

# What it Means to be Canadian

By: Jaiden Wright

I first moved to Canada in 2007, giving me 13 years to experience Canada's positive hospitality. But what makes Canada so great? To me, it's the people. Over these past 13 years, I have seen firsthand the positive and enthusiastic attitudes that make our nation strong and free. Whether in schools, businesses, or out in public parks, I always see the three aptitudes that make up a Canadian: hard work, good work and honest work.

Hard work is more than the ability to complete one's given task. It is the drive and commitment that encourages one to achieve success. To me, a Canadian is someone who will not give up at the first sign of struggle. Instead, they use skill, adaptation, and ingenuity to push forward, learn from their mistakes, and overcome their obstacles. The recent outbreak has highlighted this attitude more than ever. Doctors, nurses, and essential workers all show the drive and commitment of a hard worker. Despite the chance of infection and straining work hours, their determination and can-do demeanor gives the entire nation strength. They are just one example of why being Canadian means you never quit.

Good work is the quality Canadians put into their day to day activities. Instead of settling with sub-par, Canadians strive for creativity, security, and overall excellence. A Canadian is someone who goes the extra mile to ensure they stand above mediocrity. Cities like Edmonton and Vancouver present unique architecture and artwork. Local restaurants reveal innovative cuisines to distinguish themselves from other chains. Even the quality of the employees reveals the importance of good work. I was recently hired as swim instructor, and to achieve this, I had to go through hours of training. This training ensured that I would be teaching to their standard of excellence. Aside from our training, we are given the opportunity to teach using our own ideas and personality. Whether in education, design, or business, a Canadian means you strive for quality and originality.

Honest work is the honour, respect, and courage that Canadians hold. A Canadian is someone who stands for truth, justice, and freedom. A Canadian is someone who stands against corruption. The courts uphold this attribute when they pursue fair trials and honest judgement. Their honour helps maintain a safe and equitable country. The first responders also exemplify the Canadian attribute of honour. Several years ago, a neighbouring house was engulfed in flames. The quick and concise actions of the fire department prevented further destruction despite putting themselves in harm's way. Finally, the Canadian military demonstrates honest work most of all. With a father serving as a Major in the Army Reserve, I know the courage and sacrifice that the military displays daily. Whether they're fighting on the front lines or simply scouting for intel, their bravery is unbroken, and their sacrifice is unmatched. A Canadian means you stand for what is right no matter the cost.

To me, the commitment of hard work, the quality of good work, and the integrity of honest work are the most important attributes in a person. They truly define what it means to be Canadian.