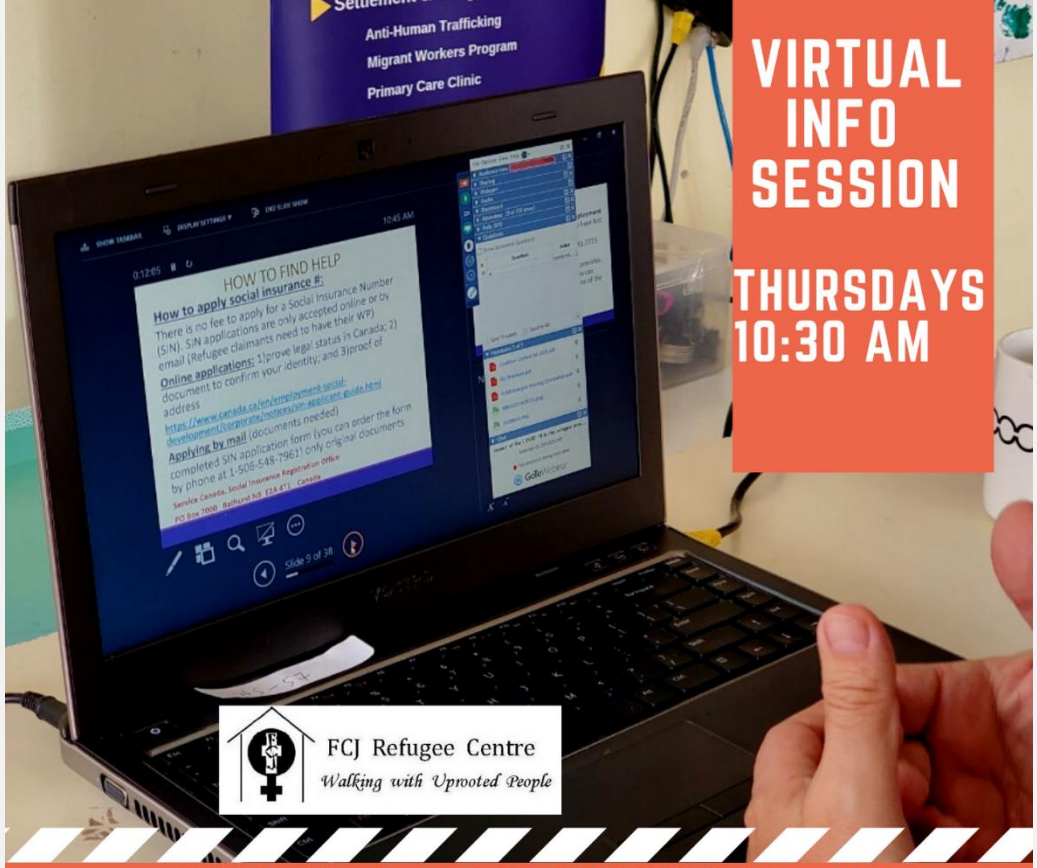



# VIRTUAL INFO SESSION

## THURSDAYS 10:30 AM

# IMPACT OF THE COVID 19 IN THE REFUGEE PROCESS IN CANADA

Connect with us and learn how to navigate the immigration system during this difficult time. The webinar is focused on the refugee process, postponement of refugee hearings and resources available. Also, we will explore ideas on what to do while you are waiting for your refugee hearing.

***Registration***

***Carolina Teves***

***cteves@fcjrefugeecentre.org***

# FCJ REFUGEE CENTRE

*Walking with uprooted people*

## IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 IN THE REFUGEE PROCESS

by

Francisco Rico-Martinez

www.fcjrefugeecentre.org

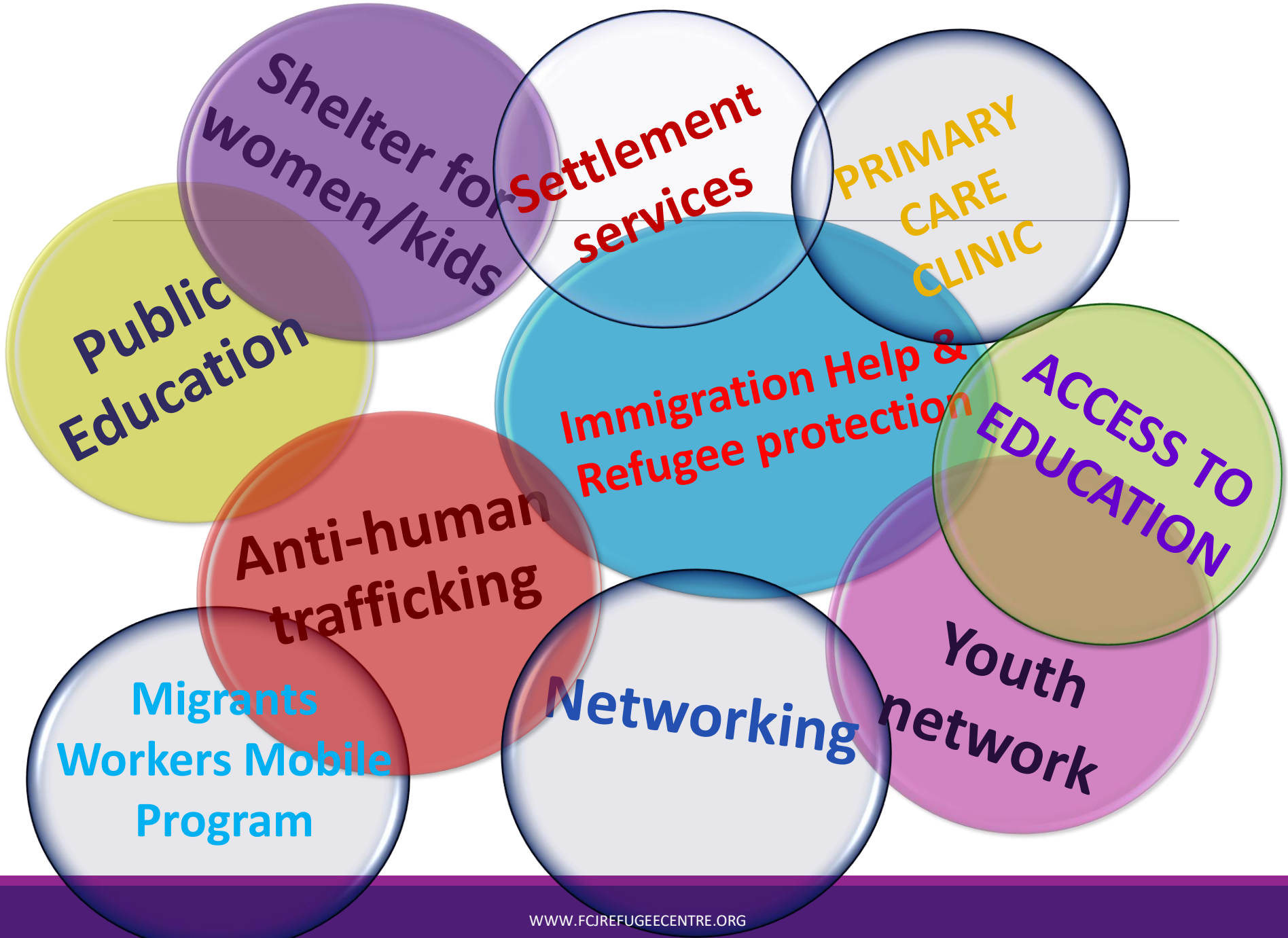
# AGENDA

- Who  we are
- Response to COVID-19: how to find help
- Immigration measures after the impact of
- COVID-19 Refugee  hearing  tips during the

**After every section we will have a 5 minutes for questions**

# WHO WE ARE…

**Non-profit organization which serves refugees and others at risk due to their immigration status…**


Shelter for women/kids
Settlement services
PRIMARY CARE CLINIC
Public Education
Immigration Help & Refugee protection
ACCESS TO EDUCATION
Anti-human trafficking
Migrants Workers Mobile Program
Networking
Youth network

# Response to COVID-19: how to find help

For more details on:

***"HOW TO FIND HELP DURING THE CRISIS OF THE COVID-19"***

https://www.fcjrefugeecentre.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Coalition-Resources-booklet.pdf

# HOW TO FIND HELP

**HEALTH SUPPORT:** the Ministry of Health addressed the provision of necessary medical services in hospitals to persons who do not have health insurance under OHIP or another provincial health insurance plan.

**https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus**

-Ontario expanded mental health support with BounceBack program: crisisservicescanada.ca/en/covid-19-resources/

**HOW TO FIND SHELTER:** If you, a relative or a friend requires shelter call Central Intake Line, of the City of Toronto at 416-397-5637 or 416-338-4766. Central Intake is the clearing house for emergency beds in Toronto.

# HOW TO FIND HELP

**HOW TO ACCESS FOOD BANKS:** You can find a list of food banks through the 211 TO website

https://www.211toronto.ca/topic/Central%20Region/ORGANIZATION/fht142/Central%20Region

**Toolkit**:"how to find help during the crisis of the COVID-19" has more referrals for help

https://www.fcjrefugeecentre.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Coalition-Resources-booklet.pdf

# HOW TO FIND HELP

**-Access to Emergency Benefits and Employment Insurance :** support to individuals who have lost part or all of their incomes.

Toll-free number for enquiries 1-833-381-2725

**-Canada Emergency Response Benefit** provides $2,000 a month for up to 16 weeks : you can apply if you are not able to work because of the COVID 19

https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/cerb-application.html

# Implied work permit

## Can I keep working if my permit expires? How do I prove this to my employer?

Yes, if you applied for a work permit extension **before** your work permit expired, you can keep working until a decision is made on your application.

You must stay in Canada and meet the conditions of your original work permit. For instance, if you have an employer-specific work permit, you must still work for the employer named on that permit.

We do not provide confirmation that you have implied status in Canada. However, you should keep proof that you submitted the application before your work permit expired. This includes copies of the application, the fee receipt, and something that confirms the date it was sent and delivered.

Was this answer useful? Yes No

# HOW TO FIND HELP

## How to apply social insurance #:

There is no fee to apply for a Social Insurance Number (SIN). SIN applications are only accepted online or by email (Refugee claimants need to have their WP)

**Online applications:** 1)prove legal status in Canada; 2) document to confirm your identity; and 3)proof of address

https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/notices/sin-applicant-guide.html

**Applying by mail** (documents needed)

completed SIN application form (you can order the form by phone at 1-506-548-7961) only original documents

**Service Canada, Social Insurance Registration Office**

**PO Box 7000 Bathurst NB E2A 4T1 Canada**

# HOW TO ACCESS ONTARIO WORKS

**City of Toronto**
**(North York, Scarborough, Etobicoke)**

→ **416-338-8888**

*Wait till you hear "You can visit us online…" (after the first pause), then press 3-1-1-2, then wait.*

Peel Region
(Mississauga / Brampton):

→ 905-793-9200

*Press 3 then wait*

**York Region**
**(Vaughan / Richmond Hill / Markham**

→ **1-877-464-9675**

*Press 1-1, then wait till you hear "Thank you for calling York Region," then 3.*

**Durham Region**
**(Pickering / Ajax / Whitby / Oshawa)**

→ **905-428-8982**

*Press 1-4.*

# HOW TO ACCESS ONTARIO WORKS

1. Call the application centre
2. Translators are available on the phone, just request a translator in your language.
3. In the application, they will ask questions about your personal and financial information.
4. After the phone application, they will call you for an interview
5. Ontario Works Services is encouraging to apply by phone and not online at this moment. If you do the application by phone you will get an appointment sooner than if you do the application online
6. You will be ask to fax documents like: ID, and bank information (if you have one) )

# 5 minutes to answer some questions related to **FINDING HELP** section

FCJ Refugee Centre

# IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 IN THE REFUGEE PROCESS

FCJ Refugee Centre

# 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

# Refugee claims inland 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.

# Refugee claims inland under COVID 19

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

IRCC.RefugeeClaim-Demandedasile.IRCC@cic.gc.ca

# Refugee claims inland 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

2. Acknowledgement of Claim (AOC) letter and the Refugee Protection Claimant Document (RPCD) are used to help determine eligibility for social services.

# CBSA Contact information

- ✓ Elegibility 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

- ✓ 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

# 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. NOT assurances from the US about not detaining or nor deporting direct backs.

Those entering through irregular border crossings will still be returned to the U.S.

# Claims at other points (crossing in between Ports of Entry, marine arrivals, air arrivals form the US)

- People will be directed back to the US (with a notice that you can return once the border closure is over).

- There is a new discretionary provision based on "national interest". The Minister has directed that officers use this discretion in two circumstances (and no others): people who may be subject to the death penalty and people who arrive by air (apparently because it is not feasible to send them back to the US)

- There are exceptions to the direct back (as before) for US citizens, stateless persons habitually resident in the US and unmarried unaccompanied minors without a parent or legal guardian in the US.

- The exception for parents of US citizen minors has been dropped.

5 minutes to answer some questions related to **the measures**

# PREPARING FOR YOUR REFUGEE HEARING

## Some tips during the COVID 19 emergency

# Sign in and visit a refugee hearing room:

https://www.fcjrefugeecentre.org/ready-tour-registration/

Ready tour

REFUGEE HEARING ORIENTATION SESSION

*A free program for refugee claimants*

# Sign in and learn the steps to appeal

https://www.fcjrefugeecentre.org/ready-tour-registration/

RAD Info-session

TEMPORARY SUSPENDED

# First tip: How to apply for legal aid

Calling earlier in the morning is recommended to reduce waiting time.

Call Toll free #: 1 800-668-8258

Legal Aid # (Toronto only): 416-979-1446

Every time you apply, you will speak to two different agents. The first agent will ask you more basic questions and set up your Legal Aid account.

# How to apply for legal aid

First agent will give you a client number. Write this number down.  Then you will transfer to a second agent.

Second agent may ask you more personal questions related to the reason for your refugee claim and your finances. At the end you may received a CE#. Write this # down.

# Second tip: preparing for key issues at any Refugee Hearing

1. **IDENTITY**
2. **CREDIBILITY**
3. **INTERNAL FLIGHT ALTERNATIVE**
4. **SUBJECTIVE FEAR**
5. **GENERALIZED RISK**
6. **STATE OF PROTECTION**

# Third tip: while waiting please gather evidence

There are two types of documents:

**1.- Country conditions evidence:**

- speaks to the conditions/situations in country or countries affecting you and/or you fear persecution. That that. The RPD already has documents about your country, these documents are called the **National Documentation Package** (NDP).

  https://irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/country-information/ndp/Pages/index.aspx

- **2.- Personal Evidences**

- **Proof of Identity and or Relationship.**.
- **Proof of membership in group.**
- **Documents that prove incidents in your narrative.**
- **Medical and/or Psychological reports.**

# Humanitarian & Compassionate Application

**Refused claimants must wait for 12 months before applying for H&C**

Citizenship and Immigration Canada | Citoyenneté et Immigration Canada

IMMIGRATION

Canada

## Applying for Permanent Residence from Within Canada

## Humanitarian and Compassionate Considerations

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**Appendices:**


Appendix A: Dependent Children
Appendix B: Police certificates
Appendix C: Sponsor's Instructions


**Forms:**


Application for Permanent Residence from Within Canada – Humanitarian and Compassionate Considerations (IMM 5001)
Supplementary Information – Humanitarian and Compassionate Considerations (IMM 5283)
Instructions – Use of a Representative (IMM 5561)
Use of a Representative (IMM 5476)
Authority to Release Personal Information to a Designated Individual (IMM 5475)
Document Checklist – Humanitarian and Compassionate Considerations (IMM 5280)
Receipt (IMM 5401)


**Sponsorship Forms:**

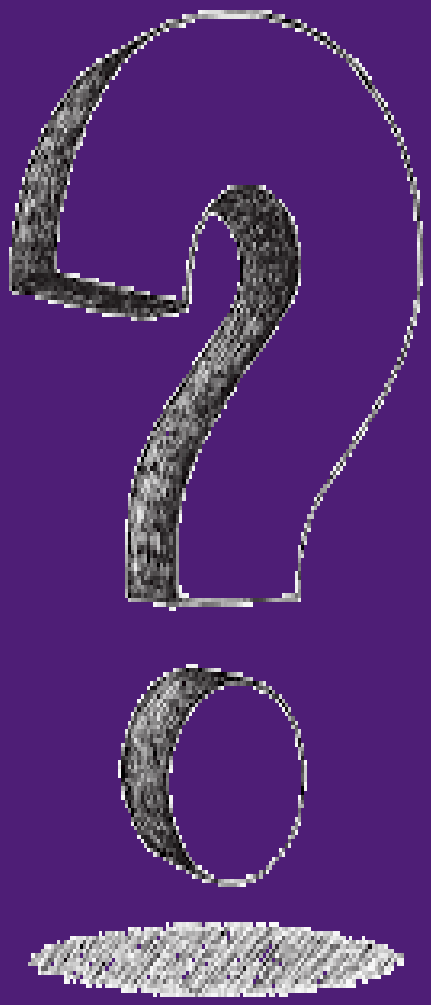

Application to Sponsor and Undertaking (IMM 1344A)
Document Checklist – Sponsor (IMM 5287)


This application is made available free by Citizenship and Immigration Canada and is not to be sold to applicants.

**Cette trousse est également disponible en français**


IMM 5291E (01-2010)


Canada



# QUESTIONS

# THANK YOU

## CONNECT WITH US

fcjrefugeecentre.org
@FCJRefugeeCentre
@RefugeeCentre
fcjrefugeeecentre
416-469-9754
info@fcjrefugeecentre.org