

# Who is MFS Brussels?



**Mara Peters**  
Community Services  
Manager



**Kristine Breton**  
Community Services  
Provider



**Beth Sandholm**  
Community Services  
Provider



Brussels Canadian Military  
Community Center

(MFS & PSP Staff):

**Maison Marquis**

**Avenue des dominicaines 15,  
Kraainem, 1950**



# THE CANADIAN COMMUNITY IN BRUSSELS

**62%**

ANGLO HOUSEHOLD

**14%**

FRANCO HOUSEHOLD

**24%**

MIXED HOUSEHOLD

**3**

Singles

**19**

Families

**39**

Children at post

**12**

Couples  
(no children  
at post)



# TIPS FOR YOUR TEMPORARY ACCOMODATION WHEN YOU MOVE

**Whatever accommodation type you choose, ensure you are close to public transit in case your car and/or your plates are not in yet.**

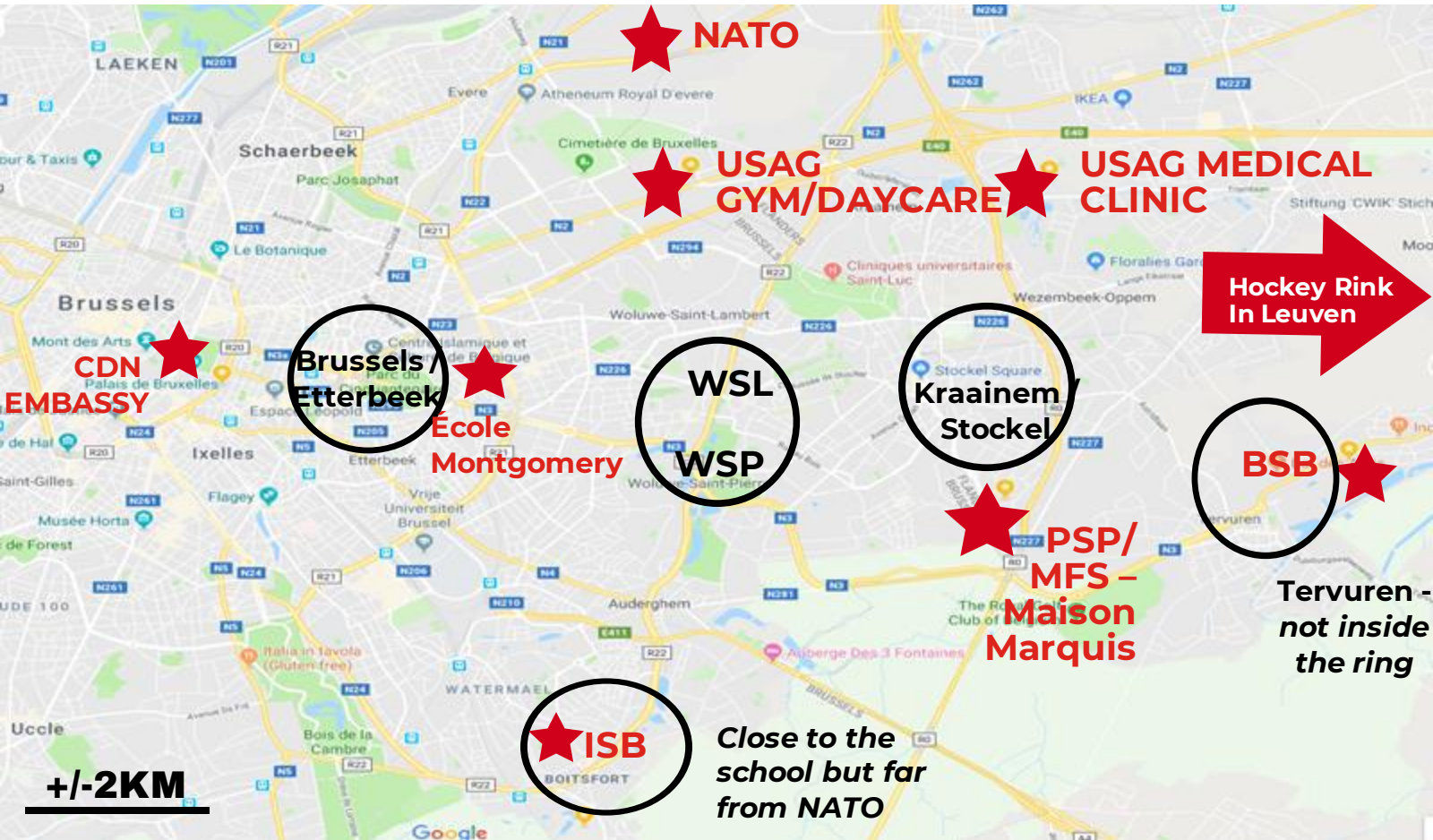
## Hotels

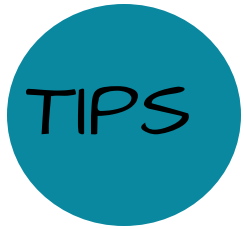
- Look for a "**fully equipped kitchen**" or a "kitchenette."
- An **outdoor space** is always nice.
- Has a **parking** lot available & parking is included in your rate, especially downtown (parking can be expensive).
- Did you bring **pets**? Make sure the hotel is pet friendly.

## Airbnb

- Think **amenities** - Washer/dryer, TV, kitchen, sheets & towels provided, etc.
- **Flexible** on the date of departure.
- **Unlimited Wi-Fi.**
- **Landline** available to make local calls until you are settled with your telecommunications.
- Access to an **outdoor space** is always nice.
- Did you bring **pets**? Make sure the Airbnb is pet friendly.

# WHAT'S WHERE?





# WHAT'S WHERE?

If you live east of the Brussels/Flanders boarder (in [Kraainem](#), [Tervuren](#), [Wezembeek-Oppem](#)), **buses** run on a separate system and require a **secondary pass**. No **scooters** can cross from Brussels to the Flanders district. **Flemish** is also the first language in these communes.

Map out **bike routes** to work and schools from prospective properties; often biking is faster than driving in Brussels. Some Canadians didn't bring a car, and they don't miss it!

If you plan on sending children on the **school bus**, contact the potential school to find out **travel times** from your potential home address. Depending on the school and where you live, bus times can be upwards of 45–60 minutes.



# HOUSING

## Housing Rental Sites

Immoweb  
[www.immoweb.be](http://www.immoweb.be)

Immovlan  
[www.immo.vlan.be](http://www.immo.vlan.be)

Century 21st  
[www.century21.be](http://www.century21.be)

### Note

\* The delegation/sponsors have shared (or will be sharing realtor names)

## HHT

On your first working day, come to Maison Marquis for your briefing & be sure to bring:

- Official and personal passports
- Military ID
- SIN card
- 4 passport photos / each member of your family

Once your HHT request has been approved, a calendar invite will be sent to you by the OR detailing your first day.



# HOUSING - WHERE TO LIVE?

## Communes/Postal Codes in Brussels & close Flemish-Brabant (Flanders) communes

- ★ •1000 Bruxelles-Ville
- 1030 Schaerbeek
- ★ •1040 Etterbeek
- 1050 Ixelles
- ★ •1060 Saint-Gilles
- 1070 Anderlecht
- 1080 Molenbeek-St-Jean
- 1081 Koekelberg
- 1082 Berchem-Ste-Agathe
- 1083 Ganshoren
- 1090 Jette
- 1140 Evere
- ★ •1150 Woluwé-St-Pierre / Stockel
- 1160 Auderghem
- 1170 Watermael-Boitsfort
- 1180 Uccle
- 1190 Forest
- ★ •1200 Woluwé-St-Lambert
- 1210 St Josse-ten-Noode
- ★ •1950 Kraainem - Flanders
- ★ •3080 Tervuren - Flanders
- ★ •1970 Wezembeek-Oppem - Flanders

★ Where most Canadians live



# HOUSING - WHERE TO LIVE?

The Greater Brussels Region is approximately the size of Ottawa. The city is broken into **communes** (neighborhoods), each of which has its own **postal code**.

Most Canadians live **within the Greater Brussels Region**.

Most Canadian families live **southeast of Brussels** city center (less than 10 km from NATO Headquarters).

Most Canadian families live **inside the ring**. If you live outside the ring, you either live in Flanders or Wallonia. Keep in mind that each region (like provinces at home) has its own set of rules and languages (transit, garbage, language, etc.).





# HOUSING - WHERE TO LIVE?

The Brussels communes where most Canadian families live are: **Etterbeek** (Montgomery and Schuman area), **Woluwe Saint-Pierre/ Woluwe Saint-Lambert/ Tervuren**

Brussels **Communes/Postal Codes** (neighborhoods)

Map:

<https://be.brussels/about-the-region/the-communes-of-the-region>

Many people in Brussels choose to **cycle** or use **public transportation** because it is efficient and faster. Look at the various modes of transportation, and routes before making your decision about your home.

**Driving takes a lot longer here** due to traffic and speed cameras.



# SCHOOLS/EDUCATION

## Things to consider when choosing a school

Questions?

- Languages spoken and programs
- Public and local schools versus private & international schools
- Registration process and Timing
- Foreign Service Directive FSD 34 – British School of Brussels

**Contact CEM:**

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**[Alisa.Hanrahan@forces.gc.ca](mailto:Alisa.Hanrahan@forces.gc.ca)**



# PETS



## If you bring a pet, consider...



- Vaccines, health records, and microchips
- Registered veterinarian “Fit to Fly” appointment and form
- Appointments, forms and approvals from a Canadian Food Inspection Agency Agent

[Form to fill - Non-commercial export of dogs, cats and ferrets to the European Union – Canadian Food Inspection Agency \(canada.ca\)](#)

- Check the airline’s pet policy
- Local emergency vet services in Brussels (they will even come to your home/hotel/Air BNB)

[Vet Emergency – Veterinary home emergency service – 24h/7d](#)

# HHT & WELCOME BAGS

## CAR ITEMS



Safety vest and triangle

## HOME HOTEL



Travel Adapters with USB plug



## EXTRAS



1 public transport card per family



Coins/tokens to use a shopping cart

Maps



**And much more!**

# TIPS FOR PAYMENT

Some shops accept only one type of payment

## **CASH ONLY (Euros):**

Frequent in Belgium.



## **CARDS ONLY:**

Have a credit card with enough funds.

"Interac/Debit" is NOT compatible with Bancontact system (the European debit system), but OK for withdrawals at an ATM.



Having a **VISA/DEBIT** card might be a good idea to pay AND have CASH while using the same card.

In Belgium, **it is not customary to add a gratuity or tip on top of the charge for item or service.** If the service is exceptional and you would like to leave a tip, it is recommended **not to exceed 10%.**



# DRIVING IN BELGIUM



**PRIORITY RIGHT:** Warning for uncontrolled crossroads ahead, priority given to vehicles coming from the right. **No STOP signs** in Brussels.



**“SHARK TEETH”:** drivers must yield way to the drivers on the crossing street. You have **NO priority right**.



**TRAMS:** Trams follow different traffic rules than normal road users, and **ALWAYS** have priority.

## **ROUNDAABOUT:**

Give way to vehicles **IN** the roundabout.



## *Note*

- \* The legal minimum age for driving is 18 years.
- \* Mobile phones may only be used with a "hands free" system.
- \* Driving in Belgium: [Traffic-rules.com](http://Traffic-rules.com) ([rijbewijs-online.be](http://rijbewijs-online.be)).

# CFMWS

MFS Brussels Pages = Resources, Resources, Resources

[CFMWS](#) | [MFS](#) | [OUTCAN Europe](#) | [CFMWS](#) – Europe

[CFMWS](#) | [MFS](#) | [OUTCAN Europe](#) | [CFMWS](#) – Prepare

[CFMWS](#) | [MFS](#) | [OUTCAN Europe](#) | [CFMWS](#) – Brussels

[www.facebook.com/MSFEurope](http://www.facebook.com/MSFEurope)

[www.outcanhorscan.com](http://www.outcanhorscan.com)

## BRUSSELS

Main base of operation of the European Union, international city par excellence, and moulded by a fascinating history, Brussels has so much to offer.

<a href="#">COMMUNITY RESOURCES &amp; SERVICES</a> →	<a href="#">EDUCATION IN BRUSSELS</a> →
<a href="#">EMPLOYMENT &amp; VOLUNTEERING IN BRUSSELS</a> →	<a href="#">HEALTH SERVICES, DENTAL SERVICES &amp; SUNLIFE CLAIMS</a> →
<a href="#">CHILDCARE &amp; CAMPS OPTIONS</a> →	<a href="#">MEET THE BRUSSELS TEAM</a> →
<a href="#">TRANSPORTATION &amp; DRIVING IN BELGIUM</a> →	<a href="#">SHOPPING, PETS, RECOMMENDED SERVICES AND THINGS TO CONSIDER IN BRUSSELS</a> →
<a href="#">PSP SERVICES</a> →	

→ [WELCOME BOOK](#)

→ [HOUSE HUNTING INFORMATION](#)

### Contact us

For more information, please contact:

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+32 (0) 2 210 92 97  
[MFSE.Brussels@cfmws.com](mailto:MFSE.Brussels@cfmws.com)

\* For security reasons, our mailing address is not provided here. If you have received your posting message and would like to get our address, you can email us.



# WHAT TO EXPECT & WELCOME EVENTS

## JULY / AUGUST / SEPTEMBER

- ❖ **Coffee Mornings (kids are welcome)** – Thursdays @ Maison Marquis at 10 a.m. (Yoga, self-development workshops)  
Roaming Coffee's
- ❖ **Welcome Briefing followed by Welcome BBQ** –  
September 6, 2024
- ❖ **Brussels Guided Tour & Lunch / Public Transportation Tour**  
– September 26, 2024
- ❖ **Interactive Contacts / Warm Calls (Spouses & single members)** – During the first year



# Brussels

Questions?

[mfse.brussels@cfmws.com](mailto:mfse.brussels@cfmws.com)



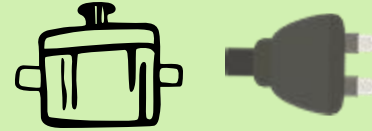
What to pack?



Pets?



Schools?



What to bring &  
What to store?

Appliances?

Summer  
camps for  
kids?



Vehicle?



Summer day  
trip ideas,  
while in the  
hotel?

Health  
services?

