**Executive Summary**

Citizenship

Most important to starting a business in Canada is Citizenship or Permanent Resident Status.

New Immigrants must provide proof of knowing English or French; i.e. pass at least one of several nationally recognized language exams.

Immigrating business owners must have filed income tax for three of the previous five years, with all amounts owing paid in full.

To apply for Citizenship, immigrants must have Permanent Residency for three of the last five years.

In order to be considered for citizenship, immigrants must not have a deportation order, been convicted of a crime, serving a conditional sentence, or be on parole or probation, for an indictable crime in Canada.

Those 18 to 54 years of age must take a Citizen test before applying for full Citizenship.

Credit and Financing

New Immigrants to Canada must build a credit history with Canadian financial institutions.

Easiest way to build up a credit history is to apply for a credit card and maintain timely payments.

New Immigrants to Canada with a high credit score may be eligible for up to $45,000 in startup grants

Etiquette and Customs

Canadians are a polite and friendly people that expect business owners to be similarly polite and friendly.

It is customary for business professionals in Canada to great each other with shaking hands and inquiring about how they are doing.

Eye contact is very important to Canadians when discussing business transactions.

A large proportion of Women work in Canada and come to expect the same respect and services as provided to men in the country.

Government Resources and Programs

May government services, loans, grants, and other aid are available throughout Canada so it is best to focus on the location of the business first, and then consider the incentives later.

Most cities have a local group responsible for encouraging new businesses to locate in their communities and will guide new immigrants to the government programs available to them.

There are specialty programs and funding available for those that wish to establish businesses in remote areas or server underdeveloped communities.

Government documents and applications are available in several languages other than French and English.