



## Grading The Canadian Travellers' Report Card

	2012 Overall	Average Score	2009 Overall	Preservation of Health Coverage <sup>1</sup>	Access to Health Coverage	Access to Prescription Drugs	Access to Voting Rights	Availability of Government Information
Canada	C+	67.8	B-	D	C	B-	B-	B
British Columbia	C*	64.4	C	B*	D-	F	B*	B*
Alberta	C+	67.6	C	C+	D-	C	B	B+
Saskatchewan	B	74.4	B	B+	D	B-	A+	B
Manitoba	B	73.8	B	C	B-	B	B	A-
Ontario	B-	70.6	C-	B-	C-	B-	B-	B
Québec	B	74.4	B	A+	D-	C+	C+	A+
New Brunswick	C	63.8	C+	C	D-	C-	B	C
Nova Scotia	B-	71.6	B-	A	C+	B-	C	C+
Prince Edward Island	B	75	B	B	A+	C	B	C+
Newfoundland & Labrador	C+	68.4	C	A-	C	D+	C-	B
Yukon	A-	81.2	A	A+	A+	B-	B	B
Northwest Territories	B	74.4	B	C	A+	C+	A-	C
Nunavut	B+	77	A-	A+	A+	B+	B+	F

<sup>1</sup> Due to the change in recommendation since the third edition, grades given under the category Preservation of Health Coverage for Frequent Travellers cannot be compared to 2009 or previous years.

\* Grades will significantly increase when legislation or commitments are adopted. For more detail, please refer to the respective categories in the British Columbia section of this document.

Grading Chart	A+ 92	A 85	A- 82	B+ 78	B 75	B- 72	C+ 68	C 65	C- 62	D+ 58	D 55	D- 52	F 45
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**ACCESS TO VOTING RIGHTS FOR TRAVELLERS****A-**

Absentee mail-in voting is allowed in the Northwest Territories, having replaced proxy voting.

Special ballots are available from the first day of the election period until 4:00 p.m. on the Saturday before polling day (polling day is always on a Monday). Voters may request a special ballot from their returning officer in person, by telephone (collect calls will be accepted), fax or mail. The ballot is sent to the voter, which then must be completed and sent back to the returning officer. The returning officer must receive special ballots by the close of polls (8:00 p.m.) on election day. Territorial general election dates are fixed; the next election will be held on October 5, 2015.

**Recommendations:** Set no deadline for application, but instead clearly communicate the last day by which special ballot applications should be received in order to ensure that they receive the special ballots in sufficient time to send them back. Allow e-mail applications for special ballots. Accept mail-in ballots that have been post-marked prior to the close of the polls.

**AVAILABILITY OF GOVERNMENT INFORMATION****C**

The Department of Health and Social Services website contains limited health related information for travellers. While matters such as residency requirements and out-of-country reimbursement are discussed, they lack detail. Additionally, the Northwest Territories publishes a brochure available online entitled *Your Health Care Benefits* which contains this same limited information. Neither of these sources mentions the territory's policy on prescription medication or the fact that the territory will reimburse drug plan members for prescriptions required while abroad.

Information related to voting by special ballot is easily accessible on the updated Elections NWT website. Unfortunately, this information is minimal and there is no printable application form available.

**Change since last report:** The brochure entitled *Travelling? What You Should Know* is no longer available online. The layout of the Elections NWT website has been updated.

**Recommendations:** Create a comprehensive brochure of medical information for travellers by merging both pamphlets and including information for users of the territory's drug program. Better identify the location of information on special-ballot voting and include a printable online application.



# Northwest Territories

## **PRESERVATION OF HEALTH COVERAGE FOR FREQUENT TRAVELLERS**

**C**

All permanent residents of the Northwest Territories are eligible for coverage. "Permanent resident" means a person legally entitled to remain in Canada who makes his/her home in (and is ordinarily present in) the N.W.T. for six months of the year, but does not include a tourist, transient or visitor. "Makes his/her home" is defined as where the person receives mail, keeps personal property, and spends the majority of time.

Should an individual leave the NWT under the conditions of temporary absence, the resident must remain in the N.W.T. for six cumulative months after returning.

The Temporary Absence Form is to be completed if you will be out of the NWT for more than 3 months (90 days).

**Change since last report:** It was verified that the Temporary Absence Form needs to be completed for vacation related absences longer than 90 days.

**Recommendations:** Allow international travel for up to seven months or six months with an unlimited number of short-term trips (23 days) anywhere in the world, while still maintaining health benefits.

## **ACCESS TO EMERGENCY HEALTH COVERAGE WHEN TRAVELLING**

**A+**

The Northwest Territories satisfies the portability requirements under sub-paragraph 11(1)(b)(ii) of the *Canada Health Act*. In 2006, the territory reimbursed \$1,283 per day for emergency in-patient services required by travellers while out of the country. In addition, the N.W.T. reimbursed emergency out-patient hospital services at a rate of \$158 per day, which matches the out-patient rate per day paid by the territory for in-territory services. While no updated figures are provided the government does state that travelling N.W.T. residents will be covered for insured hospital services at territorial rates.

Emergency physician services are reimbursed at N.W.T. rates.

**Recommendations:** Continue to update rates over time to match changes in real costs.

## **ACCESS TO PRESCRIPTION DRUGS FOR USE DURING TRAVEL**

**C+**

The Northwest Territories will only cover a one-month supply of prescription drugs, well below the 12 months that residents are permitted, by the territory's own rules, to be out of the territory without jeopardizing their eligibility for health coverage. However, the plan will reimburse plan members for drugs purchased outside the territory once travel is complete.

**Recommendations:** Cover the cost of a supply of prescription medication equal to the permitted absence from the territory.