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## International Money Transfers from Canada: Complete 2025 Guide

Every year, millions of Canadians send and receive money internationally — for family support, tuition payments, overseas investments, and global business.

But [\*\*International Money Transfer\*\*](#) from Canada can be expensive, slow, and confusing.

Hidden bank fees, exchange rate markups, and long wait times often leave senders frustrated. That's why understanding how international money transfers work — and knowing the best options — is essential before moving your money abroad or receiving funds in Canada. You can learn [\*\*Transfer Money Abroad with Lowest Fees\*\*](#). For additional guidance, see [\*\*TD's official guide to sending money abroad\*\*](#).

This guide breaks down everything: costs, speed, tax rules, banking terms, and the best ways to **send money from Canada or receive money to Canada** in 2025.

### What Is an International Money Transfer?

An **international money transfer** is the process of moving funds from one country to another, typically between different currencies.

### Key Elements of a Transfer

- **Sender** – the person in Canada sending the funds.
- **Recipient** – the person abroad receiving the funds.
- **Intermediaries** – banks, fintechs, or exchange services that process the transfer.
- **Fees & exchange rates** – costs added by providers.

💡 **Example:** Sending \$5,000 CAD from Toronto to Germany may involve your Canadian bank, a European intermediary bank, and the recipient's local bank. Each step can add fees or delays.



## How to Send Money Internationally from Canada

### 1. Using a Bank (e.g., CIBC, RBC, TD)

#### Step 1: Gather recipient details

- Full name, bank account number, bank name, branch address
- SWIFT/BIC code or IBAN (for certain countries)

#### Step 2: Log in to your online banking or visit a branch

- Online transfers are faster and often cheaper
- In-branch transfers may require ID and paperwork

### Step 3: Enter transfer details

- Amount, currency, recipient's bank info
- Optional notes or reference number

### Step 4: Review fees and exchange rate

- Banks display fees and exchange rate (may include markup)
- Double-check for accuracy

### Step 5: Confirm transfer

- Authorize with security code or authentication
- Keep the receipt for records

### Step 6: Track the transfer

- Banks often provide tracking via online banking or confirmation email
- Typical time: 1–5 business days depending on bank



## 2. Using a Fintech Platform (e.g., Wise, Remitly, PayPal)

### Step 1: Sign up and verify your account

- Provide ID and personal information
- Link your Canadian bank account or card

### Step 2: Enter recipient details

- Recipient's name, bank account, or email (for PayPal)
- Currency and country

### Step 3: Check fees and exchange rate

- Fintechs usually show exact amount recipient will get
- Fees are transparent upfront

#### **Step 4: Fund your transfer**

- From bank account, debit card, or credit card
- Amount may be converted to local currency automatically

#### **Step 5: Confirm and send**

- Some platforms allow same-day transfers
- Keep confirmation email or transaction ID

#### **Step 6: Notify recipient**

- Most platforms send automatic notifications
- Recipient may need bank account or app access



### **3. Using a Local Exchange Service (e.g., Ava Exchange)**

#### **Step 1: Visit the exchange service**

- Bring government ID and funds to transfer

#### **Step 2: Provide recipient details**

- Name, bank account (or cash pickup location)
- Country and currency

#### **Step 3: Review rates and fees**

- Exchange services often offer **better rates than banks**
- Ask for exact transfer amount and total cost

#### **Step 4: Fund the transfer**

- Pay in cash or via debit/credit (depending on service)

### Step 5: Confirm transaction and get receipt

- Receipt usually includes tracking number or reference code

### Step 6: Recipient receives funds

- Can be bank deposit or cash pickup
- Often same-day transfers for supported destinations

But which way should you use? Now that you know the steps for sending money internationally via **banks, fintechs, or local exchanges**, the next question is: **which option makes the most sense for you?**

## Which Method Should You Use?

| User Type           | Best Option                           | Why                                                                |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Students</b>     | Online services (Wise, Remitly)       | Affordable, easy-to-use, transparent exchange rates.               |
| <b>Businesses</b>   | Banks or SWIFT transfers              | Handle large sums securely with business accounts.                 |
| <b>Expats</b>       | Local providers (Ava Exchange)        | Cash payouts, quick access, and personalized service.              |
| <b>Urgent Needs</b> | Ava Exchange or online express        | Same-day transfers for time-sensitive transactions.                |
| <b>Families</b>     | Mix of online services & Ava Exchange | Lower fees for small remittances; flexible delivery for relatives. |

## Ava Exchange Global Money Transfer Services

At **Ava Exchange**, we provide reliable transfer solutions for both individuals and businesses. Our services cover a wide range of destinations, with a special focus on transfers between **Canada, Iran, the United States, Europe, Turkey, and East Asia** (China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, and India).

### Transfer Options & Fees

- **Iran ↔ Canada**
  - Cash payout: **No fee**.
  - Bank deposit: **\$20 CAD fee** (for deposits up to \$3,000).

- E-transfer: **\$15 fee per \$2,000 CAD.**
  - Canada to Iran: **\$10 fee under \$1,000 CAD; no fee above \$1,000.**
- **Europe (EUR transfers)**
  - Under €5,000: **€20 fee.**
  - Above €5,000: **No fee.**
- **China (CNY & SWIFT transfers)**
  - Under ¥10,000: **¥100 fee.**
  - Above ¥10,000: **No fee.**
  - For larger transfers (>¥50,000): processed via **SWIFT.**
  - USD/EUR to China (via SWIFT): **\$160–\$200 fee** depending on conditions.
- **Turkey**
  - Turkish Lira: **No fee.**
  - USD/EUR under \$10,000: **\$50 fee.**
  - Above \$10,000: **No fee.**

💡 **Why clients choose Ava Exchange:** Transparent pricing, competitive rates, and flexible delivery (cash or bank deposit).

Thousands of Canadians trust Ava Exchange for safe, same-day transfers. [Find out how we can help you too.](#)

## How International Money Transfers Work in Canada

### Bank Transfers

Canadian banks like **CIBC, RBC, TD, and Scotiabank** are the most traditional option for sending money abroad. They're familiar and widely trusted, but they come with trade-offs.

#### *Advantages of Using Banks*

- **Trusted Institutions:** Banks have a long-standing reputation and are heavily regulated, which gives customers peace of mind.
- **Convenience for Account Holders:** If you already bank with CIBC or RBC, you can send a transfer directly from your account — no need to set up a new platform.
- **Strong Security:** Banks have established fraud prevention systems and compliance checks, making transfers secure.

#### *Disadvantages of Using Banks*

- **High Transfer Fees:** Banks often charge between **\$15–\$40 per transfer**, which adds up if you send money regularly.
- **Poor Exchange Rates:** Banks typically add a **2–4% markup** on the exchange rate, meaning you get less money on the other end.
- **Slower Processing Times:** Bank transfers usually take **3–5 business days**, and delays are common if intermediary banks are involved.

### Fintech Platforms (**Wise, Remitly, Xe, PayPal**)

Fintechs disrupted the industry by offering **faster and cheaper online transfers** compared to banks.

### *Advantages of using Fintech Platforms*

- **Transparent Pricing:** Platforms like Wise show you exactly what the recipient will receive before you send.
- **Competitive Exchange Rates:** Most use the **mid-market rate**, which is more favorable than bank rates.
- **Faster Transfers:** Many fintech transfers complete within **hours to 2 days**.

### *Disadvantages Fintech Platforms*

- **Limits on Transfer Size:** Some platforms cap large transfers, which can be restrictive for businesses or investments.
- **Digital-Only Service:** You can't visit a branch if you need in-person support.
- **Country Restrictions:** Not all corridors are supported, limiting where you can send.

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## **Local Exchange Services (e.g., Ava Exchange)**

Community-based services like **Ava Exchange in Richmond Hill**, provide a balance between affordability and personal service.

### *Advantages of using Local Exchange Services*

- **Better Exchange Rates:** Often more competitive than banks, especially on large transfers.
- **Lower Fees:** Many charge less than banks and sometimes beat fintechs for higher amounts.
- **Personalized Support:** You can speak to staff in person, reducing the risk of mistakes.

### *Disadvantages of using Local Exchange Services*

- **Location-Based:** You may need to visit in person to complete a transfer.
- **Availability:** Smaller providers might not cover as many global destinations as large fintechs.

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## **Key Terms You Need to Know (SWIFT, IBAN, Routing Numbers)**

**SWIFT Code**  
A unique code identifying banks worldwide. Required for most international bank transfers.

### **IBAN**

International Bank Account Number, used mainly in Europe. Canadians need it when sending money to countries that require IBANs.

### **Routing/Transit Numbers**

Used within Canada and the U.S. to identify specific banks and branches.

💡 **Mistake to Avoid:** Incorrect SWIFT or IBAN numbers can delay transfers or cause funds to bounce back.

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## Costs of International Money Transfers

Fees vary widely depending on your provider. Here’s a **comparison of common costs**:

| Provider Type                          | Typical Fees           | Exchange Rate Markup      | Hidden Costs           |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Canadian Banks (e.g., CIBC)            | \$15–\$40 per transfer | 2–4%                      | Intermediary bank fees |
| Fintech Platforms (Wise, Remitly)      | 0.5–2% of amount       | Minimal (mid-market rate) | None (usually)         |
| Local Exchange Services (Ava Exchange) | Often lower than banks | Competitive rates         | None or minimal        |

### Fixed Fees vs. Percentage Fees

- **Banks:** Flat fee + exchange markup
- **Fintechs:** Percentage-based fee, more transparent
- **Exchanges:** Lower, often negotiated depending on amount

## How Long Does an International Money Transfer Take?

| Provider Type     | Average Speed          | Notes                               |
|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Banks             | 1–5 business days      | Delays possible with intermediaries |
| Fintech Platforms | Same day – 2 days      | Faster for supported corridors      |
| Local Exchanges   | Same day (cash pickup) | Depends on destination              |

### Fastest Options

- Fintech apps for digital transfers
- Cash pickup services (minutes to hours)

### Slowest Options

- Traditional bank wires (up to a week)

## Canadian Tax & Compliance Rules

### CRA Rules

- Sending money abroad is generally **not taxable** if it's personal (e.g., family support).
- Tax applies if money represents **income, gifts above certain thresholds, or business transactions**.

### FINTRAC Reporting

- Transfers of **\$10,000 CAD or more** must be reported.
- Both senders and providers (banks, exchanges) have reporting obligations.

### When Are Transfers Tax-Free?

- Family remittances
- Tuition payments
- Personal expenses

### When Are Transfers Taxable?

- Business transactions
- Investment income
- Large gifts without documentation

## Best Ways to Send Money Abroad



## Sending Money from Canada

- Use fintechs for **speed**

- Use exchanges (Ava Exchange) for **better rates**
- Avoid banks if possible due to fees

### **Sending Money to Canada**

- Foreign bank wires: slow, costly
- Fintech transfers: cheaper, faster
- Local pickup: instant but less convenient



#### **Case Study:**

- Sending **\$1,000 CAD** abroad → Fintechs often cheapest.
- Sending **\$10,000 CAD** abroad → Local exchange services usually win with lower exchange markups.

### **Practical Checklist Before Sending Money Abroad**

1. Compare providers' fees & rates.
2. Double-check SWIFT/IBAN details.
3. Know your provider's transfer time.
4. Ensure CRA/FINTRAC compliance if over \$10,000.
5. Keep receipts for record-keeping.

### **Why Ava Exchange Is Good Choice?**

#### **Transparent Fees**

No hidden costs. You know exactly what you'll pay.

#### **Competitive Exchange Rates**

Better than banks, often better than fintechs for larger transfers.

#### **Community Trust**

Rhichmond Hill-based, with personalized support.

Do I need an IBAN from Canada? → Only for Europe.

Is Wise cheaper than banks? → Usually for smaller transfers.

Max transfer without declaring? → CAD 10,000 cash must be reported.

Does Ava Exchange send money abroad? → Yes, in-person service with competitive rates.

Are transfers instant? → Depends on provider & corridor.

How to track transfers? → SWIFT reference (banks), app notifications (fintech).

Can I send money in cash? → Ava Exchange allows cash pickup.

What if the recipient's bank delays? → Ava Exchange provides guidance.

Are there hidden fees? → Always compare rates + fees.

How often should I check rates? → Daily for large transfers.

Can I transfer to multiple recipients at once? → Some fintech apps allow batch transfers.

Are there limits for sending to high-risk countries? → Yes, check provider regulations.

Do I need ID for in-person transfers? → Yes, government-issued ID is required.

What currencies can Ava Exchange handle? → USD, INR, PHP, and most major currencies.

How do holidays affect transfers? → Banks may take longer; Ava Exchange offers options to avoid delays.

### Conclusion: Choose Smart, Save More

International money transfers from Canada don't need to be expensive, slow, or confusing.

- **Banks** offer security but at high costs.
- **Fintechs** deliver speed and transparency for small to mid transfers.
- **Ava Exchange** combines the best of both: **competitive rates, lower fees, and trusted local service.**

Whether you're looking to **send money from Canada** or **receive money to Canada**, choosing the right provider can save you time and hundreds of dollars.

💡 Next time you transfer, compare wisely — and consider a trusted local partner like Ava Exchange for the best overall experience.