



IMMIGRATION Canada

Family Class

Sponsorship of a spouse, common-law partner, conjugal partner or dependent child living outside Canada

Part 2: The Immigrant's Guide



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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

Contact Information

Web site

For more information on the programs offered by Citizenship and Immigration Canada, visit our Web site at www.cic.gc.ca. For some types of applications you can inform us of a change of address and find out what is happening with your application through [on-line services](#) on the Web site.

Within Canada

If you are in Canada, you can also phone our **Call Centre**. An automated telephone service is available seven days a week, 24 hours a day and is easy to use if you have a touch-tone phone. You can listen to pre-recorded information on many programs, order application forms, and for some types of applications the automated service can even update you on the status of your case.

When you call, have a pen and paper ready to record the information you need. Listen carefully to the instructions and press the number for the selection you want. At any time during your call, you may press * (the star key) to repeat a message, **9** to return to the main menu, **0** to speak to an agent, or **8** to end your call. If you have a rotary phone, wait for an agent to answer you.

If you need to speak to an agent, you must call Monday to Friday between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. local time.

From anywhere in Canada, call

1-888-242-2100 (toll-free)

Using a text telephone?

Call our TTY service from Monday to Friday between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. local time at: **1-888-576-8502** (toll-free).

Outside Canada

If you are outside Canada, you can contact a Canadian embassy, high commission or consulate. Consult our [Web site](#) for addresses, phone numbers and Web site addresses of our visa offices.



This is not a legal document. For legal information, refer to the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act and Regulations* or the *Citizenship Act and Regulations*, as applicable.

This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.

Immigrating to Canada

The enclosed instructions and forms are sent to the principal applicant (you) by the sponsor (a Canadian citizen or permanent resident) who wishes to support the application for immigration to Canada of a person (you) as a member of the family class. The sponsor agrees to sign a contract (the sponsorship undertaking) by which he or she promises to provide, for a specific number of years, coverage of your basic requirements (food, shelter, clothing, fuel, utilities, household supplies, personal requirements, dental care, eye care and other health care not provided by public health care) and those of the family members who will be accompanying you to Canada. It is important that you familiarize yourself with the contents of this guide before you complete the forms and return them to your sponsor. Your sponsor cannot submit the sponsorship forms until he or she receives your application.

We are committed to issuing visas for routine cases of spouses, common-law partners, conjugal partners and/or dependent children as quickly as possible after the Case Processing Centre in Mississauga (Ontario, Canada) (CPC-M) receives complete applications from the sponsor. However, a number of factors could have an impact on the outcome of your application or the time needed to process it. There can be no guarantee that the sponsorship will be approved or that the visas will be issued. A list of factors that can slow down processing of applications has been provided to your sponsor.

About the Family Class

The family class includes, among others, persons who are the sponsor's

- spouse, common-law or conjugal partner,

You are the sponsor's **spouse** if you are a person of the opposite sex aged 16 or older and are legally married to the sponsor.

Note: A marriage between two persons of the same sex, where one is a citizen or a permanent resident of Canada, will be recognized, for immigration purposes only, where the marriage was performed in a Canadian province in which marriages between same-sex persons are legally recognized. For additional information on same-sex marriages, consult our [Web site](#).

You are a **common-law partner** if you are a person of the opposite or same sex, who is living with the sponsor in a conjugal relationship and have done so for a period of at least one year.

You can be sponsored as a **conjugal partner** if you have maintained an opposite or same-sex conjugal relationship with your sponsor for at least one year; that is, you have been in a committed and mutually interdependent relationship of some permanence where you have combined your affairs to the extent possible (a marriage-like relationship).

This last category is intended for partners of Canadian sponsors who would ordinarily apply as common-law partners but cannot meet the definition (were not able to live together continuously for one year with their sponsor), usually because immigration rules prevent long stays in one another's countries. In most cases, the foreign partner is also not able to marry their sponsor and qualify as a spouse. Such factors as marital status or sexual orientation, in addition to an immigration impediment, usually prevent both partners from entering into a common-law relationship or marrying.

Non-cohabitation for purely personal or economic reasons (for example, did not want to give up a job or studies) does not normally qualify as a sufficient impediment. Applicants should be able to provide evidence that they have tried to live together as common-law partners. For example, they might have explored options for living together in one another's countries, such as work or study permits, visitor visas, long-term visitor status, etc.

If your application is approved and you become a permanent resident of Canada, you will have to meet the definition of a common-law partner before you can exercise any rights or privileges associated with common-law status.

Note: There is no fiancé(e) category in Canada's immigration legislation. If you and your sponsor are fiancé(e)s, you must marry before your sponsor submits the sponsorship and immigration applications. Your application may be refused if you apply as a fiancé(e).

You cannot be sponsored as a spouse if

- you or the sponsor were the spouse of another person at the time of your marriage, or
- you have lived separate and apart from the sponsor for at least one year and you or the sponsor are in a common-law relationship with another person.

You cannot be sponsored as a spouse, common-law partner or conjugal partner if the sponsor gave a previous sponsorship undertaking in favour of a spouse, common-law partner or conjugal partner and three years have not passed since that spouse, common-law partner or conjugal partner became a permanent resident of Canada.

- dependent son or daughter (see **Dependent children**).

If you are an adopted child or acting on behalf of an adopted child, make sure you are using the right kit; contact your sponsor for more information.

Note: If you became a permanent resident of Canada sometime in the past but have subsequently left the country and have since been living outside Canada, you may not have lost your permanent resident status. If you have not lost your permanent resident status, you may not be sponsored. For further information on re-entry of permanent residents to Canada, see the guide [Applying for a Travel Document](#) on our Web site.

If you were born outside Canada and one of your parents was a Canadian citizen at the time of your birth, you most likely are a Canadian citizen and as such, cannot be sponsored. Consult our [Web site](#) for more details on Canadian citizenship and how to apply for a proof.

Persons who should be included in the application

If you are being sponsored as a member of the family class, your spouse or common-law partner (except where your spouse or common-law partner is the sponsor) must be included in your application as a family member. You must also include all your dependent children from your current and previous relationships, whether they will be going with you to Canada (accompanying family members) or not (non-accompanying family members).

Note that the visa office will not issue permanent resident visas to family members whom you identify as not accompanying you to Canada.

All your family members, whether accompanying you or not, must be declared on your application and be examined. If family members are not examined, it is generally not possible to sponsor them at a later date. This includes children in the custody of a former spouse or common-law partner.

In addition, failure to declare family members on your application and have them examined goes against your duty to provide truthful and accurate information, and may cause you to be found inadmissible to Canada.

Dependent children

Your child or a child of your spouse or common-law partner will be considered a dependent child if that child

- A. is under the age of 22 and not married or in a common-law relationship; **or**
- B. married or entered into a common-law relationship before the age 22 and, since becoming a spouse or a common-law partner, has
 - been continuously enrolled and in attendance as a full-time student in a post secondary institution accredited by the relevant government authority and
 - depended substantially on the financial support of a parent; **or**
 is 22 years of age or older and, since before the age of 22, has
 - been continuously enrolled and in attendance as a full-time student in a post secondary institution accredited by the relevant government authority and
 - depended substantially on the financial support of a parent; **or**
- C. is 22 years of age or older, has depended substantially on the financial support of a parent since before the age of 22 and is unable to provide for him/herself due to a medical condition.

Dependent children must meet the above requirements both on the day CPC-M receives a complete application for a permanent resident visa and, without taking into account whether they have attained 22 years of age, on the day a visa is issued to them.

Medical requirements

To be admissible to Canada, you and your family members must not have a condition that is a danger to public health or safety.

You and all your family members who are not already Canadian citizens or permanent residents, whether they will be going with you to Canada or not, must undergo and pass a medical examination.

If you or your family members are divorced or separated and have sole or joint custody of a child, this child is considered to be your family member even if he or she normally resides with the other parent and must meet medical requirements. If the child is in the legal custody of the other parent, it is not necessary for that child to undergo the medical examination. Note, however, that if that child does not undergo the medical examination, it will not be possible to sponsor him or her later.

We will only recognize medical examinations done by medical doctors who have been chosen by Canadian Immigration authorities. These doctors are referred to as Designated Medical Practitioners (DMPs). A list of DMPs in your region is provided at **Appendix D**. DMPs are only responsible for conducting a medical examination in accordance with Canada's immigration requirements. They cannot provide any advice on the immigration process.

The results of the medical examination are valid for a period of 12 months from the date of the first medical examination. If you have any medical problems, you may have to go for more tests after your examination by the DMP. Processing of applications for permanent residence submitted by sponsored spouses, common-law partners, conjugal partners and dependent children is given priority to minimize situations where medical results expire before the application process is completed.

All medical reports and X-rays for the immigration medical examination become the property of the Canadian Immigration medical authorities and cannot be returned to the person examined. The DMP will not advise you of the results of the examination but will advise you if you have a health-related problem.

Read carefully and follow the instructions given at **Appendix D**. You and each of your family members must complete your own copy of the questionnaire included with these instructions. Bring it with you when you go for your medical examination and hand it over to the DMP. If you do not bring your copy of Appendix D with you or if it is not filled in properly, the DMP will not be able to complete the form IMM 1017EFC (Medical Report — Section A) and our Regional Medical Office (RMO) WILL NOT review your results. We will not be able to process your immigration application and you will have to make

another appointment with the DMP in order to hand over your completed questionnaire enabling the DMP to complete the IMM 1017EFC.

When you fill in **Appendix D**, make sure you enter at Number 3 the name of the visa office (outside Canada) where your application will be sent for processing. The visa office processing your application will be the one which deals with the country where you are living, provided you have legal status in that country, or with your country of nationality. If you are not sure which of our visa offices will be processing your application for permanent residence, consult our [Web site](#) or contact your sponsor.

The DMP will use the information you and your family members provide on the questionnaire (**Appendix D**) to complete the IMM 1017EFC form. The DMP will ask you to sign the IMM 1017EFC form and will give you a duplicate (copy 2). This copy will constitute proof you and your family members underwent the medical examination. Do not lose copy 2: it is the only acceptable proof of completion of the medical examination. You will have to send it to your sponsor with your application. If copy 2 of the IMM 1017EFC is not included in the package sent in by your sponsor, your application will not be processed and will be returned to your sponsor. Your sponsor will then have to obtain the missing documents from you before he or she can submit the entire application again.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you contact the doctor promptly, to pay for the examination and to take additional examinations and/or tests which we may require.

If your immigrant application is not processed or if your case is not routine, the results of your medical examination may expire before a visa is issued to you. You will then have to undergo another complete medical examination and pay associated fees.

Security requirements

You and your family members (spouse/common-law partner and dependent children) must not be any risk to Canada. You and all your family members aged 18 and over who are not Canadian citizens or permanent residents must undergo background checks. This applies even to your family members who do not intend to join you in Canada.

For each country in which you or your family members have lived for more than six months during the past 10 years, you must provide a police certificate, clearance or record of no information. If you or your family members were under 18 years of age when you lived there, you do not need to provide a police certificate for that country. It is your responsibility to contact the police or relevant authorities. We will also do our own background checks to determine if you have any arrests or criminal convictions, or if you are a security risk to Canada.

For the following countries, police certificates should not be obtained before applying for immigration. You may receive special instructions at a later date about police certificates for these countries.

Afghanistan	Honduras	Thailand
Costa Rica	Hong Kong	Ukraine
Fiji	Poland	United Kingdom
French Polynesia	Singapore	Venezuela

If you have lived in one of the countries listed below, you will need additional forms before applying for immigration. If you do not have the forms, ask your sponsor to obtain them from our Call Centre and send them to you.

Argentina	Russia	South Korea
Sri Lanka		

Normally, Immigration authorities establish the admissibility of applicants for permanent residence and their family members through documents such as the permanent residence application form, police certificates and background records and assessments.

Certificates/clearances are normally issued by police authorities, but in some countries you will have to apply to municipal, provincial, federal or other government authorities. You may be asked to pay a fee for the service. The country's embassy or consulate may be able to give you additional information.

You may have to provide information or documentation such as photographs, authorization to release personal information, fingerprints, or your addresses and periods of residence in other countries. Some authorities may require a letter from Canadian immigration authorities confirming that you have applied to immigrate to Canada and that you must obtain evidence of any criminal record as part of the processing of your application. Use the form letter *Request for Police Certificates/Clearances* (see **Appendix B**) for this purpose.

All police certificates must be originals; photocopies are not acceptable. If your certificates are in a language other than English or French, you must attach a certified (notarized) translation with the certificates. If you or any of your family members cannot get police certificates from any of the countries in which you have lived for six months or more after reaching the age of 18, you must provide a written explanation with your application and an original letter from the relevant authority confirming that they will not issue a certificate or clearance.

See additional information on requesting police certificates/clearances in **Appendix B**.

Criminality

Generally, persons with a criminal conviction are not admitted into Canada. However, if a prescribed period has passed after they have completed their sentence or committed an offence and during which they were not convicted of a subsequent offence, they may be deemed to have been rehabilitated. If they are not deemed to have been rehabilitated, they may, under special circumstances, be eligible to apply for rehabilitation.

Offences outside Canada

If you were convicted of or committed a criminal offence **outside** Canada, you may be deemed to have been rehabilitated if 10 years have passed since you have completed the sentence imposed upon you or since you have committed the offence, if the offence is one that would, in Canada, be an indictable offence punishable by a maximum term of imprisonment of less than 10 years. If the offence is one that would, in Canada, be prosecuted summarily and if you were convicted of two or more such offences, that period is 5 years after the sentence imposed was served or to be served.

Offences in Canada

If you have a criminal conviction **in** Canada, you must seek a pardon from the National Parole Board of Canada before you apply for immigration to Canada. For further information, contact:

Clemency and Pardons Division

National Parole Board

410 Laurier Avenue West

Ottawa ON K1A 0R1

Telephone: 1 800 874-2652 (Callers in Canada and the United States only)

Facsimile: 1 613 941-4981

Web site: www.npb-cnlc.gc.ca (the guide which includes application forms can be downloaded from the Web site)

If you have had two or more summary convictions in Canada, you may be deemed rehabilitated and no longer inadmissible if

- 5 years have passed since the sentence imposed was served or to be served,

- you have had no subsequent convictions and
- you have not been refused a pardon.

See **Table 1** for a summary of the types of offences and length of rehabilitation periods.

If you or any of your family members have committed a criminal offence, you must provide, in addition to any police certificates or clearances, a full description of the circumstances surrounding the offence and the court record. This information will be reviewed by the visa office and you will receive further instructions.

Immigrating to Quebec

If you are being sponsored by a Canadian citizen or permanent resident living in the province of Quebec and you intend to settle there, you will receive from your sponsor an additional set of instructions and a form, the *Application for Selection Certificate*, to complete, sign and return to your sponsor. If your sponsor meets all of the conditions of the provincial legislation respecting immigration, a Quebec selection certificate (*Certificat de sélection du Québec — CSQ*) may be issued to you.

A CSQ is a document issued by the *Ministère des Relations avec les citoyens et de l'Immigration* (MRCI), indicating that an immigration candidate has been accepted to live in the province of Quebec upon arrival in Canada.

Frequently Asked Questions

Should I hire a lawyer or consultant?

All the information you require to complete your application is in this application kit. If you have questions or need clarification, you may contact us (see the [Contact Information](#) section). You may also choose to obtain the help of a representative if you need additional advice or support. We will process your application in the same manner, whether or not you have a representative.

You **must** complete the *Use of a Representative* form (IMM 5476) and send it with your application if:

- you are paying a representative to help you complete your application; and/or
- you wish to authorize us to discuss your application with someone other than yourself.

Do I need a passport or travel document?

You and your family members must have valid passports or travel documents. If any of the documents are to expire soon, you should renew them and provide copies of the new passport or travel document to the office processing your application. Diplomatic, official, service or public affairs passports cannot be used to immigrate to Canada. You must have a valid regular or private passport when you arrive. The validity of your visa may be affected by the validity of your passport.

How long do I have to complete the application and send it in?

You should complete the forms and return them as soon as possible to your sponsor, along with all supporting documentation. Your sponsor cannot submit the sponsorship forms until he or she receives your application.

Do professionals need registration and licensing to work in Canada?

In Canada, approximately 20 percent of occupations are regulated (for example, nurses, engineers, teachers, electricians) to protect the health and safety of Canadians. People who want to work in regulated occupations need to obtain a license from a provincial regulatory body. Licensing requirements often include education from a recognized school, Canadian work experience and completion of a technical exam. Fees for exams can be costly and are the responsibility of the applicant. Final assessment by the provincial authority can only be made once you are in Canada with permanent resident status.

Contact the appropriate regulatory body for additional information.

How long is a permanent resident visa valid?

A permanent resident visa is issued for a period not exceeding the earlier of

- the expiry date of the medical results for you and your family members or
- the expiry date of your or your family members' passport.

Permanent resident visas cannot be extended once issued. If applicants do not use the visas within their validity period, they must re-apply for immigration to Canada. Their sponsor will have to submit a new sponsorship application and pay new processing fees.

My child is in the sole custody of my former spouse. Do I need to include this child in my application?

You must list this child on your application for permanent residence, but the child does not need to be examined if you do not have custody or responsibility for the child through either a written agreement or a court order. However, if the child is not examined, you cannot sponsor him or her as a member of the family class in the future, regardless of changes to custody or living circumstances. If you want to preserve your right to sponsor this child in the future, you may wish to have him or her examined as part of your application.

How to Apply to Immigrate to Canada

If you are a member of the family class as described earlier and you feel you are admissible to Canada, proceed as follows:

STEP 1. Only one of each form you and your family members must complete is being provided with this guide. Before you start to complete the forms, make a photocopy for each person who needs to submit an individual form. To determine how many photocopies of the blank forms you will need, consult the table below.

Form	Must be completed by
Sponsorship Agreement (IMM 1344B), if your sponsor lives in a Canadian province or territory other than Quebec	You, unless you are under 22 years of age and not the sponsor's spouse, common-law partner or conjugal partner. Your sponsor will already have signed this form and sent it to you with this guide. You must sign it also and return it to your sponsor.
Application for permanent residence in Canada (IMM 0008 Generic)	You.
Spouse/Partner questionnaire (IMM 5490)	You, if you are the spouse, common-law partner or conjugal partner of the sponsor.
Schedule 1, Background / Declaration (IMM 0008 Schedule 1)	You and each of your family members 18 years of age or over, whether accompanying you to Canada or not, must complete their own copy of this form.
Additional Family Information (IMM 5406)	You and each of your family members 18 years of age or over, whether accompanying you to Canada or not, must complete their own copy of this form.

If you choose to have a representative, complete also the *Use of a Representative* form (IMM 5476).

STEP 2. Complete the forms following the step-by-step instructions in the next section.

STEP 3. Obtain police certificates/clearances as instructed and collect all other documents you need to support your application. The checklist at **Appendix A** will tell you which documents you must submit with your application and which require translation and/or certification (notarization). Refer to section on security requirements for related information on police certificates.

Make an appointment with a designated medical practitioner and undergo the medical examination. The practitioner will complete and sign the *Medical Report-Section A* (IMM 1017 EFC) and give you copy 2, which you must include with your application. See **Appendix D** for further details.

Use the checklist to verify that you have all the required documents. It is important to note that we may request more information at any time during the process.

STEP 4. Send all your forms completed and signed along with supporting documentation to your relative in Canada.

If any of the documents required in the checklist at **Appendix A** are not sent with your forms, the application will be returned to your sponsor, who will have to obtain the missing documents and re-send the complete application with all proper documentation.

All information and documents are required to assess your application correctly and quickly. If following the submission of your application, there are any changes to your family status such as marriage, divorce, births, deaths, your address or telephone/fax number, or any other important information, advise the visa office immediately, by mail or facsimile. Except for a change in address or telephone/fax number, this is required even if a permanent resident visa has already been issued to you.

When advising the office of such changes, you must clearly state your file number, if available. It is normally included at the top of the first page of any correspondence received from our immigration services.

If you are subject to an unenforced removal order, a permanent resident visa will not be issued to you. If you were previously ordered to leave Canada and received a written notice to that effect, consult our [Web site](#) or contact your sponsor for additional information on removal orders and their consequences before you submit your application.

Completing the Immigration Forms

Complete the forms in block letters. Make sure all information is clear and easy to read. Your answers must be written in either the English or French language, unless instructed otherwise. If the space provided on the form is insufficient to list any information, use an additional sheet of paper, indicating the form's title and the number of the question you are answering. Write your name and the page number at the top left corner of each additional sheet.

The following instructions will help you fill in the forms included in this kit. Because most questions are clear, instructions are not included for all the boxes but only when necessary. You must answer all questions. If you leave any sections blank, your application will be returned to you for completion and processing will be delayed. **If any sections do not apply to you, answer "Not Applicable".**

WARNING! You must provide truthful and accurate information. The information provided may be verified. If you give false or misleading information, you may be found to be inadmissible and not be allowed to apply for permanent residence in Canada for a period of two years following a final determination of inadmissibility, if you are outside Canada, or following the date the removal order against you is enforced, if you are in Canada. It is a serious offence to make a false application.

Application for Permanent Residence in Canada (IMM 0008)

This form must be completed by the principal applicant. Page 2 of the form asks for details of family members. There is space for three family members on the form. If you have more than three family members, photocopy page 2 before you start to fill it in so you have enough space for everyone.

Category under which you are applying

Check the "Family class" box.

Number of family members

Write the total number of people included in your application, including yourself and any family members, whether they are accompanying you to Canada or not.

Preferred Language

Correspondence: Indicate whether we should correspond with you in English or French.

Interview: You may be selected for an interview. Interviews can be conducted in English or French. You may also be interviewed in another language of your choice; however, you will be responsible for the cost of hiring an interpreter if one has to be hired.

1. Print your full **family name** (surname) as it appears on your passport or on the official documents that you will use to obtain your passport.

Print all of your **given name(s)** (first, second or more) as they appear on your passport or on the official documents that you will use to obtain your passport. Do not use initials.

5. **Your country of citizenship.** If you are a citizen of more than one country, give details on a separate sheet of paper.

9. If you are in a common-law relationship but are not presently cohabiting with your partner, give the reason why you are separated from your partner on a separate sheet. Give also the date that separation started.
10. This section requires you to give details of your past marriages or common-law relationships. If you have never had a spouse or common-law partner other than your current one, check the “No” box and proceed to question 11. If you have had another spouse or common-law partner, check the “Yes” box and provide the details requested. If you have had more than one previous spouse or common-law partner, give details on a separate sheet of paper.
12. **Level of education.** - Check the box that best describes the highest level of education you have successfully completed. If you have not completed secondary school, check the “No secondary” box.
- **Secondary** is the level of schooling after elementary and before college, university, or other formal training.
 - **Trade/apprenticeship** refers to completed training in an occupation, such as auto mechanics or carpentry.
 - **Non-university certificate or diploma** refers to training in a profession that requires formal education but not at the university level (for example, dental technician or engineering technician).
 - **Bachelor’s degree** refers to the degree (such as a Bachelor of Arts, Education, Engineering or other professional field) awarded by a college or university to those who complete the undergraduate curriculum.
 - **Master’s degree** is a post-graduate degree earned after the completion of a Bachelor’s degree.
 - **PhD** is the highest university degree, usually based on at least three years graduate study and a dissertation. It is usually earned after the completion of a Master’s degree.
14. **Your mailing address.** This is the address we will use to mail correspondence regarding your application. Print your address in English and, if applicable, also in your own native script. If you live in China, make sure you also give your mailing address in Pinyin. Attach another sheet of paper if you need more space. If you decide to appoint a Canadian representative to act on your behalf and wish to have any communication relating to your application sent to him or her, write “see form IMM 5476” in box 14. Complete, sign and attach form IMM 5476, *Use of a Representative*.

Details of family members

Your family members are your spouse or common-law partner, if applicable, and your dependent children (start with the oldest). You must include all of your family members (who are not already permanent residents of Canada or Canadian citizens), whether they intend to immigrate with you or not. Any other relative (your mother, father, sister or brother, for instance) is not considered a family member for the purpose of this application. If you have more than three family members, attach a separate sheet of paper with the same information provided in the same order.

- **Family name:** As it appears on the family member’s passport or official documents he or she will use to obtain his or her passport.
- **Given name(s):** Print all of the family member’s given name(s) (first, second or more) as they appear on his or her passport or on the official documents that he or she will use to obtain his or her passport. Do not use initials.
- **Country of citizenship:** If your family member is a citizen of more than one country, provide details on a separate sheet of paper.

- **Relationship to you:** Indicate whether the family member is your spouse, common-law partner, son or daughter.
- **Will accompany you to Canada:** Indicate whether or not your family member will accompany you to Canada. “Accompany” means the person will immigrate to Canada before the visa expires but may arrive in Canada after you.
- **Education:** Indicate the level of education successfully completed by the family member using the categories listed in Question 12.
- **Photos:** Ask a photographer to provide you with a set of photos of yourself and each of your family members included in your application, whether they will be accompanying you or not. The required number of photos for each individual is indicated at Appendix A, under PHOTOS. Photos must comply with specifications given at **Appendix C**, Photo Specifications. Make sure you give a copy of these specifications to the photographer.
 - On the back of one photo (**and only one**) in each set, write the name and date of birth of the person appearing in the photo as well as the date the photo was taken.
 - Enclose each set of photos in separate envelopes. Write the family member’s name, date of birth and relationship to you on the corresponding envelope and close the envelope with a paper clip.
 - Photos must not be stapled, scratched, bent or bear any ink marks.

Note that the visa office may also require additional photos at a later date.

Schedule 1 **Background / Declaration**

1. Print your full **family name (surname)** as it appears on your passport or on the official documents that will be used for obtaining your passport.

Print all of your **given name(s)** (first, second or more). Do not use initials. Again, print your names as they appear on your passport or on the official documents that will be used for obtaining your passport.

6. Indicate your current status in the country where you now live (for example, citizen, permanent resident, visitor, refugee, no legal status, etc.).
9. Read each statement of question 9 carefully. Answer “yes” or “no” on behalf of yourself (and your family members, if you are the principal applicant). If you answer “yes” to any question, provide full details in the space provided. Use a separate sheet of paper if necessary.
10. **Education.** - Provide details of all secondary and post secondary education, beginning with the most recent program completed.
11. **Personal history.** - You must account for every month during the past 10 years. Under “Activity”, print your occupation or job title if you were working. If you were not working, enter what you were doing (for example, unemployed, studying, travelling).
14. **Military service.** - You must give details of any voluntary or compulsory service.
15. **Addresses.** - Give a complete address including the street, town or city, province or region, and country. If there was no street or street number, explain exactly the location of the house or building. Do not use post office (P.O.) box addresses. You must account for every month during the past 10 years.

Declaration

Read the statements carefully. Sign and date in the boxes provided. By signing, you certify that you fully understand the questions asked and that the information you have provided is complete, truthful, and correct. If you do not sign, the application will be returned to your sponsor.

Solemn Declaration and Interpreter Declaration

Do not complete this section unless you are asked to do so by a visa officer at an interview.



Use of a Representative (IMM 5476)

Complete this form if you are appointing a representative.

If you have dependent children aged 18 years or older, they are required to complete their own copy of this form if a representative is also conducting business on their behalf.

A **representative** is someone who has your permission to conduct business on your behalf with Citizenship and Immigration Canada. When you appoint a representative, you also authorize CIC to share information from your case file to this person.

You are not obliged to hire a representative. We treat everyone equally, whether they use the services of a representative or not. If you choose to hire a representative, your application will not be given special attention nor can you expect faster processing or a more favourable outcome.

The representative you appoint is authorized to represent you only on matters related to the application you submit with this form. You can appoint only **one** representative for each application you submit.

There are two types of representatives:

Unpaid representatives

- friends and family members who do not charge a fee for their advice and services
- organizations that do not charge a fee for providing immigration advice or assistance (such as a non-governmental or religious organization)
- consultants, lawyers and Québec notaries who do not, and will not, charge a fee to represent you

Paid representatives

If you want us to conduct business with a representative who is, or will be charging a fee to represent you, he or she must be authorized. Authorized representatives are:

- immigration consultants who are members in good standing of the Canadian Society of Immigration Consultants (CSIC)
- lawyers who are members in good standing of a Canadian provincial or territorial law society and students-at-law under their supervision
- notaries who are members in good standing of the *Chambre des notaires du Québec* and students-at-law under their supervision

If you appoint a paid representative who is not a member of one of these designated bodies, your application will be returned. For more information on using a representative, visit our [Web site](#).

Section B.

5. Your representative's full name

If your representative is a member of CSIC, a law society or the *Chambre des notaires du Québec*, print his or her name as it appears on the organization's membership list.

8. Your representative's declaration

Your representative must sign to accept responsibility for conducting business on your behalf.

Section D.

10. Your declaration

By signing, you authorize us to complete your request for yourself and your dependent children under 18 years of age. If your spouse or common-law partner is included in this request, he or she must sign in the box provided.

Release of information to other individuals

To authorize CIC to release information from your case file to someone other than a representative, you will need to complete form *Authority to Release Personal Information to a Designated Individual* (IMM 5475) which is available on our Web site at www.cic.gc.ca/english/applications/release-info and from Canadian embassies, high commissions and consulates abroad.

The person you designate will be able to obtain information on your case file, such as the status of your application. However, he or she will **not** be able to conduct business on your behalf with CIC.

You must notify us if your representative's contact information changes or if you cancel the appointment of a representative.

Additional Family Information (IMM 5406)

You must answer all questions. If any sections do not apply to you, please answer "Not Applicable".

It is very important that you list on this form any other children (even if they are already permanent residents of Canada or Canadian citizens) that you, your spouse or common-law partner or your dependent children might have who are not included in your Application for Permanent Residence. This includes married children, adopted children, stepchildren and any of your children who have been adopted by others, or who are in the custody of an ex-spouse or ex-common-law partner.

Spouse/ Partner Questionnaire (IMM 5490)

This questionnaire must be completed and included with your Application for Permanent Residence if you are being sponsored by your spouse, common-law partner or conjugal partner. It will help you establish that your relationship is genuine. Be concise, but provide as complete and precise a response as possible to each question. Failure to provide this information with your application could result in a refusal of your application. If more space is needed for your response, please include an additional sheet of paper.

Medical Instructions (Appendix D)

You and each of your family members accompanying you or not and who are not already citizens or permanent residents of Canada must complete your own copy of the questionnaire at the bottom of the first

page of Appendix D. Make enough photocopies of this page for your needs before you start filling the boxes. Make sure your family names and given names are spelled the same way they appear in your passports.

At Number 3., write the name of the visa office that will be processing your application for permanent residence. If you are not sure which office will be processing your application for permanent residence, consult the [List of Countries and Corresponding Canadian Visa Offices](#) on our Web site or ask your sponsor to obtain the information for you.

Tables and Charts

Table 1 — Eligibility for Rehabilitation

The following table gives a summary of the type of offences and length of rehabilitation periods.

Conviction or offence	Rehabilitation period	
	When deemed rehabilitated ¹	When eligible to apply for rehabilitation
Conviction of an offence outside Canada that, if committed in Canada, would be an indictable offence punishable by a maximum term of imprisonment of less than ten years	At least ten years after completion of the sentence imposed	Five years after completion of the sentence imposed
Commission of an offence outside Canada that, if committed in Canada, would be an indictable offence punishable by a maximum term of imprisonment of less than ten years	At least ten years after commission of the offence	Five years after commission of the offence
Conviction or commission of an offence outside Canada, that, if committed in Canada, would be punishable by a maximum term of imprisonment of ten years or more	Not applicable	Five years from completion of the sentence or commission of the offence
Conviction for two or more offences outside Canada that, if committed in Canada, would constitute summary conviction offences	At least five years after the sentences imposed were served or to be served	Not applicable
Conviction for two or more summary conviction offences in Canada	At least five years after the sentences imposed were served or to be served	Must apply for a pardon
Conviction for two or more indictable offences in Canada	Not applicable	Must apply for a pardon

¹The person must not have committed or been convicted of any other indictable offence.

What Happens Next

What happens after you have sent your application to your sponsor

When your sponsor receives your forms and supporting documentation, he or she will forward these together with his or her application to sponsor and supporting documents to the Case Processing Centre in Mississauga (CPC-M), Canada. CPC-M will verify that all forms and documents are complete and signed, that the applicable fees have been paid by your sponsor and that your sponsor in Canada meets sponsorship requirements.

If your sponsor meets the requirements or fails to meet the requirements but chooses to proceed with the application, CPC-M will send details of their assessment and your application for permanent residence (with supporting documents) to the visa office for processing.

The visa office will process your application and decide if a visa may be issued to you and your family members. It may require an interview or additional information and documentation before it can make a decision about your application. If you are asked to provide additional documents, the visa office will send you a written request. It is in your interest to comply as quickly as possible. If the visa office does not receive the additional information or documents within three months of the date of the request, your application may be refused. If you need to be interviewed, the visa office will notify you in writing in advance of the date, time and location of the interview as well as of the documents to bring with you.

If you have to meet other requirements, for example take additional medical tests, or provide more current or additional information needed for background checks, it could take considerably longer to reach a decision about your application. Visit our [Web site](#) or contact your sponsor for additional information on processing times.

If you and your sponsor meet all immigration requirements, the visa office will request you to submit passports and issue permanent resident visas to you and your family members accompanying you to Canada. You must then arrive in Canada either with or before your family members, and within the validity period of the visas.

If you or your sponsor do not meet all immigration requirements, your application will be refused. You will receive a letter outlining the reasons for the refusal. Your sponsor will also receive a copy of the refusal letter and will be informed of his or her right to appeal the decision to the Immigration and Refugee Board.

If your sponsor chooses to withdraw the sponsorship in the event he or she fails to meet the sponsorship requirements, CPC-M will return your complete application (including supporting documents) to your sponsor. Your sponsor will be repaid all processing fees except the sponsorship fee of \$75. Your application for permanent residence will not be processed.

What you should expect at the interview

You, your spouse or common-law partner and dependent children may be asked to come to the interview. The visa officer may ask about your relationship to the sponsor, your education, your reasons for emigrating, your plans and preparations. The officer may also ask about your family, your health, your financial situation, or past difficulties with the law. There may also be questions to determine your ability to settle successfully in Canada.

Processing times for an application and visa issuance

We are committed to issuing visas for routine cases of spouses, common-law partners, conjugal partners and/or dependent children as quickly as possible. In order to ensure that we have the information we need to make a decision on your application,

- complete and sign the forms as instructed. All information must be correct and truthful;
- send the forms and all supporting documents, including police certificates and proof of medical examination, to your sponsor.

If your case is not routine, we may not be able to process your application within the regular service standards for routine cases. Information on factors that can affect the processing of your application has been included in your sponsor's guide. Visit our [Web site](#) or phone our [Call Centre](#) for additional information on processing times.

Checking application status

Once we have notified you that your application has been received, you can find out the current status of your application by logging on to our Web site at www.cic.gc.ca and selecting On-Line Services – e-Client Application Status. Clients who reside in Canada can also call our Call Centre and speak to an agent. The Web site will only provide information on the status of your application and will not provide all of the details of your case.

Protecting your application information

We protect your information. It is only available to our employees who need to see it in order to provide services to you. It is protected from unauthorized access electronically by security software and procedures.

Your application status can only be obtained with your family name, date of birth, country of birth and one of the five numbers we use to identify an application, namely your:

- CIC client number
- CIC file number
- CIC fee payment receipt number
- CIC Record of Landing (form IMM 1000) or Confirmation of Permanent Residence (form IMM 5292) number
- Permanent resident card number

We will not disclose any information to anyone else without your written consent. If you give consent or provide the information above to others, they will be able to obtain the status of your application. We will not be able to determine when, for what purpose, how often, or to whom information may have been disclosed.

You can protect your information by not telling anyone your personal information and by keeping documents with this information in a safe place. Also when you view the status of your application on-line, you should apply the same precautions that you would use for your other personal Internet transactions.

For more information on the protection of your data, please read the security page and the Frequently Asked Questions page found at www.cic.gc.ca – On-Line Services – e-Client Application Status.

Removing on-line information

You can remove on-line information by logging on to www.cic.gc.ca and selecting On-Line Services – e-Client Application Status. Follow the instructions to access your application status information. Then select the check box to remove your application status from the Internet. If you reside in Canada you can also call our Call Centre and ask an agent to do this for you. If you are outside Canada, please contact the Canadian embassy, high commission or consulate responsible for your region.

What happens when you arrive in Canada

When you arrive, you must present your permanent resident visa to a Canadian customs or immigration officer at your first port of entry. The officer will check your visa and travel documents and ask you questions similar to those on the Application for Permanent Residence to verify that you are of good character and in good health. If there are no difficulties, the officer will authorize your admission to Canada as a permanent resident and ask you to sign in his or her presence the Confirmation of Permanent Residence form you will have received from the visa office. The officer will then send this form to a processing centre and you will receive your Permanent Resident Card in the weeks following. Make sure that when you arrive in Canada, you know the address, including the postal code, where you are going to live.

A **permanent resident** is a person lawfully in Canada as an immigrant who is not yet eligible for, or has not yet been granted, Canadian citizenship.

What settlement services are available

Canada's settlement services are limited. Your sponsor will have signed an undertaking with the Government of Canada or, if you intend to live in Quebec, with the Government of Quebec, to provide for your basic requirements and those of your family members after you arrive in Canada. You can learn about settlement services from Citizenship and Immigration Centres, Human Resources Canada Centres and private organizations.

Finding a job

Upon arrival in Canada as a permanent resident you may seek assistance in finding a job from a Human Resources Centre of Canada. Most employers will ask potential candidates to provide a social insurance number (SIN). You will receive forms to apply for your SIN at the time you are processed for admission to Canada as a permanent resident.

Leaving Canada to settle your affairs after obtaining permanent resident status

Permanent residents may leave and re-enter Canada as often as they wish, to settle their affairs or to travel, as long as, at the time they re-enter Canada, they can prove that they have been physically present in Canada for at least 730 days within the five years preceding the day they re-enter, if they have been permanent residents for five years or more, or that they will be physically present in Canada for at least 730 days within the five years immediately following the day they became permanent residents, if they have been permanent residents for less than five years. Permanent residents outside Canada may also meet the residency obligation if certain conditions apply.

Rights and obligations as a permanent resident of Canada

You and your family members have the right to live, study and work in Canada for as long as you remain permanent residents, and are entitled to most social benefits accorded to Canadian citizens. As a permanent resident, you also have the same legal obligations as Canadians, such as paying taxes and respecting other laws.

When you have met citizenship requirements, including permanent residency in Canada for at least three years, you may apply for Canadian citizenship and a Canadian passport.

There are a few limitations on permanent residents:

- You cannot obtain a Canadian passport.
- You cannot vote in certain elections.

- You may be ineligible for certain jobs requiring high-level security clearances.
- If you or your family members commit serious crimes, you or your family members risk being deported from Canada.

Your sponsor and co-signer, if applicable, are responsible for providing for your basic requirements and those of your family members after you arrive in Canada, for the period specified by the Undertaking, and for ensuring that you do not become dependent on the Canadian social assistance. Under the agreement you have signed with your sponsor/co-signer, you are committed to making every reasonable effort to provide for your own basic requirements and those of your family members.

You remain a permanent resident until you become a Canadian citizen or abandon Canada as your place of residence. You may be considered to have abandoned Canada if you have frequent and/or lengthy absences from the country. If after becoming a permanent resident you return to live in your home country indefinitely, you will lose your permanent resident status.