



4 September 2018

World's largest welcome mat greets arrivals at Canada's busiest airport

Complements jet ways presence

*** [Photos and video available for viewing/download](#) ***

Toronto - Canadian travellers, newcomers, international students and visitors are being welcomed home by the world's largest welcome mat rolled out near Canada's busiest airport, Toronto Pearson International Airport. About the size of two football fields (85,000 square feet) and made of eco-friendly and reusable materials, the mat was commissioned by HSBC Bank Canada to celebrate and "welcome home" some of the millions¹ of vacationing Canadians, 300,000 newcomers² arriving every year and almost 20 million international visitors³.

The HSBC Welcome Mat complements HSBC's longstanding sponsorship and branding of 94 kilometers of airport jet ways around the world, including in Toronto, Vancouver, Montreal and Calgary.

"This is a busy time of year when millions of us are on the move to refresh, explore and have new adventures – and then we all love to come home," said **Larry Tomei, Executive Vice President and Head of Retail Banking and Wealth Management, HSBC Bank Canada**. "Whether you call Canada home, or your "home away from home", the aim is to delight and welcome you to Canada. As Canada's leading international bank with a presence in 67 countries and territories, we are incredibly proud to be the bank of choice to many Canadians, travellers, newcomers, and visitors."

Fast Facts:

- HSBC Expat research found that Canada ranks as one of the most welcoming countries in the world, with 76% saying their new home is more open-minded than the country they come from (up 7% since 2016).⁴
- 70% of expats in Canada hold the majority of their total wealth here, including savings, investments and pensions, compared with only 46% of expats globally.⁴
- The top five countries of origin for visitors to Canada in 2015: the United States, the United Kingdom, China, France and Germany.⁵
- Between 2008 and 2016, the number of international students studying in Canada increased by 87% from 280,170 to 523,971.⁶

- more -

Financial Tips and Advice for Canadian Travellers, Visitors, Newcomers and International Students:

- 1) **Before you travel.** Ensure your bank is aware that you are travelling especially for credit card and debit card transactions.
- 2) **Choose a bank that understands the financial needs of newcomers and visitors.** This could include helping you manage and access your money both in *and* outside Canada, as well as providing services and advice in your preferred language. For example, HSBC Premier and HSBC Advance clients can see all their global online in a single view with one login, and can transfer funds seamlessly between accounts.⁷
- 3) **Make a financial plan to track your spending and follow a budget.** Take advantage of online banking tools such as HSBC's to help manage your monthly spending so you know exactly where your money is going.
- 4) **Establish and build your credit history.** You can build a good credit history in Canada by obtaining a loan, credit card, or mortgage, and making your payments regularly and on-time. For example, [HSBC's Newcomer and International Student programs](#) – valued at up to \$700 – include an HSBC MasterCard designed for those new to Canada and without a credit history, as well as a free chequing account.⁸

HSBC Bank Canada, a subsidiary of HSBC Holdings plc, is the leading international bank in the country. We help companies and individuals across Canada to do business and manage their finances internationally through three global business lines: Commercial Banking, Global Banking and Markets, and Retail Banking and Wealth Management. Canada is a priority market for the HSBC Group – one of the world's largest banking and financial services groups with assets of US\$2,607bn at 30 June 2018. Linked by advanced technology, HSBC serves customers worldwide through an international network of around 3,900 offices in 67 countries and territories in Europe, Asia, North and Latin America, and the Middle East and North Africa. For more information visit www.hsbc.ca or follow us on Twitter: [@hsbc.ca](https://twitter.com/hsbc.ca) or Facebook: [@hsbccanada](https://www.facebook.com/hsbccanada)

Notes to Editors:

1. Statistics Canada: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/171128/dq171128c-eng.htm>
2. Statistics Canada: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1710004001>
3. Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada: <https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/095.nsf/eng/00002.html>
4. The HSBC Expat Explorer survey was open to adults over 18 years old currently living away from their country of origin/home country. The survey was completed by 27,587 expats from 159 countries and territories through an online questionnaire in March and April 2017, conducted by YouGov and commissioned by HSBC Expat. With a minimum sample of 90 expat respondents required, 52 cities were included in the data analysis.
5. World Atlas: <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/top-source-countries-for-tourists-to-canada.html>
6. Global Affairs Canada: <http://www.international.gc.ca/education/report-rapport/impact-2017/sec-5.aspx?lang=eng>
7. Full details, terms and conditions on HSBC's *Global View & Global Transfer* at: <https://www.hsbc.ca/1/2/personal/banking/ways-to-bank/gvgt>
8. Full details, terms and conditions on Newcomer and International Student programs available at: <https://www.hsbc.ca/1/2/personal/new-to-canada/>

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