

# Permanent Resident Card

*“We didn’t remember that PR cards come in the mail automatically and we thought we had to apply for one.”*

*~Sponsors of an Ethiopian family*

## Permanent Residency:

Resettled refugees become permanent residents (PRs) the moment they sign their ‘Confirmation of Permanent Residence’ document at the airport and they:

- Access the same social benefits and health care coverage as Canadian citizens.
- Do not require a permit to study or work.
- Are protected under Canadian law and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.
- Have responsibilities, including paying taxes and respecting all federal, provincial and municipal laws.

## Permanent Resident (PR) Card Processing:

IRCC will automatically send each newcomer their PR Card in the mail after they arrive. There are often delays due to high volume, incorrect addresses, and problems with photographs.

- Ensure IRCC has the newcomers’ correct address. Address changes can be made online: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/change-address.asp>. Click on the “Address Notification” link in the blue box, just below Step 3.
- The first card is free and processing time is 2-3 months.
- If you have waited more than 2-3 months and are concerned, contact AURA.
- IRCC may mail a letter requesting new photographs for PR cards.
- If a PR card is not received within 180 days of arriving in Canada, a complete application, fee and photograph must be submitted to IRCC.

## AURA TIPS



Remind newcomers they must apply for a new PR card every 5 years or until they become Canadian citizens. Renewal fee: \$50.



Accompany newcomers to the library to make colour copies of the front and back of PR cards.



Get an Ontario Photo ID card for everyday identification, so PR cards can stay safely stored at home.



AURA strongly advises against travelling outside of Canada before becoming a Canadian citizen, even in extraordinary circumstances.



Permanent residents should apply for citizenship as soon as they meet the requirements. Explain the value and process of applying for citizenship.



The PR Card is the physical card used for identification.

## Travelling as a Permanent Resident:

- Canadian permanent residents with refugee status are entitled to a Travel Document, which can be used with a PR card to travel outside Canada. However, for resettled refugees, there are serious considerations related to travelling outside of Canada before attaining citizenship:
- Re-entry to Canada is not guaranteed.
- Use of a passport from a refugee’s country of nationality and returning to that country can be considered ‘reavilment’ and jeopardize one’s permanent residency status.