

THE REFUGEE PROCESS

Refugee Rights: Key Steps and Resources



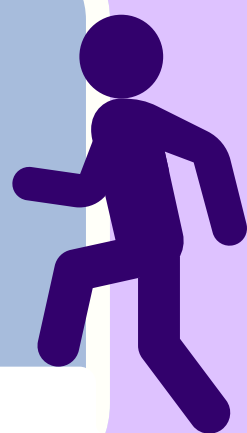
FCJ Refugee Centre

Walking With Uprooted People



Apply to Legal Aid

Legal Aid is a government program that helps people with a low income receive legal representation and advice. If you are a refugee claimant and qualify, Legal Aid will pay for the lawyer to represent you.



Find a Legal Representative

Find a lawyer (check the Law Society: <https://lso.ca>) or a consultant (check Immigration Consultants of Canada Regulatory Council: <https://college-ic.ca>) to help you fill out the forms that you must send to the Government.



Immigration Medical Exam (IME)

You have 30 days to send your medical exam done by a doctor approved by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).

Book an appointment:

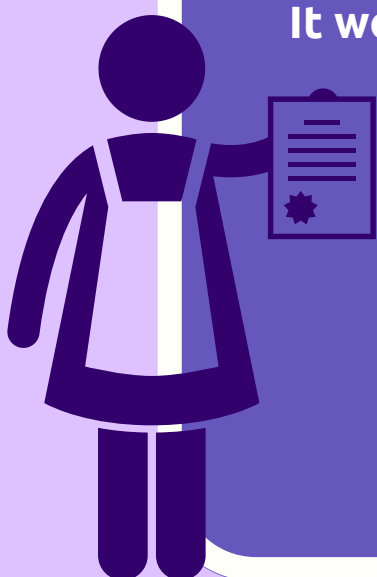
<https://secure.cic.gc.ca/PanelPhysicianMedecinDesigne/en/Home>.



Work Permit / SIN Number

It would be automatically issued after the government received the medical and the forms. It can take more time if you are requested to do more medical exams. Once you receive your work permit you can apply for the SIN number.

Check the local Service Canada Centre: <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/sin/apply.html>



Interim Federal Health Program (IFH)

The IFH covers certain health-care benefits for specific groups of people until they become eligible for provincial or territorial health insurance.

More details about the coverage:

<https://ifhp.medaviebc.ca>

Providers list: [Interim Federal Health Program - Providers Search \(medaviebc.ca\)](#)



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Bank Account and Phone

Opening a bank account and having a Canadian phone is a **MUST** for financial assistance and for the Government to be able to contact you.



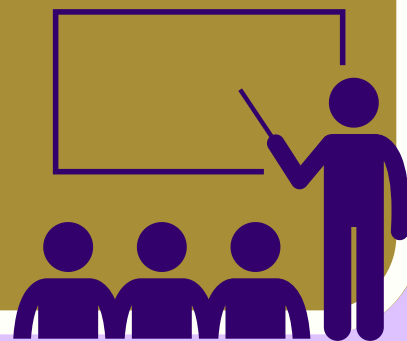
Apply to Ontario Works

Ontario Works is the Government's financial assistance for those who cannot afford their living expenses in Canada. It offers help with food, rent, health benefits, and employment support to help you find and keep a job.

English Classes / Enrollment in School

Regardless of your age, you can take English classes at no cost. Make an appointment at the YMCA to take a test and find out what level you are at: <https://ymcagta.org/immigrant-services/language-assessment-and-referral-services>

A child under 18 who is claiming refugee status, or who has no status in Canada does not need a study permit and does not need to pay fees to attend elementary or secondary school.



Ontario Photo Card / Drivers License

The Ontario Photo Card is a wallet sized card that provides government-issued identification to those Ontarians who do not have a driver's licence, making it easier for them to do things such as open a bank account and other activities that require official identification.

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-photo-card>



Change of Address

Whenever you change your address, telephone, or email, you must update the information to your lawyer, Ontario Works, IRCC, IRB, Legal Aid, etc.



Free Community Resources

Refugee claimants have certain rights and access to free settlement services and community resources: libraries, food banks, recreation, etc. Explore them: fcjrefugeecentre.org, refugeehouses.ca, settlement.org, 211ontario.ca



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