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# Inland refugee claims under COVID 19



FCJ Refugee Centre  
*Walking with Uprooted People*

# Inland refugee claims under COVID 19

In land claims are still available; however, the process has changed:

- All in-person claims are closed
  - The Immigration office (IRCC) located at 5343 Dundas St. Etobicoke, is currently closed to the public
  - The only way to start an inland claim process is by contacting Immigration by email.
- If you need protection and you are currently living in Ontario, please contact Legal Aid.

# Inland refugee claims under COVID 19

To start an inland claim process by contacting Immigration by email:

[IRCC.RefugeeClaim-Demandedasile@ic.gc.ca](mailto:IRCC.RefugeeClaim-Demandedasile@ic.gc.ca)

# Inland refugee claims under COVID 19

1. Once your request has been received, an **Acknowledgement of Claim (AOC)** letter will be sent to you by email. (There may not be an interview date on this document)
2. To confirm that a person has made a refugee claim, one of the following documents should be provided: **AOC LETTER** OR a Refugee Protection Claimant Document (RPCD)
3. RPCD renewals are not being processed at this time, service providers are asked to accept expired RPCDs as still valid, until further notice.

# AOC LETTER AND RPCD

## Acknowledgement of Claim (AOC) Refugee Protection Claimant Document (RPCD)

1. Refugee claimants can make applications for social services within your provincial and territorial jurisdictions
1. Acknowledgement of Claim (AOC) letter and the Refugee Protection Claimant Document (RPCD) are used to help determine eligibility for social services.

# IRB Special measures due to covid-19

- ✓ **SUSPENSION OF IN-PERSON HEARINGS:**  
until further notice, all in-person hearings and mediations are suspended, except detention reviews and some admissibility hearings involving detained persons.

# IRB Special measures due to covid-19

- ✓ **HEARING RESUMPTION:** the IRB will provide at least 30 days' notice ("The Resumption Notice") before proceeding with a previously scheduled in-person hearing or scheduling a new in-person hearing, except detention reviews and some admissibility hearings involving detained persons

# IRB Special measures due to covid-19

- ✓ **APPLICATION OF IRB RULES:** When hearings resume, the IRB will be flexible with respect to the application of its rules where the parties have difficulty complying with them due to the COVID-19 situation.



# IRB Special measures due to covid-19

- ✓ **TIME LIMITS:** Time limits for the filing of various forms and submissions and notices of appeal across various Divisions are being temporarily extended

- Extended the time limit for filing the Basis of Claim Form

- <https://irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/legal-policy/procedures/Pages/rpd-covid19-temporary-extension.aspx>

- Extended the time limit for filing and perfecting an appeal

- <https://irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/legal-policy/procedures/Pages/temporary-extension-time-limits-rad.aspx>

# CBSA Contact information

- ✓ Refugee interviews have been canceled
- ✓ FAX your contact information 9056127931
- ✓ Contact by email Jose Matos:  
jose.Matos@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca
- ✓ for contact information 905 612 79 23 or  
contact Jose Matos CBSA
- ✓ For immediate assistance call 905 612 7923

# Refugee claimants at any airport allowing international flights

Only essential travel for visitors is allow to come to Canada

CBSA eligibility interviews are cancel in PIA Toronto but in other regions are allowed by appointment only was still.

# CBSA Special measures due to covid-19

- ✓ Regions are making their own arrangements for people to call in, rather than appearing in person
- ✓ Removals are suspended. CBSA clarified that removals could proceed exceptionally where:
  - ✓ Person wants to leave voluntarily
  - ✓ Person presents serious inadmissibility, but it needs to be approved by Headquarters (and depends whether they can find routing, commercial flights.)

# IRCC Special measures due to covid-19

- ✓ Exemptions to the air travel restrictions will apply to foreign nationals who have already committed to working, studying or making Canada their home, and travel by these individuals will be considered essential travel for land border restrictions.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/news/2020/03/canada-provides-update-on-exemptions-to-travel-restrictions-to-protect-canadians-and-support-the-economy.html>

## Refugee claims at any USA/Canada

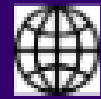
- ✓ Claimants eligible for exemptions under the Safe Third Party Agreement between Canada and the U.S. can enter the country through official land border crossings.
- ✓ Those entering through irregular border crossings will still be returned to the U.S.

# Making a claim at a land Port of Entry

If you meet an exception under the STCA (e.g. family member in Canada) you will be allowed to make a refugee claim (but need to comply with 14 day isolation requirements).

If you don't meet an exception under the STCA you will be sent back to the US with a finding of ineligibility under the STCA. The assurances from the US about not detaining etc direct backs DO NOT apply.

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