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Ensure that you meet all eligibility requirements for Canadian citizenship at least by the day before you sign your application.Key reminders from IRCC include: Paying your fees when youre ready to submit; Including the receipt with your application; Ensuring your application arrives at IRCC within 90 days from the date on the form, or it will be returned. IRCC also recommends using a postal service that provides tracking to verify your applications delivery. Language Proficiency Requirements Applicants aged 18 to 54 (on the day the application is signed) must demonstrate adequate proficiency in either English or French. IRCC defines this as the ability to: Participate in everyday conversations; Follow simple instructions and directions; Use basic grammar and sentence structures; Understand enough vocabulary to express yourself clearly. This is equivalent to Canadian Language Benchmark (CLB) Level 4 in English or Niveaux de compétence linguistique canadien (NCLC) Level 4 in French. Language skills are assessed by: Reviewing the language proof you submit; Observing your spoken language abilities during interactions with citizenship officials; Evaluating your language during the citizenship test, if required. Various certificates, diplomas, and language test results are accepted as proof of language proficiency. Application Processing The current processing time for citizenship applications is approximately seven months. However, in certain urgent situations, IRCC may expedite your application. Examples include needing citizenship for: Employment; Avoiding job loss; Traveling due to a family emergency; After winning a Federal Court appeal on a previous citizenship application. Restrictions and Prohibitions If youve committed a crime inside or outside of Canada, you may be barred from obtaining citizenship for an unspecified period. Time spent serving imprisonment, parole, or probation does not count toward your residency requirement. Each case is reviewed individually. Checking Application Status After receiving an acknowledgment letter or email, you can track the status of your citizenship application online. Contact IRCC if you: Leave Canada for more than two consecutive weeks; Cannot check your application status online and the processing time has passed; Are charged with a crime; Need to proceed with your application independently if you applied with a group. If you have trouble communicating in English or French, provide written consent for a family member to communicate with IRCC on your behalf. Citizenship Test The citizenship test typically follows a week after the acknowledgment of receipt. It includes 20 multiple-choice or true/false questions about: Rights and responsibilities of Canadian citizens; Canadas history, geography, economy, government, laws, and symbols. The test is 45 minutes long, and applicants must score at least 15 correct answers out of 20 to pass. You will have up to three attempts to pass the test within 30 days of receiving the invitation. If unsuccessful, you will be invited to a hearing with a citizenship officer, who will ask questions similar to those on the test. Failing this hearing means your application will be refused, and you will need to reapply and pay the fees again. Most people will take the test online, but those with specific accessibility needs may be offered alternatives like taking it over Microsoft Teams or in person. IRCC provides a free study guide called Discover Canada: The Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship, available in various formats, including an online version, MP3, PDF, eBook, or a paper copy. Citizenship Ceremony The final step in the citizenship process is the ceremony. Ceremonies are held throughout the year, either online or in person. On the day, you must bring: A signed Permission Release and Consent form (included with the notice); Permanent resident card (or confirmation of permanent residence); Record of Landing (for those who became permanent residents before June 28, 2002); Two pieces of personal ID (one must have your photograph and signature); Passports or travel documents (both current and expired) listed in the application; A holy book (optional) for the Oath of Citizenship. At the ceremony, adults and children aged 14 or older must attend to take the Oath of Citizenship. Youll receive your citizenship certificate, sign the oath form, and sing Canadas national anthem, O Canada. After this, youll officially become a Canadian citizen! Parents will receive certificates for their children under 14, although children in this age group are not required to attend the ceremony. (Source: IRCC) The journey to achieving Canadian citizenship is a significant milestone for many individuals who have previously obtained Permanent Residency (PR) in Canada. This guide aims to break down the step-by-step process of applying for Canadian citizenship, simplifying the legal jargon into more understandable terms while highlighting potential legal implications that applicants should be aware of. Step 1: Create an Online Account The very first step in the citizenship application process is creating an online account with the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) website. This account is crucial as it allows applicants to manage their application and receive notifications. Once the account is created, applicants have 60 days to complete and submit their citizenship application. Legal Implication: It is vital to ensure that the information provided during the account creation is accurate. Any discrepancies can potentially delay the application or raise questions regarding the applicants credibility. Step 2: Submit Required Documents and Fees After creating the account, the next step is to gather all necessary documentation and submit the application profile. This includes providing a proof of PR status, identification documents, and language proficiency evidence. Applicants must also pay the required application fee, which varies based on age and the type of application. Legal Concern: Incomplete documentation or incorrect fee payment can lead to application rejection. Its essential to double-check all submissions to avoid delays or potential denial of citizenship. Step 3: Acknowledgment of Receipt (AOR) Once the application is submitted, the next phase is the waiting period. Applicants will receive an Acknowledgment of Receipt (AOR), which serves as confirmation that the application has been received and is being processed. Legal Note: The AOR is an important document. It is advisable to keep this for future reference, as it contains a tracking number that can be used to follow up on the application status. Step 4: Create a Tracking Application Account With the AOR in hand, applicants can create a tracking application account. This online portal allows individuals to monitor their application status and receive updates directly from IRCC. Legal Implication: Regularly checking the application status can help applicants stay informed about any additional requirements or changes in their application status. Step 5: Await Updates from IRCC After creating the tracking account, applicants will once again enter a waiting period. During this time, IRCC will begin updating the application profile. It is common for this process to take several months. Legal Note: Patience is key during this stage. Applicants should ensure they are prepared for a potentially lengthy wait, as IRCCs processing times can vary widely based on application volume and other factors. Step 6: Invitation to the Citizenship Test Eventually, applicants will receive an invitation to take the citizenship test. This notification usually arrives after approximately three months, although it can take longer. The test assesses knowledge of Canadian history, culture, rights, and responsibilities. Legal Concern: Applicants should be ready to study for the test, as failure to pass could result in delays or the need to retake the test, prolonging the citizenship process. Step 7: Take the Citizenship Test Upon receiving the invitation, applicants have 30 days to schedule and take the citizenship test. They can choose the date that works best for them within this timeframe. Legal Note: It is important to adhere to the timeline provided. Failing to take the test within the allocated period may lead to the application being deemed abandoned. Step 8: Test Results and Further Updates After taking the test, applicants typically receive their results within 10 days. The IRCC will then update the application portal with the test results. Legal Implication: Applicants should keep an eye on the portal for updates. If there are issues with the results, it is crucial to address them promptly with IRCC. Step 9: Invitation to Take the Oath Once the test is passed, applicants will receive an invitation to take the citizenship oath. This is a ceremonial step that finalizes the citizenship process. Legal Note: The oath-taking is a significant legal and symbolic act, solidifying the applicants commitment to Canada and its values. Step 10: Citizenship Oath Ceremony The final step is the oath ceremony. On this day, applicants officially become Canadian citizens and will receive their citizenship certificate. At this point, they are required to return their PR card, as it is no longer valid once citizenship is granted. Legal Concern: It is essential to ensure that all previous obligations as a PR are met before taking the oath, as any outstanding issues could potentially affect the citizenship approval. Step 11: Application for a Canadian Passport Once citizenship is granted, new citizens can apply for a Canadian passport. This is an important document that allows for international travel and identifies the individual as a citizen of Canada. Legal Note: It is advisable to apply for the passport as soon as possible following the citizenship ceremony to avoid complications or delays in travel plans. Conclusion The path to Canadian citizenship is detailed and requires careful attention to timelines, documentation, and procedural requirements. Each step is interconnected, and any misstep could result in delays or complications. By understanding the process and its legal implications, applicants can navigate their journey to citizenship more effectively. Potential legal issues may arise if applicants fail to meet deadlines, provide incomplete information, or overlook the importance of maintaining their PR status throughout the process. Therefore, it is crucial for individuals to remain diligent, organized, and informed as they pursue their goal of becoming a Canadian citizen. FAQs Canadian citizenship application 01: Who is Sanjay Prasher and how can he help with my Canadian citizenship application? A: Sanjay Prasher is a Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant (RCIC) based in North York, Toronto. With over 9 years of experience, he specializes in guiding clients through the Canadian citizenship application process, including online applications, citizenship tests, and navigating IRCC requirements. 24 Q2: What are the main requirements for Canadian citizenship in 2025? A: Key requirements include: Valid permanent resident status; Physical presence in Canada for 1,095 days within the last 5 years; Filing taxes for at least 3 years; Passing the citizenship test (ages 18-54); Proving English or French proficiency (ages 18-54). 7 Q3: Can I apply for Canadian citizenship online? A: Yes, most applicants can now apply online through the IRCC portal. However, some situations may require paper applications, such as crown servants or those using representatives. 7 Q4: What forms do I need for my citizenship application? A: The main form is the citizenship application form, which varies based on your status (adult, minor, etc.). Additional forms may include document checklists and language proficiency proof. 13 Q5: How long does the Canadian citizenship application process take? A: Processing times vary, but typically range from 12 to 18 months. Sanjay Prasher can provide more accurate timelines based on current IRCC processing speeds. 5 Q6: How can I prepare for the Canadian citizenship test? A: Study the official citizenship guide, use online resources, and consider enrolling in test preparation programs. Sanjay Prasher offers guidance tailored to the latest test format. 5 Q7: What happens after I submit my citizenship application? A: IRCC will send a confirmation of receipt. You can then track your application status online and prepare for the citizenship test and interview. 5 Q8: How do I transition from permanent resident to citizen? A: Follow the application steps, meet residency requirements, pass the citizenship test, and attend the citizenship ceremony to take the Oath of Citizenship. 7 Q9: Can Sanjay Prasher help with expedited citizenship applications? A: While most applications follow standard processing, Sanjay can advise on situations that may qualify for urgent processing and guide you through the procedure. 3 Q10: Where is Sanjay Prasher's office located in Toronto? A: Sanjay Prasher's office, Canadian Title Immigration and Visa Consulting (CTIV), is located in North York, Toronto. Contact him at +1 416-542-1000 for consultations. Applicants for Canadian citizenship are now able to apply online (previously, applicants were only able to apply by paper). This is the latest move by IRCC to modernize the Citizenship Application process. The new online portal is designed to be user-friendly and make the application process more efficient. For example, you can now save partially completed applications and resume them at a later time, upload supporting documents and proof of payment, print a PDF and ask for confirmation of receipt. Said IRCC: To increase applicant capacity on the online portal, IRCC will be using a phased approach. Who can use the online application tool? At this time, the online application tool is open to applicants age 18 and over who: Are eligible to apply for Canadian citizenship. See our article here. Have a valid email address. Apply as an individual only (not as a family). Are not declaring residence outside Canada as a crown servant or with a crown servant family member. If applicants dont meet the criteria described above, they can only apply on paper at this time. IRCC is steadily increasing capacity to ensure that more people can apply online in the future. Representatives At this time, representatives (an immigration or citizenship consultant, lawyer, friend, family member, etc.) are allowed to be used by applicants in the following capacity: To deliver advice, guidance or consultation to applicants at any phase of the citizenship application process, or in a citizenship proceeding. They can communicate with IRCC on behalf of the applicant after the online application is submitted. Currently, representatives are not able to apply online on the applicants behalf. Future updates for the online portal Stay tuned because in the near future, IRCC intends to open the online portal to the following applicants: Families (groups). Minors under 18 years of age. Representatives to apply on behalf of their clients. Clients who are declaring residence outside Canada as a crown servant or with a crown servant family member. Apply online Visit the following link: Apply for Canadian citizenship online. You need an online account to submit your application Create an online account here. Documents and forms IRCC will ask you to upload documents and forms based on your application. Paying fees Pay your fees and upload your receipt in the online application. Processing Times Online application to become a Canadian citizen: it starts after you submit your application. Application Status IRCC will contact you through your account. You can upload additional documents in your account. Find out how to check your status. If additional documents are required IRCC will contact you by email. Now you know how the online application process works! If you get approved after you apply, the first thing you should do is give yourself a big pat on your back and throw a party for yourself! Afterall, successfully completing your application and being approved is a great accomplishment! The next step is to take the Canadian Citizenship test. Then, after passing the test, IRCC will invite you to attend a citizenship ceremony and take the Oath of Citizenship. At the end, you will truly be proud and full of joy because nothing beats being a Canadian citizen! Prepare for your Canadian citizenship test with us, we are the No.1 Online Training for the Canadian Citizenship Test. We have helped tens of thousands of people prepare for and pass their test! Did you like this article? Please share it! Becoming a Canadian citizen is an exciting milestone, but the citizenship application process can feel overwhelming if you dont know where to start. In 2025, the process remains straightforward but requires careful attention to eligibility, documentation, and timelines. This step-by-step guide will walk you through everything you need to know to apply for Canadian citizenship successfully. Before applying, make sure you meet the eligibility criteria: Permanent Residency (PR) Status You must hold valid permanent resident (PR) status in Canada. Physical Presence Requirement You need to have lived in Canada for at least 1,095 days (3 years) in the last 5 years. Tax Filing Requirement If required under the Income Tax Act, you must have filed taxes for at least 3 years within the last 5 years. Language Proficiency If you are 18-54 years old, you must prove proficiency in English or French (CLB Level 4 or higher). No Criminal Ineligibility Certain criminal convictions may make you ineligible. If you meet these requirements, you are ready to apply! Youll need to provide several documents with your application. These may include: Proof of Permanent Residence (PR card, COPR document) Passport or Travel Documents (for the past 5 years) Proof of Language Proficiency (if required) Tax Returns (Notice of Assessment) from the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) Two Citizenship Photos that meet IRCC specifications Physical Presence Calculator Printout (available on the IRCC website) To apply for citizenship in 2025, you must fill out Form CIT 0002 (Application for Canadian Citizenship Adults). Make sure to: Answer all questions accurately Double-check dates and travel history Sign and date the form properly You can apply online or submit a paper application by mail. The application fee in 2025 remains C\$630 for adults and C\$100 for minors. Fees must be paid online via the Government of Canada website. Tip: Keep your receipt as proof of payment; it must be included with your application. Online Application: Upload all documents and submit them via the IRCC online portal. Paper Application: Mail your completed form and supporting documents to the address specified by IRCC. Processing times vary, but applications typically take 12-24 months. If you are 18-54 years old, you must take the Canadian Citizenship Test. The test covers: Canadian history and Indigenous peoples Government and elections Rights and responsibilities of citizenship Canadian symbols and culture Geography and economy Test Format: 20 multiple-choice questions 30-minute time limit Passing score: 15/20 (75%) Available in English and French If you fail, you will have one retake opportunity before being scheduled for an interview. Some applicants may be asked to attend a citizenship interview with an IRCC officer. During this interview, you may be required to: Clarify information on your application Demonstrate language proficiency Answer questions about Canada and its laws Once IRCC processes your application, you will receive a decision letter confirming whether your citizenship has been approved. The final step in becoming a Canadian citizen is attending your citizenship ceremony. At the ceremony: You will take the Oath of Citizenship You will receive your Citizenship Certificate You are officially a Canadian citizen! Tip: After becoming a citizen, apply for a Canadian passport to travel freely! Applying for Canadian citizenship in 2025 requires careful preparation, but by following these 9 steps, you can navigate the process smoothly. Make sure you meet the eligibility requirements, submit a complete application, and prepare for the citizenship test if required. Need More Help? Practice for the Canadian Citizenship Test with realistic online tests at TestCanada.com and ensure you pass on the first try! The current processing time for citizenship is We were unable to load the processing time. If your situation is urgent and you need your citizenship sooner, you may apply for urgent processing. We can only process citizenship applications urgently in exceptional cases, for example if you need Canadian citizenship to apply for a job avoid losing your job need to travel because of death or serious illness in your family and you cant get a passport in your current nationality receive a successful Federal Court decision on an appeal on a previous application for citizenship We check every request to make sure we can process it urgently. Even if your application qualifies as an exceptional case, we may not be able to process your request urgently. If we process your request urgently, we may not be able to do it in time to help your situation. If your application doesnt qualify as an exceptional case, well process it normally. If you havent sent us your application: Download and print the application package you need Complete the application Write an explanation of why you need urgent processing include any documents that will support your explanation In your envelope, include your: application explanation photographs fee payment required documents Write Request Urgent Processing Grant of Citizenship in large, dark letters on the envelope Mail your application to the address in the instruction guide If you have already sent your application and now need urgent processing: Fill out the Web form explaining why you need urgent processing and include: your full name, date of birth, email address and telephone numbers your UCI or application number any documents that will support your explanation files must be PDF, JPEG, TIFF, DOC, or DOCX format files must be 2 MB or smaller if you include multiple files, the total size must be 3.5 MB or smaller help for how to reduce file size Features Were looking for you to spend 30 to 60 minutes in the coming months to try out a form, a web tool or other IRCC products. Youll tell us whats easy or hard to understand, and then well use your feedback to improve our products. If youre interested, answer a few questions to see how you can help. Im interested (opens in a new tab) 1. Who can apply? 2. How to apply? 3. After you apply Citizenship test Right of citizenship fee has increased On March 31, 2025, at 12 a.m. (midnight) (ET), the right of citizenship fee for adult applicants increased from \$100 to \$119.75. Learn more about the fee increase. Make sure that everyones applications are complete. Well return all submitted applications to you if at least 1 of them is incomplete. If you want us to process everyones applications together, put all applications and receipts in the same envelope. Otherwise, well process them separately. Find out what happens if theres a problem with one of the applications Send your completed application form and all documents in the application package by mail or courier: Regular mail Courier Case Processing Centre - Sydney Citizenship Grants P.O. Box 7000 Sydney, NSB1P6V6 IRCC Digitization Centre - Citizenship 3050 Wilson Ave New Waterford, NSB1H5V8 We recommend that you use a postal or courier service with a tracking number to ensure you get proof that your application was delivered to the IRCC office. Date modified: 2025-03-31 IRCC applications Pay your fees, give biometrics, get a medical exam or proof certificate, use an immigration representative Go to IRCC applications Citizenship and settling in Canada Renew or apply for an adult passport, apply for a passport for your child, passport photos Apply for citizenship, citizenship test and ceremony, study guide, citizenship certificate Renew or replace a PR card, apply for a permanent resident travel document (PRTD) Free immigrant services, benefits and taxes for newcomers, find a job, learn English or French Apply for the citizenship or permanent residence of your adopted child from another country Fraud and inadmissibility Check if your representative is authorized, report fraud or abuse, avoid marriage fraud Check if youre inadmissible, arrests, detentions, removals, overcoming criminal convictions Date modified: 2025-02-05

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