

# Welcome Orientation for Newcomers

Office for Refugees, Archdiocese of Toronto  
(ORAT)

# Agenda

---

1. About ORAT
2. Source of Financial Support
3. Newcomer Rights and Responsibilities
4. Traveling Outside of Canada
5. Sponsor Support
6. Conflict
7. Important Documents



# About Us

---

## About ORAT

- The Office of Refugees (ORAT) is a department of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto.
- We are not an NGO or government agency.

## ORAT Funding

- How ORAT is funded?
  - Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto
  - ShareLife
  - Donor Support
  - No Government Funding



# Where is your financial support coming from?

## Family Linked Case

Your support comes from your sponsor, family members, and/or friends.

## Non-Family Linked Case

Your support comes from the Catholic Church, through monies that have been donated from parishioners, or from community groups.

Funds for your settlement are not coming from the government or from other sources



# Newcomer Rights

---

## **Permanent Resident (PR)**

- Fully protected by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

## **Restrictions: PRs are unable to...**

- Vote or run for political office;
- Apply for certain government jobs that require a high-level security clearance; and
- Obtain a Canadian passport

## **Settlement Support**

- Your sponsor has committed to providing you with financial and settlement support



# Newcomer Responsibilities

---

**Integration:** Newcomers are to take active steps towards integrating to Canadian life by accessing:

- Language Training;
- Employment Counselling; and by
- Securing Employment.

**Abide by the laws, customs and traditions of Canadian society**

- Democratic system
- Freedom of religion
- Equality of women & gender roles
- Family dispute and treatment of children
- Sexual orientation

Committing a serious offence can lead to deportation



# Traveling Outside of Canada

---

- Newcomers can travel outside of Canada but should not return to their country of origin or their country of asylum.
- Travel documents have to be completed before traveling. (e.g. visas).
- Make sure that you have your Permanent Resident Card (PR Card) before traveling.
- To keep your permanent resident status, you must have lived in Canada for at least 730 days during the last five years.



# What to expect from your sponsor

## Housing

- Temporary
- Permanent

## Education

- Language classes
- School enrolment

## Orientation

- Banking, public transportation, shopping, explaining the laws

## Employment

- Job search services

## Health Care

- OHIP, IFH
- Doctor, dentist & other health care services

## Settlement Services

- Needs & Language Assessment

## Key Documents & Services

- SIN
- CCB, ODSP

## Other

- Interpretation





# Monitoring of Newcomers

## Monitoring

- IRCC routinely monitors refugee cases to ensure that sponsors are fulfilling their financial and non-financial responsibilities, including registration with a settlement agency (e.g., Catholic Cross-Cultural Services (CCS), YMCA, etc.), and access to settlement services provided by the agency.
- As part of monitoring efforts, IRCC has been pro-actively interviewing newcomers. The monitoring process is being done through email surveys and telephone calls (with translators).
- SAHs, CGs and cosponsors are not notified by IRCC unless a support gap has been identified.
- All parties should take increased care to ensure that IRCC's updated rules are being followed.
- Principal Applicants have the right to either accept or decline the interview.
- All settlement support is to be well documented. Avoid cash disbursements.
- ORAT will send an online Newcomer Survey via Survey Monkey in the 2nd month of sponsorship, which needs to be completed by the newcomer

# Financial Support

## Sponsor

- Sponsors are responsible to provide financial support to newcomers during their first year of settlement or until the newcomer becomes self-sufficient;
- Newcomers are not required to pay back their cosponsors, Constituent Groups, relatives or the Office for Refugees;
- The total sponsorship cost may be reduced through the donation of in-kind support, which may include: lodging; furniture; and/or clothing.

## Government Programs

- Additional monies may be available from certain Government programs
  - Canada Child Benefit (CCB)
  - Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)

## Newcomer

- Personal Assets
- Employment Income

Social assistance cannot be obtained in the first year of sponsorship



# Personal Asset Exemption

## Financial Requirements

- Personal assets are items of value that persons own before arriving in Canada, or have in their possession when they arrive to Canada.
- Refugees receiving financial support are expected to submit the [Declaration of Funds and Assets on Arrival](#) as this may impact the level of financial support that is to be provided. The form can be found at [www.orat.ca](http://www.orat.ca)

Family Composition	Personal Asset Exemption (CAD)
Single person	\$5,000
Couple	\$7,500
Single plus one dependant	\$7,500
Each additional dependant	\$2,500

### Best Practice (in collaboration with your sponsors)

1. Assess the value of assets
2. PA to voluntarily sign the [Declaration of Funds and Assets](#);
3. Calculate the exemption based on the family size;
4. Apply any excess assets towards newcomer expenses, offsetting the cost of sponsorship.

Example: The personal asset exemption for a family of 4 (mother, father and 2 children) is \$12,500. This amount cannot be used to reduce the level of financial support.

# Earned Net Income

- Newcomers are permitted to earn up to 50% of their monthly basic RAP rate without incurring any reduction in the level of financial support from the sponsor in that month. Once the 50% of monthly RAP threshold is reached, sponsors may deduct dollar for dollar from their monthly support the amount of net income that exceeds 50% of monthly RAP.

Family Size	Monthly RAP	50% of Monthly RAP	
1	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>\$500</b>	
Scenario	Earned Income	Reduction in Sponsor Support	Monthly Support from Sponsor
Earning up to 50% of RAP	<b>\$500</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
Earnings exceeds 50% of RAP	<b>\$600</b>	<b>\$100</b>	<b>\$900</b>

**Best Practice** (in collaboration with your sponsors)

1. Calculate the net monthly income for all eligible family members;
2. Voluntarily share your pay slips with your sponsors;
3. Cosponsor to adjust monthly support.

**Exception:** Where the employment income is earned by a refugee who is attending secondary school on a full-time basis, the income is not to be included in the total of the family earnings.

# Conflict Resolution

---

## Step 1

- Discuss conflicts initially with your Cosponsor and/or CG.

## Step 2

- If not resolved, inform ORAT by:
  - Email at [oratoutreach@archtoronto.org](mailto:oratoutreach@archtoronto.org);
  - Phone at (647) 494-5419

## Step 3

- ORAT will investigate and work to resolve any issues. ORAT may require supporting documents from involved parties.



# Important Documents in Canada

---

- Confirmation of Permanent Residence
- Permanent Resident Card (PR)
- Social Insurance Number (SIN)
- Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP)
- Interim Federal Health Insurance (IFH)
  - Medavie Blue Cross
  - [www.cic.gc.ca/ifhp](http://www.cic.gc.ca/ifhp)
- Travel Loan
- Driver's Licence
- Library Card



# Landing Paper (Sample)

- The landing paper is one of the most important documents that refugees obtain upon their arrival at the airport.
- It is as important as a birth certificate!

CONFIRMATION OF PERMANENT RESIDENCE

Family name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Given name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ UCI: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sex: \_\_\_\_\_  
Citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_ App. no.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Document no.: \_\_\_\_\_

**PERSONAL DETAILS - PA**

Marital status: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ COB: \_\_\_\_\_  
Height (cm): \_\_\_\_\_ Eye color: \_\_\_\_\_ COR: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last entry at: \_\_\_\_\_ Last entry date: \_\_\_\_\_ Orig. entry date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Became P.R. at: \_\_\_\_\_ Became P.R. on: \_\_\_\_\_ Undertaking (mos): \_\_\_\_\_  
Travel doc. no.: XXXXXXXXXX Country of issue: CANADA Expiry date: \_\_\_\_\_

**APPLICATION DETAILS**

Issued at: \_\_\_\_\_ Issued date: \_\_\_\_\_ Valid to: \_\_\_\_\_  
Category: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov. of dest.: \_\_\_\_\_ City of dest.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special program: \_\_\_\_\_ Trans. loan no.: \_\_\_\_\_ Flight no.: \_\_\_\_\_  
CSG no.: \_\_\_\_\_ ESOC no.: \_\_\_\_\_ PNC: \_\_\_\_\_

Conditions: \_\_\_\_\_  
Charged/convicted of a crime or offence in any country, refused admission to Canada or required to leave Canada?

**MEDICAL DETAILS**

IME no.: \_\_\_\_\_ Surveillance code: \_\_\_\_\_ Valid to: 2015/01/29

**SPONSOR INFORMATION**

UCI: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation for the Diocese of Toronto in Cana  
DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: A-371 Old Kingston Road, Scarborough ON, M1C 3Y2

**DEPENDANTS INFORMATION**

Have you any dependants other than those listed below?

**REMARKS**

Immigration Officer: \_\_\_\_\_ Date (YYYYMMDD): \_\_\_\_\_  
I hereby certify that the above statements are true and correct and that I fully understand the conditions imposed.

TOMASIAN \_\_\_\_\_ Date (YYYYMMDD): \_\_\_\_\_  
HARJOUT MINAS HAO

HM 999 (01-2015) CLIENT COPY Canada



# Permanent Resident Card (Sample)

Key Documents  
in Canada

- The Permanent Resident (PR) card is proof of your a legal status in Canada.





# Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) (Sample)

Key Documents  
in Canada

- You will be asked to show your valid health card each time you visit a doctor, hospital, or health care clinic.
- For more information about OHIP, please visit:  
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/what-ohip-covers>



# Interim Federal Health Certificate (IFH) (Sample)

- IFH is a program that provides limited, temporary coverage of health-care benefits to landed refugees (newcomers);
- It does not replace OHIP;
- Detailed information about IFH coverage is available on [www.cic.cg.ca/ifhp](http://www.cic.cg.ca/ifhp).

The image shows a sample of an Interim Federal Health Certificate of Eligibility form. The form is titled "INTERIM FEDERAL HEALTH CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY" and includes fields for "Family name", "Given name", "Date of birth", "Sex", "Citizenship", and "Application no.". Below these fields, there are sections for "Coverage" and "Remarks". The form is marked with a large "SPECIMEN" watermark. At the bottom right, there is a "Canada" logo.

# Social Insurance Number (SIN)

Key Documents  
in Canada

- The Social Insurance Number (SIN) is a nine-digit number that you need in order to work in Canada, and is required to access government programs and benefits.
- The most common uses of your SIN are:
  - For employment;
  - For income tax filings;
  - For financial institutions (e.g., banks, credit unions);
  - To obtain Child Tax Benefits (CCB); and
  - To obtain Canada Student Loans.



# Other Key Documents

Key Documents  
in Canada

## Ontario Photo ID

- Provides government issued identification to those Ontarians who do not have a driver's license, making it easier for them to do things such as open a bank account and any other activities that require official identification.

## Driver's Licence

- Ontario has a graduated driver's license process.

## Public Library Card

- Free membership at public libraries.

# Recent Changes to the Immigration Travel Loan

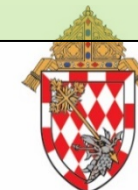
Travel Loan

- Repayment begins 1 year after arrival in Canada.
- New loans are interest free.
- The repayment period has been extended by 2 years.

## Questions?

- Toll free: 1-800-667-7301 Fax: 819-934-3884
- Email: [collection@cic.gc.ca](mailto:collection@cic.gc.ca)
- Mailing address: 365 Laurier Avenue West, Ottawa Ontario, K1A 1L1

Sponsoring groups are not responsible for covering the cost of the newcomer's Immigration Travel Loan



**ORAT**  
Office for Refugees  
Archdiocese of Toronto

# Emergency & Fraud

---

## Emergency

- In case of emergency, call 911 for:
  - Fire Services;
  - Medical Emergency;
  - Police Emergency;
- It can also be used when witnessing violent or criminal acts

## Fraud

- Be aware of fraud
  - If you suspect that you are a victim of fraud, report this incident to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre.
  - Toll Free: 1 (888) 495-8501

# Inquiries

---

Welcome to Canada and we wish you all the best!

If you have any further questions, you can reach ORAT at:

email: [oratoutreach@archtoronto.org](mailto:oratoutreach@archtoronto.org)

Phone: (647) 494-5419

ORAT Office  
*830 Bathurst Street, Suite 104*  
*Toronto, ON M5R 3G1*

