

ON THE MOVE

You've just purchased your new home and are delighted, but the details of moving – not the most fun part of new home ownership - need to be addressed. To make your move stress-free, make a checklist now and be sure to transfer your new address to important contacts to avoid confusion down the road. I suggest taking an afternoon off and tackling everything all at once. Just think about how organized you'll feel when it is all done!

DELIVER DE LETTER DE SOONER DE BETTER

The first thing you need to do is file a Change of Address form with Canada Post. This will redirect any mail to your new address. Set it up to begin on the day before you move. These redirected pieces of mail will have a yellow sticker on them so you can identify who still needs to be informed of the change. You will also receive post cards that you can send to your friends and other contacts informing them of your new address.

THE DOCTOR WILL SEE YOU NOW

Think about your doctor, dentist, chiropractor, pediatrician, massage therapist, and the list goes on to anyone that helps you feel better! Ask your current provider if they can refer you to someone in your new town. If they are unable to, ask your Realtor or the Welcome Wagon if they can tell you who is accepting new patients. Once you have them all set up be sure to have your records transferred prior to your first visit. Don't forget to transfer prescriptions to your new pharmacy.

SHOW ME THE MONEY

If changing your bank, open your new account ASAP and order cheques with your new address on them. Now is a good time to find an accountant and lawyer as well – you suddenly may require their services.

CHILDREN AND FURRY FRIENDS

Not always in the same category, but look after all your loved ones. Be sure to talk to your children's school about transferring them and how to make it as seamless as possible. If you have pets, find out where the vet is and inquire about boarding homes and dog walkers if needed. The local pet store could point you in the right direction and make a recommendation.

LET THERE BE LIGHT

Phone, Heating, Hydro, Water, Cable, Internet...the list goes on. Arrange to have all utilities stopped at your current address one day after moving and have any deposits be refunded. Contact local providers and ask that service commence one day prior to your move. Be prepared to pay for service hook up fees and to fill out credit forms.

Yes, attending to all these details is tedious and time consuming but there is no way around it. If you take a few hours to get it all done, there will be no surprises in your mail. One more tip – if you drive on the 407etr, be sure you change your address with them too as the Ministry of Transportation doesn't inform them of address changes. Don't end up like me with an unexpected huge bill months after I moved!