

BELARUS AND CANADA:
CROSS-CULTURAL DIFFERENCES AND SIMILARITIES

There are two in way close and distant countries in the world – Belarus and Canada. What might be common between these two powers? A comparative analysis was conducted and several differences and similarities were identified.

First of all, the size of countries was compared. The results are the following: Canada is about 48 times bigger than Belarus. Belarus is approximately 207,600 sq. km, while Canada is approximately 9,984,670 sq. Km. Then both Belarus and Canada are strewn with lakes. 2 million small and large lakes occupy the territory of Canada, while there are about 11 thousand lakes in Belarus.

Both countries have 2 official languages. In Canada they are English and French, in Belarus – Belarusian and Russian.

There are some points that make Belarus and Canada differ on the economic basis: 1) consumer prices in Canada are 99,83 % higher than in Belarus; 2) consumer prices including rent in Canada are 121,91 % higher than in Belarus; 3) rent prices in Canada are 201,15 % higher than in Belarus; 4) local purchasing power in Canada is 171,74% higher than in Belarus.

From the above it follows that Canada is 52,7 % more expensive than Belarus. If you lived in Belarus instead of Canada, you would: 1) pay 43 % less for restaurants; 2) pay 24,1 % less for transportation; 3) pay 73 % less for housing; 4) pay 46,6 % less for childcare; 5) pay 8,4 % more for clothing.

According to the statistics, if you lived in Belarus instead of Canada, you would: 1) live 8,9 years less; 2) be 42,9 % less likely to die during childbirth; 3) be 20 % less likely to die during infancy; 4) Spend 60,6 % less on taxes; 5) make 60,9 % less money; 6) spend 45,2 % less on healthcare;

Canada, like Belarus, is a peaceful country, as it has never started a war. Both countries are strongly associated with a hockey stick, as national teams are well-known and strongly respected throughout the world.

Both Belarusian and Canadians are described as very hospitable and hard-working nations.

Canada is a country of immigrants. This stereotype is firmly rooted. Now about 15 thousand immigrants from Belarus live there, so the Belarusian diaspora is rather active. However, this number is not very clear, as the Belarusians who moved here at the beginning of the 20th century are not registered anywhere.

From the above mentioned it follows that despite all the differences between the countries, the nationalities are similar in spirit. They are both tolerant and friendly countries. Belarus is a country with cheaper prices yet the livability in Canada is much higher.