

TOP 10 SPONSORSHIP MYTHS

The biggest challenge facing Canadians who want to sponsor family members from overseas is the amount of incorrect information they receive and the difficulty in obtaining the correct information. In an effort to correct some of the misconceptions around sponsoring family members I've created the Top 10 Sponsorship Myths.

- 1. I Need a Job Before I can Sponsor My Spouse or Child.**

If you are sponsoring your Spouse, Common-law Partner, or Dependent Child you are exempt from the requirement to meet the minimum Income amounts. You don't even need a job. So long as you are not on Social Assistance you will meet the financial requirements to sponsor your spouse or children. If you are sponsoring you parents, grandparents, or if your Dependent Children have children, then you do have to meet the minimum income requirements and have a job.
- 2. I Need Money in the Bank Before I can Sponsor a Family Member.**

If you are sponsoring your Spouse, Common-Partner, or Dependent Child you don't need any money in the bank. If you are sponsoring family members other than a Spouse, Common-Law Partner or child, then you do need a job and you have to meet the minimum income requirements. Neither your savings in the bank, regardless of how large, nor other family member's income or savings, will be considered in place of your and your spouse's income.
- 3. I Can Sponsor My Brother/Sister.**

You cannot sponsor your brother or sister directly. The only way to sponsor your brother or sister is to sponsor your parents and their Dependent Children. Dependent Children are children under 22 years of age, or over 22 years of age and continuously enrolled in school or disabled and financially dependent on their parents.
- 4. I Can Sponsor My Family for Immigration after I get Landed.**

If a person applies for Permanent Residence and is landed, but does not include other family members (spouse & children) in their application and does not have those family members medically and criminally examined, the person can never sponsor those family members for permanent residence. It is also possible that the sponsor will be deported for misrepresenting their marital status.
- 5. It Will Only Take Few Months.**

Depending on where the family members are coming from, the sponsorship of spouses and children can take from 4 to 12 months (if all goes perfectly). Sponsoring parents and grandparents can take 3-4 years.
- 6. I Have to Pay for my Family Member's Food & Housing.**

A sponsor will be called upon only if their sponsored family members seek social assistance. It doesn't matter how the sponsored family members stay off social assistance. Most sponsored family members quickly become self-sufficient and self-supporting.

- 7. I am Financially Responsible for My Family Member for 10 Years.**
Sponsorships of Spouses and Common-Law Partners are only for 3 years. Sponsorships of children are for 10 years or until they are 25, whichever is shorter. Sponsorships of parents and grand parents are for 10 years.
- 8. If I Leave My Spouse I will be Deported.**
So long as the relationship was genuine at the time that the sponsorship was started and completed, the spouse will be landed as a Permanent Resident with no strings attached and no requirement to stay in relationship. If the relationship deteriorates after the spouse is landed the spouse cannot be deported.
- 9. My Family Member's Minor Criminal Record Won't Matter.**
Almost any criminal record, no matter how minor, will create major problems for any category of immigration. Minor thefts, minor frauds, and minor assaults can cause a person to be disqualified from immigrating.
- 10. Lies Work Better than the Truth.**
Immigration Canada is very skillful in detecting lies. In fact, they often find lies where none exist. Any irregularity, or anything that raises a concern about the legality or validity of a relationship, will likely result in the sponsorship being denied and can result in significant problems for the sponsor in Canada. There are many legitimate ways to get people to Canada, don't resort to illegal ways.