.
edenhealthcare.ca.

Morden Parent and Child Resource
Centre (200-30 Stephen Street) Offers
a variety of services and activities for
families with young children. See their
Facebook page for more details.

See [mordenmb.com/living-in-morden/
social-family-services](http://mordenmb.com/living-in-morden/social-family-services) for a complete list
and descriptions.

HOME SAFETY TIPS:

Ensure that smoke detectors are
installed in your home and work properly.
Batteries inside the smoke detector
should be changed once every year.

Never plug in large appliances using an
extension cord.

Clothing dryer vents should be checked
and cleaned regularly from any lint.

Store hazardous chemicals or materials
out of reach from children. To dispose of
household hazardous waste (batteries,
chemicals, paint, etc.) call the Morden
Fire Services at 204-822-3888.

Keep pathways clear from snow to
prevent ice build up.



EMERGENCY CONTACTS

EMERGENCY? - WHAT TO DO:

- 1 Dial 911
- 2 Ask for Fire, Ambulance, Police or Poison Treatment.
- 3 Tell the operator your location and describe your emergency situation.

Fire Service

Fire Emergency Dial 911
Fire Administration - 204-822-3888

Police Service

Local Police Emergency - 204-822-4900
Police Administration - 204-822-6292
RCMP Emergency - 204-822-5469
RCMP Administration - 204-822-4476

Family Violence

Help Line - 204-325-9800
Toll-free Help Line - 1-877-977-0007

Mental Health Crisis

Community Line - 1-888-310-4593
After-Hour Crisis Line - 1-866-588-1697

Medical Services

Boundary Trails Health Centre 204-331-8800
Agassiz Medical Centre 204-822-4474

BE PREPARED WITH CODERED ALERTS

CodeRED is an emergency notification service that allows emergency officials to notify residents by phone, text, email, and mobile app providing time-sensitive general and emergency notifications.

Download the free application 'CodeRED Mobile Alerts' to your smartphone, or sign up at mordenmb.com.



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