

Welcome Orientation for Newcomers

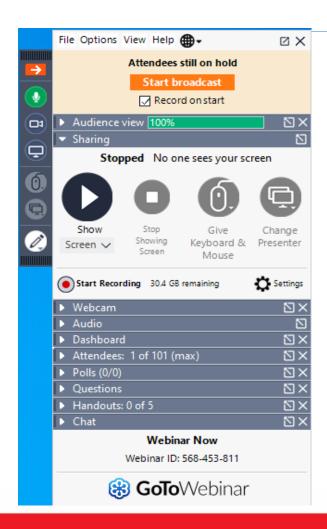
Office for Refugees, Archdiocese of Toronto (ORAT)

in collaboration with

Catholic Crosscultural Services (CCS)



Housekeeping: Control Panel





Housekeeping: <u>How to Ask a Question</u>

- For the duration of the webinar all participants will be muted;
- At the end of the webinar, you will have the chance to ask your questions. You have two options:
 - 1. You can <u>raise your hand</u> by clicking on the icon on the Webinar panel (see Figure .1). Once you are unmuted by the presenter, unmute yourself, then ask your question; or
 - 2. You can <u>write your question</u> in the "Questions Section" (see Figure 2). The presenter will then be able to see your question and respond to it.

Figure 1

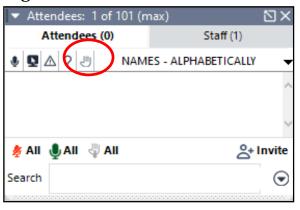
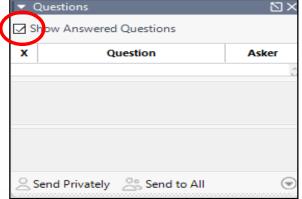


Figure 2





Housekeeping: <u>Downloading handouts</u>

During the webinar, attendees will be provided with the following handouts (See Figure 3):

- 1. Newcomer Info Fillable PDF
- 2. Welcome to Canada

You are encouraged to download these documents by opening and saving them to your computer.

Figure 3





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 the Office for Refugees, Archdiocese of Toronto (ORAT)

About ORAT

- 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 agency
 - Donor support
 - No government funding



Where is your financial support coming from?

Family Linked Case

Your support comes from your sponsor, and/or other 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 that have donated monies in support of your settlement

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





Newcomer Rights

Permanent Resident

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

Restrictions: PR 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

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Newcomer Responsibilities

Integration: Take active steps towards integration to Canadian life

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

Abide by the law & customs and traditions of the society

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

Committing serious offence and disobeying the law 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 you have Permanent Resident Card (PR Card) before traveling.





What you should 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 services

Settlement Services

 Needs & Language Assessment

Key Documents & Services

- SIN
- CCB, ODSP

Other

Interpretation







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Settlement Services Connection

- Connecting the refugees with a local Settlement agency that can assist sponsors with fulfilling their settlement responsibilities and help newcomers to meet their settlement and integration needs is very important.
- CCS Catholic Crosscultural Services is a national non-profit organization, based in the GTA (Greater Toronto area). CCS aims to empower immigrants and refugees of all religious, ethnicities, countries or origin, or political affiliation to develop the skills and acquire the necessary knowledge to settle, integrate, and succeed in Canada



Who We Are

- Founded in 1954, Catholic Crosscultural Services provides services that assist in the settlement and integration of immigrants and refugees.
- We provide assistance at no cost to all newcomers regardless of race, religion, country of origin or immigration status
- Our offices are located in Toronto, Mississauga, and Brampton

www.ccscan.ca



Languages

- We proudly offer our clients services in over 30 different languages:
- Amharic, Arabic, Armenian, Azeri, Cantonese, Croatian, Dari, English, Farsi, French, Gujarati, Hindi, Italian, Korean, Malayalam, Mandarin, Marathi, Nepali, Pashto, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Sindhi, Sinhala, Spanish, Tagalog, Tamil, Tigrinya, Turkish, Ukrainian, Urdu



What We Offer

- Settlement services
- English language classes
- Information sessions and workshops
- Employment services
- Support services for women
- Training and support to groups sponsoring refugees
- Newcomer mental health
- Connections to community resources



Settlement Services Includes:

- Information and orientation to temporary and permanent housing, health care, employment, family doctor and dentist, school, daycare and language training.
- Referral to community programs and access to services for your family
- Applications for Social Insurance Number, health card, Ontario photo card and Child Tax Benefit
- Applying for child tax benefit
- Develop and review settlement action plan, follow ups after initial meeting Settlement Worker to address further needs

Do not feel overwhelmed, CCS is here to help you with your settlement process.





Financial support

Sponsor

- Sponsors are responsible to provide financial support for newcomers during their first year or until the newcomer becomes self-sufficient;
- Newcomers are not required to pay back their co-sponsors, 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

- 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 things 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 <u>Declaration of Funds and Assets on</u> <u>Arrival</u> as this may impact the level of financial support that is to be provided. The form can be found at <u>www.orat.ca</u>

Best Practice (in collaboration with your sponsors)

- 1. Assess the value of assets
- 2. <u>Voluntarily</u> sign the <u>Declaration of Funds and Assets;</u>
- 3. Calculate the exemption based on you family size;
- 4. Apply any excess assets towards newcomer expenses, offsetting the cost of sponsorship.

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

Example: The personal asset exemption for a family of 4 (mother father and 2 children) is \$12,500.



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	\$750	\$375	
Scenario	Earned Income	Reduction in Sponsor Support	Monthly Support from Sponsor
Earning up to 50% of RAP	\$375	\$0	\$750
Earnings exceeds 50% of RAP	\$500	\$125	\$625

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 <u>oratoutreach@archtoronto.org</u>;
 - Phone at (416) 934-3400 x804

Step 3

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





Important Documents in Canada

- Confirmation of Permanent Residency
- Permanent Residency Card
- Social Insurance Number (S.I.N.)
- Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP Card)
- Interim Federal Health Insurance (IFH)
 - o Medavie Blue Cross
 - o 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!

Key Documents in 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/whatohip-covers





Interim Federal Health Certificate (IFH) (Sample)

Key Documents in Canada

- 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.







Social Insurance Number (SIN)

- 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

- Driver's Licence
 - Ontario has a graduated driver's license process
- Public Library Card
 - Free membership at public libraries



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Recent changes to 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
- Mailing address: 365 Laurier Avenue West, Ottawa Ontario, K1A 1L1

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

Emergency & Fraud

Emergency

- In case of emergency, you can call 911 to access:
 - Fire;
 - Medical emergency;
 - Police emergency;
- It can also be used when witnessing violence 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:

oratoutreach@archtoronto.org

(416) 934-3400 x804

