

Sponsor your spouse, partner or child

This is a program to sponsor your spouse, common-law partner, conjugal partner or dependent child to become a permanent resident of Canada.

Status

Open

Processing time

[Check application processing times](#)

Fees

Sponsor a spouse or partner: from \$1,260 [increased April 30, 2026](#)

Sponsor a child: from \$180 [increased April 30, 2026](#)

Sections

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What you need to know before and after your family members arrive in Canada

[Optional: Open work permit in Canada](#)

Your family members can apply for an open work permit when they arrive in Canada

Sponsor your spouse, partner, or child

What it means to be a sponsor

You must commit to supporting the people you're sponsoring (your spouse, common-law partner, conjugal partner or child), **even if your situation changes.**

To become a sponsor, you must complete and sign a form that includes

- [the undertaking](#)
- [the sponsorship agreement](#)

If you live in Quebec

You must sign an undertaking with the **Government of Quebec**.

Learn about

- [Quebec's undertaking for sponsoring your spouse or partner](#)
- [Quebec's undertaking for sponsoring a dependent child](#)

The undertaking

In the undertaking, you'll commit to

- financially supporting the people you're sponsoring for a [period of time](#), called the undertaking period
- making sure the people you're sponsoring won't need to ask the government for social assistance
 - If they receive social assistance during the time you're responsible for them, you'll have to repay the amount. You won't be able to sponsor anyone else until you've repaid it.

How long you have to support someone

The undertaking period begins once the people you're sponsoring become permanent residents. Its length depends on who you're sponsoring.

Person you're sponsoring	Length of undertaking period for all provinces except Quebec

	<p>Footnote</p> <p><u>1</u></p>
Spouse, common-law partner or conjugal partner	3 years
<p>Dependent child 22 years of age and older</p> <p>Footnote</p> <p><u>2</u></p>	3 years
<p>Dependent child under 22 years of age</p> <p>Footnote</p> <p><u>2</u></p>	10 years or until the child becomes 25 years of age, whichever comes first

Once your sponsored family members become permanent residents, **there is no way to cancel or shorten the undertaking period.**

You're responsible for them for the entire undertaking period, **even if**

- the people you're sponsoring become Canadian citizens
- your relationship with the people you're sponsoring changes
- you or the people you're sponsoring move to another province or country

- you have financial problems (for example, job loss or debt)
- you sent us a request to withdraw your sponsorship application and we processed it **after** the people you're sponsoring became permanent residents

You can only request to [withdraw your sponsorship application](#) **before** the people you're sponsoring become permanent residents.

The sponsorship agreement

You and the people you're sponsoring must agree to certain responsibilities during the undertaking period. We call this the sponsorship agreement.

You'll agree to provide for the basic needs of the people you're sponsoring. This includes

- food, clothing, shelter and other needs for everyday living
- dental care, eye care and other health needs that aren't covered by public health services

The person you're sponsoring will agree to make every reasonable effort to support themselves and their accompanying family members.

Exception: Dependent children **under 22 years old** don't sign the sponsorship agreement.

Footnotes

Footnote 1

The undertaking period is different for residents of Quebec.
[Learn about](#)

- [Quebec's undertaking period for sponsoring your spouse or partner](#)
- [Quebec's undertaking period for sponsoring your dependent child](#)

[Return to footnote](#)

[1](#)

[referrer](#)

Footnote 2

The age of the person you're sponsoring on the date they become a permanent resident

Sponsor your spouse, partner, or child

Check if you're eligible

On this page

- [Who can sponsor](#)
- [Who can't sponsor](#)

Who can sponsor

You can sponsor your spouse, common-law partner, conjugal partner or dependent child if you

Who can sponsor

are at least 18 years old

are a Canadian citizen, a permanent resident of Canada, or a person registered in Canada under the Canadian [Indian Act](#) live in Canada

- If you're a **Canadian citizen** living outside Canada, you must show that you plan to live in Canada when the people you're sponsoring become permanent residents.
- If you're a **permanent resident** living outside Canada, you can't sponsor.

commit to supporting the people you're sponsoring by signing [an undertaking and sponsorship agreement](#)

meet all other requirements under the [Immigration and Refugee Protection Act](#) and the [Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations](#)

Income requirement

In most cases, there isn't an income requirement to sponsor your spouse, partner or dependent child. You **only** need to show that you have enough money to meet the income requirement **if**

- you're sponsoring a dependent child that has 1 or more dependent children of their own
- you're sponsoring a spouse or partner that has a dependent child, and their dependent child has 1 or more dependent children of their own

The [Financial Evaluation Form \(IMM 1283\)](#) explains how much money you'll need and how to fill out the form.

If you live in Quebec

You must meet the following requirements:

- Quebec's eligibility requirements for
 - [sponsoring your spouse or partner](#), or
 - [sponsoring your dependent child](#)
- [Quebec's income requirements](#), if this applies

You must also sign an undertaking with the Government of Quebec.

Don't submit your undertaking application to Quebec **until we tell you to do so**. If you don't wait for our confirmation, **Quebec won't process your application**.

Who can't sponsor

You may **not** be eligible to sponsor your **spouse or partner** if you

were sponsored by a spouse or partner and you became a permanent resident less than 5 years ago
signed an undertaking for a previous spouse or partner that you sponsored and it hasn't been 3 years since they became a permanent resident

- This means you're still financially responsible for them.

You may **not** be eligible to sponsor your **spouse, partner or child** if you

have already applied to sponsor the same spouse, partner or child and a decision on that application hasn't been made yet

are in jail, prison or a penitentiary

are behind on payments for

- an immigration loan
- a performance bond
- court-ordered family support payments such as alimony or child support (this doesn't apply if you're sponsoring your [spouse or partner](#) or [child](#) in Quebec)

did not give the financial support you agreed to when you signed a sponsorship agreement to sponsor someone else in the past (this doesn't apply if you're sponsoring your spouse or partner or child in Quebec)
declared bankruptcy and are not discharged (this doesn't apply if you're sponsoring your spouse or partner or child in Quebec)
are receiving social assistance for a reason other than a disability
were convicted of a violent criminal offence, an offence against a relative causing bodily harm or a sexual offence within or outside Canada
can't legally stay in Canada and must leave the country because you received a removal order

There may be other reasons that make you ineligible to sponsor your spouse, partner or child. If we determine you're not eligible to sponsor, we'll tell you why.

Sponsor your spouse, partner, or child

Who you can sponsor

Your spouse, common-law partner, conjugal partner and dependent child must meet certain requirements to become permanent residents of Canada.

Sponsor your spouse

Your spouse

- is legally married to you
- is at least 18 years old

- can be any gender
- is in a genuine relationship with you, not only for the purpose of getting permanent resident status
- must not be [inadmissible to Canada](#)

Sponsor your common-law partner

Your common-law partner

- is **not** legally married to you
- is at least 18 years old
- can be any gender
- is in a genuine relationship with you, not only for the purpose of getting permanent resident status
- has lived with you for at least 12 consecutive months, meaning
 - you've lived together continuously for 1 year in a conjugal relationship, without any long periods apart
 - any time spent away from each other during the 12-month period should have been short and temporary (for example, for family obligations or business travel)
- must not be [inadmissible to Canada](#)

If either you or your common-law partner chooses to end the relationship, we consider the relationship to be over.

See your [document checklist](#) for documents you can submit to prove you're in a common-law relationship.

Sponsor your conjugal partner

Your conjugal partner

- isn't legally married to you or in a common-law relationship with you
- is at least 18 years old
- can be any gender
- has been in an exclusive and mutually interdependent relationship with you for at least 1 year
 - This means that you've shared your lives in different ways, including physically, emotionally, financially and socially.
- is in a genuine relationship with you, not only for the purpose of getting permanent resident status
- lives outside Canada
- may not be able to live with you in their country of residence or marry you because of legal, immigration, social, cultural, religious or other reasons, such as
 - their marital status (for example, they're still married to someone else in a country where divorce isn't possible)

- their sexual orientation (for example, you're in a same-sex relationship, and same-sex relationships aren't accepted, or same-sex marriage is illegal where they live)
- persecution (for example, your relationship is between different religious groups, which isn't accepted, and they may be punished legally or socially)
- must not be [inadmissible to Canada](#)

See your [document checklist](#) for documents you can submit to prove you're in a conjugal relationship.

Sponsor a dependent child

You can sponsor a child if they're not [inadmissible to Canada](#) and qualify as a **dependant**.

Children qualify as dependants if

they're your biological or adopted child (or your spouse or partner's biological or adopted child)

they meet 1 of these requirements:

- they're **under 22 years old** and they don't have a spouse or common-law partner
- they're **22 years or older** and
 - they're unable to financially support themselves because of a mental or physical condition
 - they have depended on their parents for financial support since before the age of 22

With the exception of age, the dependent child must continue to meet these requirements until we finish processing your application.

If you want to sponsor a child through an intercountry adoption, or an orphaned family member

Follow the steps for

- [sponsoring a child through an intercountry adoption](#), or
- [sponsoring an orphaned family member](#)

If you're only sponsoring your child

Things to know if you're **only** sponsoring your child (without sponsoring your spouse or partner):

- If you're only sponsoring your child, you'll put your child as the [principal applicant](#) in the application. You'll have to show that the other parent or legal guardian agrees to your child immigrating to Canada. See your [document checklist](#) for the documents you'll need to provide.
- If your child has a child of their own (your grandchild), you must declare your grandchild as a dependant in the application, whether they are coming to Canada or not.
- If you're a Canadian citizen, your child may also be a citizen, even if they weren't born in Canada. You can't sponsor your child for permanent residence if they're already a citizen. [Check if your child is already a citizen.](#)

If you're sponsoring your spouse or partner and their child

Things to know if you're sponsoring your spouse or partner **and** their child:

- If you're sponsoring your spouse or partner **and** their child (either their own child or a child you have together), you'll put your spouse or partner as the [principal applicant](#) and the child as the dependant in the application.
- If the child has a child of their own, you must declare the grandchild as a dependant in the application, whether they are coming to Canada or not.
- If your spouse or partner (or their child) has 1 or more children in the sole custody of their other parent, you must still declare the child in the application, whether they are coming to Canada or not. They must also complete medical exams and pass background and security checks (if this applies).
 - This applies even if there's a written agreement or court order to show that the sponsored person doesn't have custody or responsibility of the child.
 - This gives the sponsored person the possibility of sponsoring their child in the future (for example, if there are changes to the custody or living arrangements).
 - **If a permanent resident doesn't declare all their family members on their application, they could risk losing their permanent resident status.**

If you didn't previously declare a family member in your permanent residence application

We have a public policy in place that may let you sponsor family members that you didn't previously declare in your permanent residence application.

Find out who's eligible for the [public policy](#).

Sponsor your spouse, partner, or child

How to apply

Follow these steps to sponsor your spouse, common-law partner, conjugal partner or child to become permanent residents.

If you want to sponsor a child through intercountry adoption, or if you want to sponsor an orphaned family member

Follow the steps for

- [sponsoring a child through intercountry adoption](#), or
- [sponsoring an orphaned family member](#)

1. Create an account or sign in

To sponsor your spouse, partner or child, there are 2 applications:

1. **Sponsorship application:** You apply to become a sponsor.
2. **Permanent residence application:** Your spouse, partner or child applies for permanent residence.

The **principal applicant** (the person you're sponsoring) will submit both applications together online using the Permanent Residence (PR) Portal.

Request an alternate format (braille, large print or paper)

If you or your representative can't apply online and require accommodations, including for a disability, you may ask for the application package in one of these alternate formats:

- braille
- large print
- paper

To request another format:

1. Prepare a new email
 - In the **subject line** of your email, include

- the format you need (braille, large print or paper)
- the application package you want
- In the **body of your email**, copy and paste the text below.
Then, **fill in** the missing information.
 - **Requested Format:** [Braille / Large Print / Paper]
 - **Application Package:** [Name of the application package or program]
 - **Preferred Language:** [English / French]
 - **Delivery Method:** [Email / Regular Mail in Canada]
 - **Applicant or Sponsor Information:**
 - Full Name (as shown on passport):
 - Email Address (if requesting electronic delivery):
 - Mailing Address (if requesting regular mail – Canada only):

2. Please do not add extra information as it is not necessary and will not be taken into consideration to send out the alternate format.

3. Send your email to:

IRCC.PRPortalALTRRequest-DemandeALTPortailRP.IRCC@cic.gc.ca

Note: we will only reply to requests for alternate formats. We won't reply to any other types of requests.

After we review your request, we'll send the package in the format and delivery method you chose, with instructions on how to send your application back to IRCC.

If you need additional assistance applying with an alternate format, call **1-888-242-2100** (from inside Canada only).

If you're getting help with your application from someone else

You can ask someone to help you with your immigration application.

There are special requirements depending on what kind of help you're getting:

If you're using a paid immigration representative

Paid immigration representatives need to be [authorized](#)

(opens in a new tab)

If you want to use a paid representative, you must:

- download the [Use of a Representative \(IMM 5476\)](#) form
- complete and sign it
- get your representative to sign it
- upload it with your application

A paid representative can fill out forms and communicate with us for you through their own account. They can also:

- help you prepare the documents you need to upload
- answer questions about the forms

They can't:

- open a portal account on your behalf
- electronically sign the application for you
- sign in to the portal using your username and password

After you read the declaration, you must be the one to type your name. This is the legal requirement for your application to be considered “signed” according to Canada’s immigration law.

You don’t need to hire a representative. Using one will not draw special attention to your application and doesn’t mean we’ll approve it.

If you’re using an unpaid representative

Unpaid representatives **don’t** need to be authorized or certified. They can be:

- family members
- friends
- anyone else who doesn't charge you a fee

If you want to use an unpaid representative, you must:

- submit the [Use of a Representative \(IMM 5476\)](#) form
- complete and sign it
- get your representative to sign it
- upload it with your application

An unpaid representative can:

- help you open a PR portal account
- fill out forms for you, but not sign them
- communicate with us for you
- help you prepare the documents you need to upload
- answer questions about immigration forms

They can't electronically sign the application for you.

After you read the declaration, you must be the one to type your name. This is the legal requirement for your application to be considered "signed" according to Canada's immigration law.

If you're getting help from someone who isn't a representative

You don't need to tell us that you're getting help from someone as long as they **don't**:

- **advise you** on which program to apply for
- **complete or update your application** as you
- **act as you** when dealing with us

They **can** help you:

- use our website to find information

- access a computer, scanner or printer
- navigate our portals and accounts in your presence
- view and open electronic forms
- download/upload documents
- get your documents translated
- make travel plans

If you're having technical issues

If you're having technical issues applying, [contact us using the web form](#)

(opens in a new tab)

1. Select your problem.
2. Under **Tell us about yourself**
 - if you **don't have a unique client identifier number**, enter 1111111111
 - if you haven't submitted an application yet, or **don't have an application number**, enter 0000000
3. Under **Tell us about your technical issue**
 - specify the **program you're trying to apply under**
 - explain any problems that you're having
 - upload screenshots from your account that show us both
 - the page and fields where you're having problems, and
 - any error messages you're getting

If you need to upload a number of images, find out [how to combine them into 1 document](#).

If you live in Quebec

Once the principal applicant submits the sponsorship and permanent residence application, you must complete an undertaking with the Government of Quebec.

Learn about

- [Quebec's undertaking for sponsoring your spouse or partner](#)
- [Quebec's undertaking for sponsoring a dependent child](#)

Don't submit your undertaking application to Quebec **until we tell you to do so**. If you don't wait for our confirmation, **Quebec won't process your application**.

2. Get your forms and documents ready

See your application package for

- the document checklist for you and the people you're sponsoring
- all the forms you and the people you're sponsoring need to fill out
- country-specific forms and instructions based on where the people you're sponsoring live

Photo specifications

The principal applicant and their accompanying family members each need to give 1 photo.

Follow the instructions in the online application to scan and upload **both sides** of the photo.

3. Pay your application fees

Fees to sponsor a spouse or partner: from \$1,260 [increased April 30, 2026](#)

Fees to sponsor a child: from \$180 [increased April 30, 2026](#)

You have to [pay your fees online](#)

(opens in a new tab)

and include the receipt with your application. The [instruction guide](#) can help you understand which fees apply to you.

<p>Processing fees</p>	<p>You need to pay processing fees for you, the people you're sponsoring and their dependants.</p>
<p>Right of permanent residence fee</p>	<p>You need to pay the right of permanent residence fee before the people you're sponsoring become permanent residents.</p>
<p>Biometrics fee</p>	<p>In most cases, you'll pay a biometrics fee when you submit your application. If you don't, your application may be delayed.</p> <p>This fee covers the cost of collecting fingerprints and a digital photo.</p>
<p>Other fees</p>	<p>Depending on your situation, you may need to pay third parties for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● a medical exam ● a police certificate <p>If you live in Quebec</p> <p>You need to pay fees for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● sponsoring your spouse or partner in Quebec ● sponsoring your dependent child in Quebec

4. Submit the completed application

Before the principal applicant submits the application, they should make sure they

- answer all questions on the forms
- electronically sign the application (they will type their full name exactly as shown on their passport)
- include the processing fee receipt
- upload all the supporting documents

If the application is incomplete, we'll reject it. The principal applicant will have to fix any errors and then re-submit it.

Get updates about the application online

After we send you an acknowledgment of receipt with an application number, you and the principal applicant can [track and update the application](#).

Sponsor your spouse, partner, or child

After you apply

On this page

- [Processing your application](#)
- [Decision on your application](#)
- [Track and update your application](#)

Processing your application

Check processing times

How we use electronic methods to process applications

In line with Canada's immigration and privacy laws,

- we may use electronic methods to help process applications and make decisions, including on your application
 - Methods could include computer analytics, automation and others.
- we may use personal information we collect on an application and supporting documents to support electronic processing
 - This could include research, statistics, program and policy evaluation, internal audits, compliance, risk management, computer analytics development, strategy development and reporting.

[Find out more about how we use electronic systems.](#)

After we receive your application, we'll review it and check that it's complete.

We'll return it to you if

- it's incomplete
- fees are missing

If your application is complete, we'll begin to process your application and

- send you an
 - application number
 - acknowledgment of receipt (AOR)
- assess your eligibility as a sponsor
- assess if the person you're sponsoring (and their dependants, if this applies) is
 - eligible for permanent residence
 - not inadmissible to Canada

We'll also ask the people you're sponsoring to submit their

- [medical exams](#)
- [biometrics](#)
- [Get biometrics within 30 days of receiving a letter.](#)

- Once you pay the biometrics fee, we'll send the people you're sponsoring a letter asking them to give their biometrics. They should get this done **as soon as** they receive this letter. They have **30 days** from the date of the letter to go to a [biometric collection site](#).
- They must bring the letter and their passport with them when they give their biometrics.

We'll send the people you're sponsoring instructions and tell them how much time they have to send us this information.

If you live in Quebec and can't submit an undertaking application to MIFI right now

If you already have a permanent residence (PR) application in progress with us but can't submit an undertaking application to MIFI right now, your PR application will remain in our inventory. We can't approve your PR application until you get an undertaking from MIFI. Check our website and your email, portal or mail regularly for updates.

While you wait for a decision, your family member may be able to join you in Canada

While you wait for a decision on your spouse, partner or dependent child's permanent residence (PR) application, they can apply for a visitor visa. If they're approved for a visitor visa, they can apply for an open work permit (OWP) when they arrive in Canada.

Visiting Canada

After you submit the PR application, your spouse, partner or dependent child has the option to apply for a visitor visa if they're currently outside Canada.

How to apply for a visitor visa

Faster processing for your spouse or partner's visitor visa

Your **spouse or partner** may be eligible for faster processing for a visitor visa if you (the sponsor) received an acknowledgement of receipt (AOR) that confirms their permanent residence application is in progress.

To get faster processing,

- they need the AOR when they apply for a visitor visa
- they must meet all the [eligibility requirements for a visitor visa](#)

If they're eligible, they'll **automatically** receive faster processing. They don't need to request it.

Applications that need more information, for example custody documents for a child, will take longer to process.

Working in Canada

Once your spouse, partner or dependent child arrives in Canada, they can apply for an OWP if

- you (the sponsor) received an AOR that confirms that their permanent residence application is in progress
- they're living with you

How to apply for an OWP

Getting health coverage

If you're in Canada or plan to come to Canada while your PR application is being processed, it's important to [learn about the health care system](#).

Processing times vary based on several factors, including how many applications we get and how complex your case is.

You may not be eligible for public health insurance right away. To make sure you're covered in case you need medical care, we encourage you to check your province or territory's requirements for health coverage and to explore private health insurance options.

Decision on your application

If we approve you as a sponsor

We'll send you a letter or email to tell you that you've been approved. We'll then assess the eligibility of the people you're sponsoring.

If you live in Quebec

You must complete an undertaking with the **Government of Quebec**.

Learn about

- [Quebec's undertaking for sponsoring your spouse or partner](#)
- [Quebec's undertaking for sponsoring a dependent child](#)

Don't submit your undertaking application to Quebec **until we tell you to do so**. If you don't wait for our confirmation, **Quebec won't process your application**.

If we refuse you as a sponsor

We'll send you a letter or email to tell you that you've been refused.

When you applied, you told us whether you wanted to withdraw your sponsorship or continue processing your family member's permanent residence application if you were refused as a sponsor.

If you chose to withdraw your sponsorship, you won't get the sponsorship fee back. You'll get all other fees back.

If you chose to continue processing the permanent residence application, you won't get any processing fees back. Keep in mind, there is no guarantee that your family member's application will be approved.

If we approve your family members' permanent residence application

To finish processing their application, we may ask your spouse, partner and/or their dependants who are immigrating to Canada with them (if this applies) to send us

- their passports, or photocopies of their passports (we'll tell them which one they should send)
- 1 photo (front and back)
- the receipt for the right of permanent residence fee, if you haven't sent it to us already

We'll tell them how to send us this information.

If your family members are outside Canada

Once we finish processing their application, we'll issue your family members

- their Confirmation of Permanent Residence (COPR), which is a document confirming they've been approved to become permanent residents

- a permanent resident visa, if required
 - If the people you're sponsoring are from countries whose citizens need a visa to travel to Canada, we'll give them a permanent resident visa in their passport.

Once your family members receive these documents, they can travel to Canada. **Make sure to check the expiry dates on the permanent resident visa and the Confirmation of Permanent Residence.**

Your family members will have to show their COPR and permanent resident visa (if we gave them one) to [the border services officer](#) at a Canadian port of entry **before their documents expire**. The officer will decide if your family members can enter Canada as permanent residents.

Find out more about how your family members can [prepare for arrival](#).

If your family members are inside Canada

We'll contact your family members with instructions on how to confirm their permanent residence status online through the Permanent Residence Portal.

In some cases, your family members may need to meet with an immigration officer for an in-person interview. If an interview is required, we'll tell them what documents to bring, and the time and place of their interview.

If we refuse your family members' permanent residence application

If we refuse their permanent residence application, we'll tell you

- why we refused it
- how to appeal the decision (if this applies)

- You can't appeal our decision if you're sponsoring them under the **spouse or common-law partner in Canada class**.

Track and update your application

During processing, track your application and make sure it's up to date by

- [checking the status of your application](#)
- [keeping your information up to date](#)
- [withdrawing your sponsorship application](#), if desired
- [requesting a refund for the right of permanent residence fee](#), if this applies

Check the status of your application

For the sponsor

After we receive your application and check that it's complete, we'll send you an acknowledgement of receipt (AOR) letter or email.

After you get your AOR, you can use the [Application Status tracker](#)

(opens in a new tab)

to check the [status of your application](#).

Check your spouse, partner or child's application status

If you want to check your family member's application status (without acting as their representative), you must first request access to their information. [Find out how they can give you access.](#)

To protect their privacy, your family member will need to give us their written consent before we'll share any of their personal information with you, or give anyone access to their application information.

Manage your spouse, partner or child's application

You can act as your family member's [representative](#) if you want to

- fill out and submit their application for them
- communicate with us on their behalf

To become their representative:

1. Complete and sign the [form to appoint or change a representative](#).
 - The people you're sponsoring must also sign the form, **unless** they're under 18 years old.
2. Include the form with your application. If you've already submitted your application, send it to us through our [web form](#).
 - In your web form request, include your
 - full name
 - date of birth
 - country of birth
 - application number (if you know it)
 - relative's client ID number (UCI) (if you know it)

For the people being sponsored

The people you're sponsoring can check their application status in 2 ways:

- They can [create an IRCC secure account](#) and [link their application](#) to it.
 - This includes either a paper application or one submitted online through the Permanent Residence Portal.
 - This can **only** be done when we've started processing their application and you've received an application number.
- They can use the [Application Status Tracker](#)
- (opens in a new tab)
- .

If your processing time has passed

If your application is [complex](#), it may take us longer than normal to process it.

Do **not** contact us about your application status if you **don't have an acknowledgement of receipt (AOR) letter**.

Keep your information up to date

Update your contact information or tell us about changes to your family situation, for example, marriage, birth, divorce or death.

Withdraw your sponsorship application

You can request to withdraw your sponsorship application any time **before** the people you're sponsoring become permanent residents.

You may be able to [get a refund](#) if we haven't started processing your application.

How to request to withdraw your sponsorship application

Use our [web form](#) to request to withdraw your sponsorship application.

In your request, include your

- full name
- date of birth
- country of birth
- application number, if you know it
- unique client identifier ([UCI](#)), if you know it
- signed withdrawal request letter

Once we receive your request, we'll review it and confirm if your application has been withdrawn.

If the people you're sponsoring become permanent residents before we process your request, you're responsible for them for the [undertaking period](#).

Refund for the right of permanent residence fee

You may receive a refund for the right of permanent residence fee if

- you're withdrawing your sponsorship application
 - This includes if you asked us to withdraw your application if we found you ineligible to sponsor.
- your family member's permanent residence application was refused
 - You must decline your right of appeal before we can issue you a refund.

If you don't automatically receive the refund within 2–8 weeks, you can [ask for a refund](#).

Need help?

If you need help, you can find answers to your questions in the [Help Centre](#).

Help us improve our services

We're looking for people to try out our products. [Find out how you can participate](#).

Sponsor your spouse, partner, or child

Optional: Open work permit in Canada

On this page

- [Who can apply](#)
- [Who can't apply](#)
- [How to apply for an open work permit](#)

Who can apply

You can apply for an open work permit if you're 1 of the following:

- a spouse, common-law partner or conjugal partner living in Canada who's being sponsored for permanent residence
- an accompanying dependent child of the principal applicant

Principal permanent residence applicants

When you (the person being sponsored for permanent residence) apply for your open work permit, you must also be

- in a **genuine relationship** with your sponsor
- included in an application for permanent residence, and have an [acknowledgement of receipt \(AOR\)](#) letter confirming that your permanent residence application is being processed
 - The AOR must be for **your permanent resident application**. It's the AOR your sponsor receives from IRCC.
- living in Canada with your sponsor

If you're an accompanying dependent child

To be eligible for an open work permit as a dependent child, you must meet both of these requirements:

- The principal applicant you're accompanying must be
 - in a **genuine relationship** with their sponsor
 - included in an application for permanent residence, and have an AOR letter confirming that their permanent residence application is being processed

- It's the AOR their sponsor receives from IRCC.
- living in Canada with their sponsor
- You must be living with your family member (the principal applicant) and their sponsor.

Minimum age to work

Before your dependent child works in Canada, check the minimum age required to work in the province/territory and in the job type they plan to work in. Canadian employers are responsible for meeting the requirements of the provincial labour laws.

Open work permit holders must also comply with federal, provincial or territorial labour laws to work.

Who can't apply at this time

You can't apply for an open work permit under this public policy if **either**

- your application for permanent residence has been refused, withdrawn or returned
- you plan to apply for your work permit at a port of entry

How to apply for an open work permit

For the main steps to apply, check [How to apply for a work permit](#). Below are extra steps that depend on your situation.

Do you have valid temporary resident status? (required)

Yes

No

Valid temporary status

To have valid temporary resident status, you must either

- have a valid temporary resident permit
- have a valid visitor record, work permit or study permit
- have maintained your temporary resident status or
- have applied for and are eligible for restoration of your status as a
 - visitor
 - worker or
 - student