

FCJ REFUGEE CENTRE

Walking with uprooted people

Navigating the Refugee
Process during COVID-19

Resuming Ready Tours

by

Francisco Rico





AGENDA

1. CBSA: Resuming Deportations
2. IRCC: Temporary Pathway to Permanent Residency
3. IRB moving to remote hearing model
4. Virtual refugee hearing
5. Inland Refugee Claim
6. Refugee Protection Claim Document
7. Virtual Ready Tours
8. What to expect after your refugee hearing.



FCJ | **Refugee Centre**
Walking with uprooted people

FCJ Refugee Centre serves refugees and others at risk due to their immigration status, and welcomes anyone asking for advice, counsel and support.



Settlement Program

**Immigration Help &
Refugee Protection**

Anti- Human Trafficking Program

Popular Education

Networking

www.fcjrefugeecentre.org

WHO WE ARE...

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



WWW.FCJREFUGEECENTRE.ORG

SERVICES/PROGRAMS

IMMIGRATION HELP AND REFUGEE PROTECTION

- Transitional shelter for women and kids
- Housing support
- Women's programs: art class, Entrepreneur Skills, etc.
- Food distribution program
- Virtual community cooking class
- English and Conversation
- Primary Care and Mental Health Clinic
- Youth Program

- Immigration and refugee orientation
- Refugee Process
- Refugee Hearing preparation
- PRRA
- Refugee Appeal
- H&C
- Sponsorships
- Work/Student permit
- Etc.

SETTLEMENT AND INTEGRATION:

ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING PROGRAM

- Webinars and training sessions
- Borderless voices podcast
- Youtube channel videos
- Resources: presentations & documents
- Country research
- Seasonal Newsletter and annual reports

- Direct services to trafficked persons
- Supporting migrant workers through our Migrant Workers Mobile Program

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND NETWORKING

Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA)

- CBSA resume removal operations for all inadmissible foreign nationals in Canada starting on November 30
- CBSA regions had resumed on November some PRRA activities following safety measures : The Greater Toronto Area Region is exploring the use of video conference as a means to deliver PRRA decisions.
- CBSA is currently doing email reporting for all clients. Clients email ENQUIRIES222@CBSA.GC.CA with their full name and case ID on their assigned reporting day. They will get a confirmation email from a CBSA.

IRCC: TEMPORARY PATHWAY TO PERMANENT RESIDENCY

1. On August 2020, the federal government announced a temporary pathway to permanent residency for refugee claimants working in the health-care sector during the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. On December 14, 2020, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) started to accept applications for permanent residence from refugee claimants who work in Canada's health-care sector and provide direct care to patients.
3. Applications will be accepted until August 31, 2021.
4. All applicants will be required to meet existing admissibility requirements, including those related to criminality, security and health.
5. Legal Aid is accepting application for this program.

TEMPORARY PATHWAY TO PERMANENT RESIDENCY

The announce was extended to:

1. Refugee claimants who contracted COVID-19 and subsequently passed away, spouses and common-law partners of these individuals who are in Canada and arrived before August 14, 2020.
2. In addition, applicants' internship experience (both paid and unpaid) will be considered, as long as it is an essential part of a post-secondary study program or vocational training program in one of the designated occupations.

You can find the details of the program at the IRCC website:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/refugees/healthcare-workers-permanent-residence.html>

Inland Refugee Claim

- Individuals who are in Canada and wish to make a refugee claim are directed to make their refugee claim by email at IRCC.RefugeeClaim-Demandedasile.IRCC@cic.gc.ca.
- Once their request has been received, an Acknowledgement Of Claim letter will be sent to them by email.
- There may not be an interview date on this document due to the closure of the offices to the public.
- Claimants will be contacted for their interview date once regular service resumes.

IRCC:REFUGEE PROTECTION CLAIMANT DOCUMENT

- IRCC has announced that they are not processing renewals of the Refugee Protection Claimant Document (RPCD) at this time.
- They are asking service providers to accept expired RPCDs as still valid, until further notice.



UPDATES: WORK PERMIT

- Until you have your eligibility interview, you will not be issued your first work permit
- You are requesting an open work permit or study permit by checking a box in the revised Schedule 12 and placing your name

- Webinar about work permit available online

<https://www.fcjrefugeecentre.org/webinar-how-to-do-a-work-permit-online/>



**Webinar | Guía
para aplicar a un
permiso de trabajo**

UPDATES: WORK PERMIT

- allows the applicant to continue working using their previous work permit, until a decision is made on their application

Date: October 28, 2020

Please quote this reference number when referring to this application.

Dear [REDACTED]

This confirms that your application has been received by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) on October 28, 2020 (yyyy/mm/dd).

Please attach this letter to your present work permit Number [REDACTED] as proof that you are authorized to continue working with the same conditions (ie. employer and occupation) until February 25, 2021 or until a decision is made on your application, whichever is first. This extended period of work is authorized as per subsection 186(u) of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations. If you leave Canada before a decision is made on your application, you will no longer be authorized to continue working.

When will IRCC contact me?

You are expected to provide a COPY of your passport with your electronic application. If IRCC needs your physical passport, IRCC will request that you submit it to our office. IRCC will also contact you if we require additional information, documents or an interview. For general guidance on what to expect, you can visit <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/work-canada/permit/temporary/after-apply-next-steps.html>, or consult the 'What Happens Next' section of the instruction guide associated with the application form you used.

Please do not send to IRCC any documentation related to this online application by mail, courier or fax. Any mail received, other than what is received in your account, will NOT be considered.

How long will it take to process my application?

Processing times vary. Please refer to the following page for processing times related to your application: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/times/index.asp>.

CAUTION: Do not submit multiple applications for the same service in an effort to speed up your application. Doing this may result in both applications being processed and delay the finalization of your application. IRCC does not refund processed applications.

Unless your application has exceeded normal processing times, please limit your correspondence to notifying us of changes in your application.

For additional information, consult the IRCC website at www.cic.gc.ca.

This is an automated message.

This message has been submitted to your account.

By submitting your application electronically, you agreed to receive correspondence electronically. IRCC will not be forwarding you paper notification.

Key step: 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. You will receive 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.

You also can find this information in our Migration section at our website o through our our BORDERLESS VOICES PODCAST

The IRB/REFUGEE PROTECTION DIVISION (RPD) FILE REVIEW PROCESS



- ✓ **Through the file review process the IRB is planning to be flexible and find a way to view as many cases as possible, to get to a positive decision **without a refugee hearing.****
- ✓ RPD is open to **lawyers identifying cases suitable for file review.** It is encouraged for counsels to send complete information on why a case is appropriate for file review.
- ✓ Case Management Conferences will be done through calls to resolve issues. These conferences could be held by members or by Adjudicative Claims Officers (ACOs) who have been in place for about a year **(triaging cases, preparing files and recommending for positive decision without a hearing.)**
- ✓ The IRB may send out positive decisions without reasons (from file review cases) with the option for the person to request reasons

Resuming Ready Tours online

- The Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada is implementing the Virtual Ready Tours in Toronto
- This is a great opportunity for refugee claimants to learn what is going to happen during their refugee hearing
- The ready tours will take place twice a month depending on the demand.

For registration visit:

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



Refugee claimants can learn:

- ✓ What to expect at the hearing?
- ✓ Who might participate at the hearing?
- ✓ How to navigate the refugee hearing process
- ✓ What is a refugee hearing?

IRB moving to remote-only hearing model

- In light of the increase of COVID-19 cases across Canada, the IRB is moving to remote hearings starting on January 18th
- Only urgent and particularly sensitive cases considered for in-person hearings
- The IRB is no accepting documents in person for any division
- Documents have to be submitted to the IRB electronically using MyCase portal, email or through Canada Post epost Connect
- Fax and regular mail/courier continue to be accepted only when electronic options are not available.
- For those who already have a refugee hearing scheduled, the IRB will contact you to discuss next steps.

More details in the following link:

<https://irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/news/2021/Pages/remote-only-hearings-january-18.aspx>



- Types of Housing
- Sharing a Budget
- Where and How to search
- Viewing the apartment
- Rental applications

The video of the Housing Needs is available at our website

BREAK

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NEXT SECTION: What happens after your refugee hearing

What happens After the refugee hearing?

At the end of your Refugee Hearing

At the end of your hearing, the RPD member may:

- give you a decision and reasons either positive/negative right there or,
- They may say that they need more time to arrive to their decision
- If IRB does not give you a decision, you can make an application to submit evidence after your hearing until they have made a decision.
- The RPD Refugee Process finishes the day the IRB signed the decision.

Positive decision

- If a claim is accepted... that person is granted protected person status in Canada.
- Protected persons can apply for Landing (Permanent Residence) and family reunification (take in consideration the backlog increased with the COVID-19 emergency)
- When eligible, permanent residents can apply for Canadian Citizenship

Refugee Family Reunification

Refugees in Canada seeking to reunite with immediate family members overseas face very long processing delays.

They seek reunification through:

- Dependents of refugees (DR2s) category (for people who were accepted as refugees in Canada OR

Refugee Appeal Division

1. On November 2nd : The Refugee Appeal Division issued a practice notice stating that it will now schedule all hearings virtually
2. Appellants or their representatives will be asked to confirm their availability for the proposed hearing date

<https://irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/news/2020/Pages/rad-pn-scheduling-virtual-hearings.aspx>

Negative decision

- You can appeal to RAD-IRB
- Or can make an application to the Federal Court for Judicial Review
- You may decide to make a Humanitarian and Compassionate Application after 12 months of the decision
- You are exempted from this 12 months under best interest of the child exception and health issues

Pre-Removal Risk Assessment, PRRA

This is an evaluation done by IRCC to determine your risk of being removed from Canada to your country of origin, called a Pre-Removal Risk Assessment or PRRA.

The PRRA is for people:

- who are subject to a removal order that is in force or “removal ready.”
- Who are over the 12 months bar from the day the last IRB decision is received.

LATEST WEBINARS AND PRESENTATIONS

Other Resources



Webinar | Temporary Pathway to Permanent Residency webinar



Webinar | Refugee Hearing Preparation Updates: What to Expect During Your Hearing Day



Webinar | New Canada Recovery benefits, who can apply and what to expect



Webinar | Preparación para la Audiencia de Refugio



Webinar | The Refugee Process Updates and Resources

PODCAST LATEST EPISODES



Episode #20:



Spanish Episode



Episode #19:



Spanish Episode

QUESTIONS

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Connect with us

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- [fcjrefugeecentre](https://www.instagram.com/fcjrefugeecentre)
- [@FCJRefugeeCentre](https://www.facebook.com/FCJRefugeeCentre)
- [@RefugeeCentre](https://www.twitter.com/RefugeeCentre)



**Free Child Minding
Program for
Kids under 18**

For more information contact
Melina Castro at
esl@fcjrefugeecentre.org or
Maria Ramirez Bolanos
maria.ramirez@fcjrefugeecentre.org
416-469-9754 (ext. 232)

Every tuesday from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm and
wednesday from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm.

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THANK YOU



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