

Rights of Protected Persons (an accepted Convention Refugee or Person in Need of Protection) in Ontario

(July 22, 2022)

This fact sheet is solely for informational purposes. We urge you to consult with your settlement counsellor or caseworker if you have any specific questions about your situation.

As a Protected Person (an accepted Convention Refugee or Person in Need of Protection) in Canada, you have new rights. Information on these rights is below along with links for more information.	
Can I work in Canada?	<p>You have the right to work in Canada. However, if you are not yet a permanent resident or Canadian citizen, you need a work permit to work in Canada. This means you must either apply for a work permit or continue to renew your existing work permit until you receive permanent residence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To apply for a work permit online, visit https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/work-canada/permit/temporary/apply.html. To work legally, you must also obtain a social insurance number (SIN). There is no fee to apply for a SIN. To learn more about the process, including what documents are required, visit https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/sin/apply.html.
Do I have free health coverage?	<p>You now have the right to free health coverage under the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP). This is the same health insurance Canadian citizens receive. Protected persons are eligible for OHIP if they live in Ontario. There is no waiting period for OHIP. To learn more about coverage, eligibility, and how to apply, visit https://www.ontario.ca/page/apply-ohip-and-get-health-card#section-2.</p> <p>Before your OHIP coverage starts, your Refugee Protection Claimant Document allows you to get basic healthcare services free of charge through the Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP): https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/refugees/help-within-canada/health-care/interim-federal-health-program/apply.html. See also: https://stepstojustice.ca/questions/refugee-law/can-i-get-healthcare-services-after-i-make-refugee-claim-canada/.</p> <p>For health-related services and organizations, see http://welcomeontario.ca/getting-started#health.</p>
Can my children attend school?	All children living in Ontario, including the children of protected persons like yourself, have the right to attend school, regardless of their immigration status.
Can I apply for Legal Aid?	If you are financially eligible and meet other basic criteria, Legal Aid Ontario may pay a lawyer to represent you in areas such as criminal law, family law, and immigration law. For a full list of services and to learn how to apply for Legal Aid, visit https://www.legalaid.on.ca/services-for-refugee-claimants/ .
Am I eligible for the Canada Child Benefit (CCB)?	<p>You may now be eligible for the Canada Child Benefit (CCB), a tax-free monthly payment to help with the cost of raising your children who are under age 18. You must apply and meet specific eligibility requirements. Payments vary based on several factors, with a maximum annual payment of \$6,833 for children under 6, and \$5,765 for children 6-17: https://connectingottawa.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/CCB-Infosheet_May-17_2022.pdf.</p> <p>To apply online, go to https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/child-family-benefits/canada-child-benefit-overview/canada-child-benefit-apply.html.</p>
Can I travel?	<p>You may now apply for a Refugee Travel Document from the Canadian government. Since you are not allowed to use your home country passport after you receive refugee status, you must use your refugee travel document to travel to other countries until you become a Canadian citizen. Some countries require individuals traveling on a refugee travel document to obtain a visa to enter their country and some do not. It is always important to check the entry requirements of each country you want to travel to: https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/canadian-passports/travel-documents-non-canadians/apply-how.html.</p> <p>The Canadian gov't can take away your refugee status if it believes you obtained the protection of your home country after getting refugee status in Canada. This could happen if you: travel to your home country (even for a short time), travel using your home country passport, or apply for a new passport from your home country.</p>

More information available at:

Legal Aid Ontario: <https://www.legalaid.on.ca/faq/links-and-resources-for-refugee-help/>

Steps to Justice: <https://stepstojustice.ca/legal-topic/refugee-law/>

Settlement.org: <https://settlement.org/>