



## HOMESTAY STUDENT GUIDELINES AND AGREEMENT

Staying with a Canadian family is an excellent way to improve your English as well as to learn about another culture. Life in Canada is likely to be very different from that in your own country, so you will be adapting to a new home, new food, new customs, as well as a new language. Don't be shy about being involved with your host family. They will want you to gain a good experience from your visit with them. You may want to stay in touch with your new-found family so, when you leave, remember to give them your forwarding address.

**Homestay Period:** Your Homestay period has been booked according to the dates given on your Homestay Application.

Check-in Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Check-out Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Reservation and Notice:** Your Homestay reservation is only guaranteed for the length of time that you request on your initial application. If you wish to extend your Homestay period, it may be necessary for you to move to a different home and to pay the placement fee again. *If you wish to leave your homestay before your contract is up, you MUST give two weeks' notice. If you have already stayed in the home for two months or longer, you must give one month's notice to leave early.* Any requests to extend or shorten your Homestay period must be discussed in advanced with Northwest Homestay and Student Agency

**Payment of Fees:** Homestay fees, including that for extensions, are due a minimum of two weeks prior to the start of your Homestay period. The fees are to be paid to Norhtwest Homestay and Student Agency. Students cannot make any "special" or "private" arrangements directly with their host families.

**Medical Insurance:** All students are required to have adequate medical insurance coverage for the entire period that they are in Canada. *Students are not permitted to attend classes without medical insurance coverage.*

**Vacations and Holidays:** No refunds or extensions are given for days spent away from the host family's home during your Homestay period. If you are planning an extended vacation and do not

wish the host family to hold the room for you, notify Northwest Homestay and Student Agency. A new host family will be selected for you when you return to Vancouver and another placement fee will be charged.

**The Canadian Family:** There are many types of family structures in Canada: one parent working and the other staying at home with the children; two parents working with the children at school and/or childcare; one parent families; adults without children; retired couples. Each family is different and will have different house rules. As Canadian families are very active, each family member is responsible for tidying up after himself or herself and for taking part in household duties. Ask your host family how you can participate and help.

**House Rules:** Most families have rules and guidelines for their own family members and, as a member of the family, you will be expected to abide by them. These may include when you must be home for dinner or at night, use of the telephone, bathroom or laundry facilities, cleaning up after yourself, friends visiting, etc. The rules may be different from what you are used to, so if you have any concerns, talk to your host family or to Northwest Homestay and Student Agency coordinator.

*Illegal drugs, drunkenness and unauthorized overnight guests are not allowed. Students who violate these rules will be evicted from the home and will not be eligible for a refund.*

**Your Room:** Your room should contain a bed with linens, a desk or table with a chair, a lamp, and a dresser or dresser combined with a closet. Towels will also be provided, if needed. You are responsible for keeping your own room tidy and clean.

If you cause any breakage or damage in the host family's home, you will pay for the replacement or repair costs.

**Bathroom and Shower:** If you are sharing the bathroom with other family members, you will need to arrange your shower and bath time with your host family. You will need to provide your own personal items such as soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc. In consideration of others, make sure the floor is dry and the sink and counter are clean before leaving the bathroom. Apply makeup and use your hairdryer in your bedroom. If you have a private bathroom, you are also responsible for keeping it clean and tidy.

**Laundry:** Canadian families generally have washers and dryers in their homes. Your host family will teach you how to use the laundry facilities and will provide the washing detergent. You will be expected to take care of your own laundry. We recommend that you gather your clothes and, if necessary, wash one load of light-coloured clothes and one load of dark-coloured clothes per week.

**Meals:** Your host family will provide you with breakfast, lunch and dinner. Some families will expect you to serve yourself, just like other members of the family. Most family members are expected to clear their own dishes from the table and to either wash their snack dishes or stack them in the dishwasher. This will apply to you too.

***Breakfast:*** During the week, breakfast is usually self-serve and consists of cereal or toast with tea or coffee. On the weekends, families often have brunch (a late breakfast, early lunch). This can be more elaborate and may consist of pancakes, eggs, bacon, juice or coffee.

**Lunch:** Most family members make their own lunch and you may be asked to pack your own lunch for school. In some cases, your host will make your lunch for you. A packed lunch usually consists of a sandwich, a piece of fruit, potato chips, cake or cookies.

**Dinner:** Dinner is prepared by the host family and is often the largest meal of the day. Most families try to eat this meal together usually at about 6:00 P.M. so be sure to arrive on time for. *Whenever possible, let your host family know beforehand if you will be late or if you will not be home for dinner.*

**Snacks:** Your host will show you what snacks are available for between meals. Be sure to eat only those things that you have been offered.

**Telephone:** You are welcomed to use the telephone of your host family for incoming and outgoing local calls. Please limit all calls to 10 minutes maximum. Your host family will probably have rules about not using the telephone early in the morning or late at night. Please tell your friends not to call after 9:30 P.M.

To make a long distance call, please ask your host family first and then either *call collect or use a Calling Card.*

**Transportation:** Your host family will help you get to know the bus routes near your home and school. You may purchase one-way transit tickets or a monthly bus pass.

**Entertainment:** Many students plan sightseeing trips or tours together. Information can be obtained from our coordinators. Your host family will also be able to help you.

If your host family has planned a family visit to a local attraction, park, museum or nearby city, they may invite you along; however, you will be expected to pay for yourself (admission fees, etc.)

**Questions:** If a problem arises between you and the host family, please notify Northwest Homestay and Student Agency immediately, and we will make every effort to correct the situation. If the situation cannot be corrected (for example, you are allergic to their pet), the Agency will place you with another host family.

If you have questions, please ask your host family for help. If you need additional help with certain issues, please notify Northwest Homestay and Student Agency.



I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the terms and conditions of Homestay placement as set out in the “HOMESTAY STUDENT GUIDELINES”.

I understand that failure to comply with any of the conditions in the “HOMESTAY STUDENT GUIDELINES” may result in my immediate removal from the home and I may not be eligible for a refund of Homestay payments.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date