



May 2026
RESPONSIBLE
IMMIGRATION

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MESSAGE FROM ROB

Dear friends,

Canada is a much desired destination for people wanting to live in a peaceful, stable nation, build their lives, contribute to the economy and raise their children.

Canada's immigration system has always focused **on attracting educated, skilled newcomers** to help build the economy and fill labour shortages, while also acknowledging our international humanitarian obligations. As the federal government tackles domestic and international economic challenges, Canada's **immigration targets require adjustments**. For example, permanent resident admissions will be stabilized. Temporary resident admissions, including Study Permits, have already been reduced and certain refugee sponsorship streams have been paused.

In this issue, you will find information on the federal government's changes to Canada's immigration policies. The primary objective of these changes is to attract immigrants whose education, skills and experience will be critical for **building a more resilient and sustainable economy**. These changes will also build upon Canada's strength as a nation that celebrates **diversity and pluralism**.

The federal government is committed to a responsible and balanced immigration system that ensures newcomers can succeed and communities can continue to thrive.

Stay safe and take care,


INFO

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CHANGES TO ECONOMIC IMMIGRATION

A strong Canadian economy depends on a highly skilled workforce. Immigration helps fill critical labour gaps in important economic sectors. A key feature of Canada's immigration is our reputation for attracting skilled international people who are eligible to enter Canada on a **Work Permit**.

For those workers who wish to apply for **Permanent Residence**, the **Express Entry** system is available to those who qualify under the **Canadian Experience Class**, **Federal Skilled Worker Program** and the **Federal Skilled Trades Program**. Applicants with the required skills **must be invited to apply** for Permanent Residence through the Express Entry system.

The federal government consults regularly with and receives input from provinces, territories and industry regarding sectors or regions across Canada where there are labour shortages. These shortages could arise from business expansion, retirement or structural changes in a certain sector. Based on the needs of provinces and territories and businesses, the federal government has announced new categories in the Express Entry system. These categories include **foreign medical doctors with Canadian work experience**, **researchers and senior managers**, **transport occupations** and **skilled military applicants** with job offers from the Canadian Armed Forces. Candidates in **health care, social services, and skilled trades** and those with strong **French-language skills** will be prioritized.

Canada's economic growth is enhanced by the arrival of newcomers with the required skills and experience. Qualified newcomers drive **innovation** and **entrepreneurship**, bringing **global expertise** that helps Canadian businesses stay competitive. Immigration has positive benefits to all sectors of the Canadian economy. To learn more about the **sectorial impacts of immigration**, please **scan the QR code**.



A ONE-TIME MEASURE FOR TEMPORARY RESIDENTS

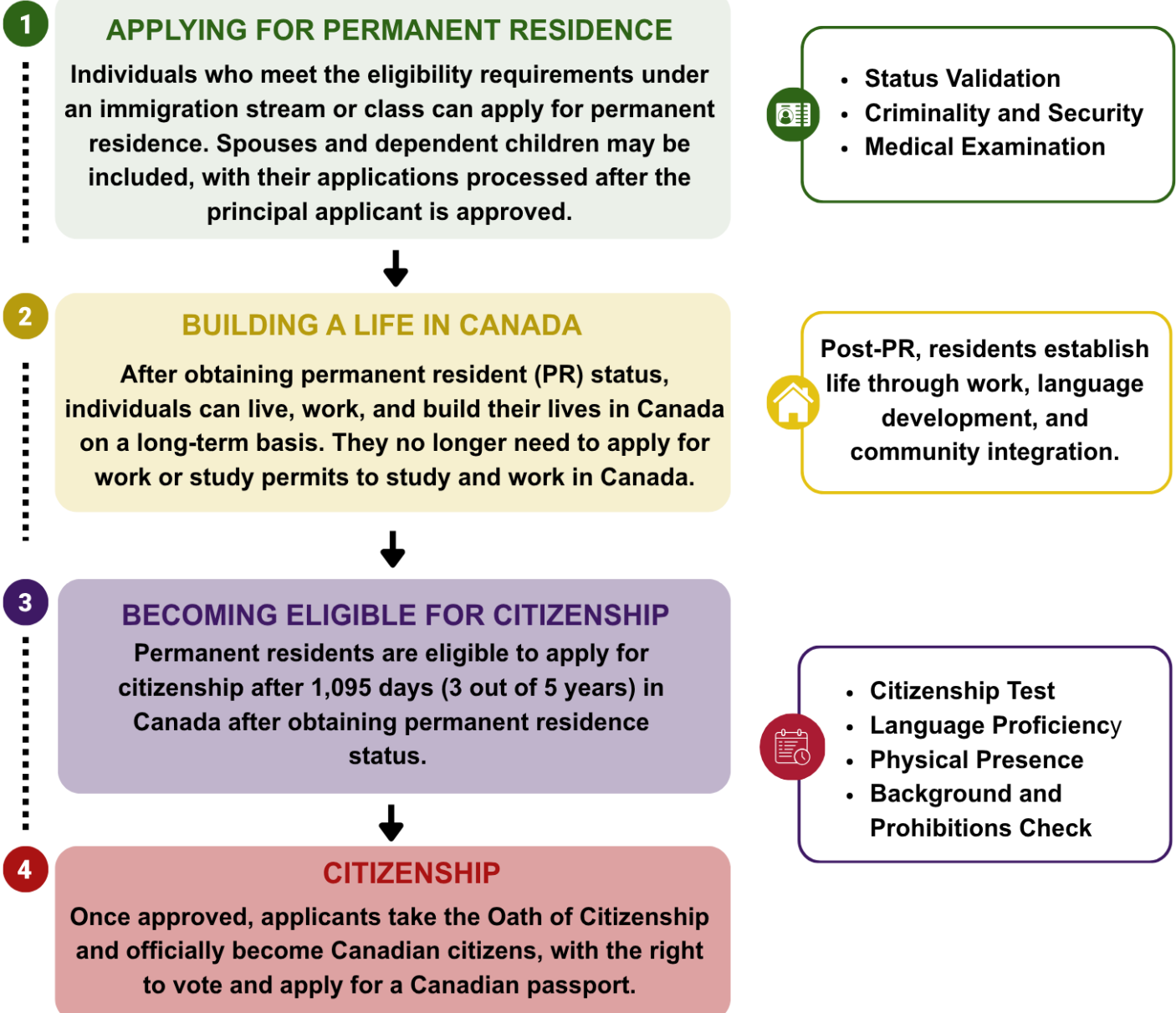
Projects of national importance are a cornerstone of the federal government's priorities. These projects will require a stable, trained workforce. These projects will also require experienced workers in ancillary sectors of the economy. There are individuals in Canada with **valid Work Permits** who have the skills and experience needed for these important projects.

For this reason, the federal government will implement a **one-time measure** to support the transition of **up to 33,000 Work Permit holders to Permanent Residence in 2026 and 2027**.

This initiative will recognize individuals who are already contributing to Canada's economy across key sectors, including **healthcare, skilled trades and STEM-related occupations**. Through this one-time measure, communities that experience persistent labour shortages will be able to have consistency and stability in their workforce. This measure is also beneficial for workers as it acknowledges their strong community ties and their important role in supporting Canada's economic growth.

PATH FROM PERMANENT RESIDENCY TO CITIZENSHIP

Permanent Residence in Canada can be obtained through a range of immigration pathways, including humanitarian streams, economic programs (such as Express Entry), and protected person pathways. Each pathway is governed by specific eligibility criteria and assessment processes. Despite these differences, all streams offer individuals and their families the opportunity to settle in Canada, access services and supports, and build toward long-term integration and eventual citizenship.



APPLICATION PROCESSING TIMES

Canada receives millions of applications each year. By **November 30, 2025**, the federal immigration department had received **4.6 million applications and made over 5 million decisions**.

Processing times vary based on application completeness, volume, and complexity. While IRCC aims to process 80% of complete applications within service standards, higher demand than available spaces has led to longer wait times.

Even with these pressures, progress continues:

- 65% of permanent residence applications finalized within 12 months
- Over 80% of Express Entry applications processed within 6 months
- Family sponsorships (outside Quebec) processed in about 13 months

Some steps, like security screening and backgrounds, are handled independently and **may exceed published processing times**.

Applicants can use the IRCC Web Form, call the **Client Support Centre at 1-888-242-2100** (within Canada), or check their application status online for most programs by creating a secure IRCC account online using **GCKey** or a **Sign-In Partner** to track an application.

To set up your IRCC account yet, **scan the QR code to create one and start tracking your application**.



RESOURCES FOR NEWCOMERS

For newcomers in Don Valley West, **community organizations** provide assistance and resources. For individuals and families who are in the immigration system, these organizations help provide many services, including **housing and employment information, ASL, language training** and **programs for youth**. These organizations include the following:

Don Valley Community Legal Services (DVCLS): Thorncliffe Park Community Hub 45 Overlea Blvd, Unit 200. (416-441-1764)

TNO — The Neighbourhood Organization: 45 Overlea Blvd. (416-421-3054)

Afghan Women's Organization (AWO): 747 Don Mills Rd, Unit 200. (416-422-2225)

Flemingdon Health Centre (FHC): 10 Gateway Blvd. (416-429-4991)

Skills for Change: 65 Overlea Blvd. (416-645-2489)

Bob Rumball Canadian Centre of Excellence for the Deaf: 2395 Bayview Ave. (416-449-9651)