

Law & Government: Resource Guide

Municipality of Chatham-Kent, Resident Attraction and Retention



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Canadian Federal & Ontario Provincial Services

The [Canadian political system](#) has three levels of elected government: Federal, Provincial, and Municipal. Follow the links to learn more about the political system and [political parties](#).

Federal Government & Services

To learn more about our Federal government's programs and services visit:

- [Government of Canada](#)
- [Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada](#)
- [Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada \(IRCC\) Call Centre Service](#)
- [Health Canada](#)
- [Service Canada](#)
- [Human Resources and Social Development Canada](#)
- [Building Canada](#)
- [Canada Benefits](#)
- [Welcome to the Parliament of Canada](#)

Chatham-Kent's local Members of Parliament (MP) are [Dave Van Kesteren](#) (Chatham-Kent and Leamington) and [Bev Shipley](#) (Lambton-Kent-Middlesex). You can call our MPs for help and advocacy with services and programs offered by the Federal government. Your MP depends on where you live in Chatham-Kent as the Federal government has two districts across the municipality.

If you are a Canadian Citizen and want to learn more about the Federal elections visit [A Guide to Voting in the Canadian Federal Election](#).

Provincial Government & Services

To learn more about our Provincial government's programs and services visit:

- [Employment Ontario](#)
- [Government of Ontario](#)
- [Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration](#)
- [Ontario Immigration](#)
- [Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs](#)
- [Additional Access to the Government of Ontario](#)
- [Service Ontario](#)

Chatham-Kent has two districts for the Provincial government as well. Your Member of Provincial of Parliament (MPP) depends on where you live. The MPP for Chatham-Kent-Essex is [Rick Nicholls](#) and the MPP for Lambton-Kent-Middlesex is [Monte McNaughton](#). You can call your MPP for help and advocacy with services and programs offered by the Provincial government.

[A Guide to Voting in Ontario's Provincial Election](#) will help you learn more on our elections system.

Newcomer Guides

The following guides will help you build a life in Chatham-Kent. If you would like local settlement supports to help you learn about life in Canada and Chatham-Kent, visit [Adult Language and Learning](#) or call them at 519-354-7424.

- [First Days Guide: A Newcomers' Guide to Their First Two Weeks in Ontario](#) is available in 24 different languages.
- Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada's [Welcome to Canada: What You Should Know](#) tells you about Canadian way of life
- [Ontario Immigration](#) offers information and useful links.
- You can visit the [Canadian Immigrant.ca](#) website.
- The [Newcomer's Guide to Canadian Housing](#), from the [Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation](#), explains the Canadian procedure for renting or buying a house.
- [Becoming a Canadian – Immigration Fraud](#) is a great video to watch to be informed on immigration fraud.
- [Newcomer's Guides to Education in Ontario](#) helps you learn about our educational systems.
- The following Canadian Border Services Agency will prepare you for your entry into Canada:
 - Information for People Detained Under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act
 - Entering Canada to Study or to Work
 - Moving Back to Canada
 - Importing Goods for People Intending to Settle in or Return to Canada



Legal Services

Under the Canadian legal system you are protected and have rights to [Canadian freedoms and responsibilities](#). Use the [Chatham-Kent Business and Directory](#) to find a lawyer or other legal services by selecting “Legal Services” from the directory, choosing a sub-directory and a community. To learn more visit:

- Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada - [Canadian Law](#)
- Government of Ontario - [services and information](#) related to the court and legal system

Use the links listed below for assistance with legal services:

- [Legal Aid Ontario](#) offers legal representation for eligible low-income individuals and disadvantaged communities. They will work with immigration and refugee hearings.
- Chatham-Kent Human Services & Justice Committee will plan services for individuals with serious mental illness involved with the criminal justice system. For more information call 519-436-6100
- [Law Help Ontario](#) has resources on the Canadian Legal system and your rights.
- [Legal Line](#) offers free information to Canadians.
- The [Human Rights Legal Support Centre](#) offers legal services if you have experienced discrimination.
- The [Lawyer Referral Service](#) helps you to find a lawyer with a free one-hour consultation. There is \$6.00 fixed charge for each call made to the service.
- Community Legal Education Ontario has [information and resources](#) on:
 - [Immigration and Refugee Issues](#)
 - [Legal System - Mediation and alternative dispute resolutions](#)
 - [Youth Justice](#)

Police Services

The [Chatham-Kent Police Service](#) offers a professional and unbiased service to all residents. Police services are in place to protect you and other residents in Chatham-Kent by preventing crime, enforcing the law, and educating the community. Chatham-Kent Police Services has [different units and teams](#) to best serve our community.

You can contact our local Police by calling 519.436.6600. If you are in an [emergency](#), call 9-1-1.

Follow the links to help you learn about police services and their role in Canadian society:

- [What do the police do?](#)
- [What do I do if the police arrest me?](#)
- [What can I do if I feel harassed or discriminated against?](#)
- [What is the difference between criminal and civil court?](#)

If you have a [compliment or complaint](#) about the Police, follow the steps on the Chatham-Kent Police Service website.