

Newsletter May 2017 – Issue #3



Newsletter May 2017 – Issue #3



Brief Message from your Consultant

I hope this finds you and your family happy and healthy, wishing you all the best. Here we are back again. Almost one month has gone from the publishing date of the previous issue of our monthly Newsletter. Welcome again to issue #3 of our monthly newsletter for May 2017. We just would like to let you know that we are so glad to receive the very good comments from our valued clients regarding our previous monthly newsletter. Thus, your nice and motivating comments and positive feedback on the second issue of our newsletter of the past month have encouraged us further to prepare and publish the 3rd issue of this newsletter for May 2017.

We look forward to hearing from about all such interesting news releases, articles and other updates on the latest immigration programs offered on the Canadian federal and provincial level published in this newsletter, noting that some of them have already been posted through social media, such as Facebook. Again, we should be grateful if you just could provide us with any suggestion, recommendation or feedback on this issue so that we can include the same in the next one as our main and constant goal is your full satisfaction.

I would like to wish you all Ramadan Mubarak and blessings of the season.

**Sincerely,
SAM**

Newsletter May 2017 – Issue #3

[You are reading the latest newsletter](#)

In this Issue

- **Message from your Consultant**
- **Main Article**
- **Latest News & News Releases**
- **Some Key Immigration Matters (FAQs)**
- **IELTS & Citizenship Test**

From the desk of : Sam Qita

- **May News Report**

MAIN ARTICLE

Program Status Update - Private Sponsorship for Refugees (PSR) for Syrians and Iraqis

1. For all clients whose applications were submitted last year before end of year 2016: application processing continues to be delayed by at least 4 months to date. This means obtaining application/file numbers, interviews, post-interview processing and final decisions are all being delayed by the four months mentioned above. Changes in Ministry processing centers have been made in April and May to get back on track and to expedite application processing for refugee applications. Even though we haven't seen results from such changes yet, we as long as our sponsors have been assured that improvements are coming and we continue to

LATEST NEWS & ARTICLES

- Canada to expedite refugee claims from Afghanistan, Burundi, Egypt and Yemen – MAY 15, 2017

Canada increases age for dependent child in immigration program – CMC, 08 MAY 2017

-Senate passes bill that repeals many Conservative citizenship changes: MAY 04, 2017

- How Canada can support immigration in the era of Brexit and Trump: MAY 09, 2017

- Refugees once again have full health benefits, but some practitioners still don't know that: MAY 09, 2017

-Supreme Court appeal asks whether refugees are 'equal to all other immigrants': MAY 9, 2017

- Government of Canada Eliminates conditional Permanent Residence for Spouses and Partners: IRCC- APRIL 28, 2017

- Family reunification lottery had 95,000 applicants, 10,000 selected, APRIL 27, 2017

- UN praises Canada for refugee resettlement program: APRIL 24, 2017

Newsletter May 2017 – Issue #3

1. For all clients whose applications were submitted last year and only received their file/application numbers in late 2016 or early 2017: the provided “Gxxxxxxx” numbers referencing the submitted applications haven’t yet been activated on the IRCC web form for most applications. This is also being impacted by the overall general delay faced by the Ministry and Ministry staff. Please continue to check and rest assured that this doesn’t impact your application processing as that is a separate process from updating your application information and status online.
2. For all prospective clients who haven’t applied to the program yet and continue to wait for the program to be reopened: we continue to monitor the situation and discuss with our sponsors and will notify all who have been placed on our waiting list as soon as the program is reopened and allocations have been disbursed to our sponsors. Please ensure you have the required documents and funds ready upon such notification.

اخر الاخبار المتعلقة بوضع برنامج الكفالة الخاصة باللاجئين من الجنسيات السورية والعراقية

1. بالنسبة لكافة عملائنا الذين تم تقديم طلباتهم خلال العام الماضي وقبل نهاية عام 2016، فإن عملية انجاز معاملاتهم ما زالت تتأخر ولمدة أربعة شهور لغاية تاريخ يومنا هذا، مما يعني هذا أن عملية الحصول على أرقام المعاملات أو الملفات الخاصة بهم وحجز المواعيد الخاصة بالمقابلات وتفاصيل مرحلة ما بعد اجراء تلك المقابلات بالاضافة الى كافة القرارات النهائية المتعلقة بهذا الامر ما زال هناك تأخير فيها لمدة أربعة شهور كما ذكرنا أنفاً، حيث أنه من المتوقع أن التغييرات التي تمت على مستوى مراكز الانجاز التابعة للوزارة خلال شهر ابريل ومايو من هذا العام ستسهم في تسريع انجاز الطلبات الخاصة باللاجئين. وبالرغم من أننا لم نلاحظ حتى الان أية نتائج ايجابية من وراء مثل تلك التغييرات الا أننا ما زلنا نترقب تلك النتائج طالما انه قد تم التأكيد لكفلاننا بأن تلك التحسينات ستثمر قريباً وتنعكس ايجاباً على التعجيل في عملية الانجاز هذه.
2. وبالنسبة لكافة عملائنا الذين تم تقديم طلباتهم خلال العام الماضي وقاموا باستلام أرقام ملفاتهم أو طلباتهم في أواخر عام 2016 أو مطلع عام 2017، فإنه لم يتم تفعيل حتى الان الارقام المرجعية لمعظم الطلبات التي تم تقديمها مسبقاً والخاصة بـ " على النماذج الالكترونية المستخدمة من قبل وزارة الهجرة الكندية، كما أن التأخير الذي تواجهه الوزارة وموظفوها فيما يخص هذا الامر بشكل عام من شأنه التأثير سلباً على ذلك. وعليه، يرجى مواصلةكم بالمتابعة ونود طمأننتكم بأن هذا الأمر لن يؤثر على عملية انجاز معاملتكم لان ذلك يمثل عملية مستقلة ومختلفة عن التحديث الالكتروني الخاص بالمعلومات المتعلقة بطلباتكم أو وضعها.

Newsletter May 2017 – Issue #3

3. وأما فيما يخص كافة عملائنا المحتملين الذي لم يتقدموا بطلب للبرنامج حتى الان ويواصلون انتظارهم للبرنامج حتى يتم اعادة فتحه: فنود التأكيد لهم بأننا نواصل مراقبة الوضع عن كثب و اجراء المناقشات مع كفلائنا من طرفنا على الدوام، وسنقوم بابلاغ كافة اولئك الذين تم وضعهم تحت قائمة الانتظار لدينا فور اعادة فتح البرنامج وتخصيص العدد المناسب من الطلبات لكفلائنا. وبالتالي، يرجى التأكد من امتلاككم لكافة الوثائق المطلوبه وأن المبالغ النقدية جاهزه لديكم في حال تم ابلاغكم بذلك.

Canada to expedite refugee claims from Afghanistan, Burundi, Egypt and Yemen – May 15, 2017



On May 4, 2017, the Refugee Protection Division of the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada announced that effective June 1, 2017, asylum seekers from Afghanistan, Burundi, Egypt and Yemen will eligible to claim refugee status in Canada by skipping lengthy judicial hearings. Syria, Iraq and Eritrea are already on the list of the Policy on the Expedited Processing of Refugee Claims, which was first introduced on September 18, 2015.

The purpose of the policy is to meet Canada's mandate to make refugee status determination from certain countries fair and quick by accepting claims without a hearing in some circumstances. If there are no issues relating to the claimant's identity, no credibility issues that arise from the documents

Newsletter May 2017 – Issue #3

in the file, and information given by the asylum seeker is consistent with information about their country of nationality, their application may be decided without a hearing.

The designation of the seven countries as being suitable for consideration under the expedited process is based on the recent acceptance rate for claims, the fact that claims do not generally involve complex issues and the volume of cases from those designated countries heard by the Refugee Protection Division.

See more at: <http://en.cijnews.com/?p=237542>

Canada increases age for dependent child in immigration program – CMC, 08 May 2017

TTAWA – The Canadian Government has published regulatory changes to increase the maximum age of a dependent child in new applications for all immigration programs. According to a government statement, the changes will allow more families to stay together, adding that they showcase Ottawa's commitment to family reunification. The new age limit of "under 22" will come into effect this fall, on October 24, raising it from the current "under 19" requirement, said the government in a statement. The increased age will apply to new applications under Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, including for refugees. The government says children who are 22 years of age or older and who rely on their parents due to a physical or mental health condition will continue to be considered dependent children. See more at: <http://pridenews.ca/2017/05/08/canadian-government-increases-age-dependent-children-immigration-program/>

Newsletter May 2017 – Issue #3

Senate passes bill that repeals many Conservative citizenship changes: Michelle Zilio OTTAWA — The Globe and Mail, MAY 04, 2017



The Senate approved the Liberal government's major citizenship bill Wednesday, after a nearly year-long legislative process resulting in changes affecting citizenship revocation, children's rights and language requirements.

The Senate voted to pass Bill C-6 Wednesday, with 45 senators voting in support of the legislation, 29 against, and no abstentions. The wide-ranging bill would repeal many parts of the former Conservative government's citizenship legislation, including a provision that revoked citizenship from dual Canadian citizens convicted of terrorism, treason or espionage. An attempt by Conservative Senator Daniel Lang essentially proposing the government maintain that power was defeated Tuesday during debate in the Red Chamber.

To read more on this article, please go to this link:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/senate-passes-bill-that-would-repeal-many-many-conservative-citizenship-changes/article34890037/>

Newsletter May 2017 – Issue #3

How Canada can support immigration in the era of Brexit and Trump

Special to The Globe and Mail by Alexander and El-Assal: **MAY 09, 2017**



Ahmed D. Hussen, right, Minister of Immigration, hands out flags during a citizenship ceremony to 30 new citizens at the ISS of BC Welcome Centre in Vancouver, British Columbia, Wednesday, March 29, 2017. (Rafal Gerszak/Rafal Gerszak)

As anti-immigrant tides spread globally, it's important for us as Canadians to learn from the international context to ensure support for our immigration system remains strong. This is especially crucial as Canada looks to increase its immigration levels to help fill the void left by the millions of workers soon to retire.

Fears over immigration in Britain and America have arisen for several reasons. Both countries have experienced large flows of immigration that they have been unable to control. Britain's European Union membership allows immigrants from across the continent to arrive legally to pursue economic opportunity. Meanwhile, undocumented immigrants have arrived in the U.S. for decades in search of the American Dream.

Given the major recession of 2008-2009, the decline in manufacturing jobs and overall economic uncertainty, it's understandable that citizens of Britain and America feel apprehensive about

Newsletter May 2017 – Issue #3

unmanaged newcomer arrivals. Immigrants have long benefited both nations' economies, but with many of their citizens experiencing deteriorating economic conditions, immigrants have undeservedly taken considerable blame.

Canada's immigration context is unlike that of Britain and America. The nation's geography has helped control who comes here. And Canada's approach to immigration policy is different.

To read more on this article, please go to this link: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/how-canada-can-support-immigration-in-the-era-of-brexit-and-trump/article34931546/>

Refugees once again have full health benefits, but some practitioners still don't know that By Y.Y. Brandon Chen, Jamie Chai Yun Liew: **MAY 09, 2017**

Confusion and bureaucracy is preventing refugees from receiving the health care they need



The government must better educate health care providers about the reinstated IFHP. (Sean Kilpatrick/The Canadian Press)

Newsletter May 2017 – Issue #3

It's been over a year since Canada's government reversed cuts to the health-care program for refugees and asylum-seekers. The move reinstated basic health care and supplemental services — such as dental and vision services — for newcomers who aren't yet eligible for provincial health coverage.

Liberals patted themselves on the back for the move, while refugees and their advocates celebrated the reinstatement. Great stuff, right? Except one year later, despite the policy change, many new arrivals continue to be left without adequate access to health care. That's the finding that comes out of a series of interviews we recently conducted with refugee service providers in Ottawa.

Supreme Court appeal asks whether refugees are 'equal to all other immigrants' By NICHOLAS KEUNG, Immigration reporter: MAY 9, 2017



NDP immigration critic Jenny Kwan says it's "so wrong" that Canada has been “stripping law-abiding former refugees of permanent residence simply because they travelled back to their country of origin.” (SAM SMITH / METRO FILE PHOTO)

When do refugees already granted asylum in Canada cease to require our protection? Can they then be booted out of the country even after they have become permanent residents?

Newsletter May 2017 – Issue #3

These questions are at the core of a Supreme Court of Canada appeal of legislative changes made by the former Conservative government in 2012 that allow officials to reopen asylum files under what's known as a "cessation application" and remove those refugees whose circumstances have changed.

Nisreen Ahmed Mohamed Nilam, 36, came to Canada from Sri Lanka for asylum in 2008 and was granted refugee status a year later. He applied and became a permanent resident in January 2011.

The Vancouver cab driver returned to his homeland in 2011 and 2012 — after the civil war between the Sinhalese and Tamils ended in 2009 — with a Sri Lankan passport because he was not a Canadian citizen and that's the only travel document he could get.

After his last trip, when he returned to Canada on May 1, 2013, a cessation investigation was commenced against him for "re-availing" himself of the country he fled.

The probe is not over and can result in him losing his permanent status in Canada and being removed from the country.

To read more on this article, please go to this link:
<https://www.thestar.com/news/immigration/2017/05/09/supreme-court-appeal-asks-whether-refugees-are-equal-to-all-other-immigrants.html>

Government of Canada Eliminates conditional Permanent Residence for Spouses and Partners: IRCC- APRIL 28, 2017

**Spouses of
Canadians to get
permanent
residency
immediately**

IMMIGRATION NEWS

Newsletter May 2017 – Issue #3

April 28, 2017—Ottawa, ON – To uphold its commitment to family reunification and to support gender equality, the Government of Canada has removed the condition that applied to some sponsored spouses or partners of Canadian citizens and permanent residents to live with their sponsor for two years in order to keep their permanent resident status.

This change applies to anyone who was subject to the requirement, as well as to new spouses and partners who are sponsored as permanent residents.

Eliminating conditional permanent residence supports the Government’s commitment to gender equality and to combat gender violence. The regulatory change addresses concerns that vulnerable sponsored spouses or partners may stay in abusive relationships because they are afraid of losing their permanent resident status even though an exception to the condition existed for those types of situations.

The Government of Canada does not want any sponsored spouse or partner who is in an abusive situation to remain in it for fear of losing their status in Canada.

The change also supports family reunification, which is a key immigration commitment of the Government of Canada. Removing the condition recognizes that the majority of marriages are genuine and most spousal sponsorship applications are made in good faith.

Quotes

“We’re doing away with a measure that could have made a bad situation worse by possibly making people feel they needed to stay in abusive situations just to keep their status in Canada. Removing conditional permanent residence is another example of the Government’s commitment for family reunification and making it easier for immigrants to build successful lives in Canada”

– The Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship

“Our Government is committed to advancing gender equality and to reducing gender-based violence. By eliminating conditional permanent residence, we can help ensure that people coming to Canada are kept safe from gender-based violence as they seek a chance at a better life.”

– The Honourable Maryam Monsef, Minister of Status of Women

Newsletter May 2017 – Issue #3

Family reunification lottery had 95,000 applicants, 10,000 applicants selected: April 27, 2017



A woman takes a photograph while holding a Canadian flag as a group of 61 new Canadians take the oath of citizenship during a citizenship ceremony held as part of Canada Day celebrations in Vancouver, on Wednesday, July 1, 2009. (Darryl Dyck/The Canadian Press)

Of the more than 95,000 people who applied to bring a parent or grandparent to Canada, 10,000 individuals have now been randomly selected under the new family reunification lottery system that some are calling unfair. The lottery system was introduced by the Liberal government as a way of alleviating sponsorship application backlogs under the old, first-come, first-serve system.

A spokesperson for Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) said Thursday that a total of 95,100 submissions were received in the first round of the lottery, which ended on Feb. 2. The 10,000 randomly selected individuals now have 90 days to submit their full applications to sponsor a parent or a grandparent. Anyone who was not selected this year can enter the lottery again in 2018, Remi Lariviere said in an email to CTVNews.ca.

Many applicants have spoken out against the lottery system, saying that the important issue of family reunification shouldn't depend on luck. "I was more than unhappy when the system changed," Kevorkian Tanielian, a Toronto-area man who is trying to bring his mother to Canada from Bulgaria, told CTVNews.ca in a telephone interview Thursday.

Newsletter May 2017 – Issue #3

See more at: http://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/family-reunification-lottery-had-95-000-applicants-10-000-selected-1.3387862#_gus&_gucid=&_gup=Facebook&_gsc=CZ0hEHU

UN praises Canada for refugee resettlement program: By Carol Sanders: APRIL 24, 2017



The Al Ali family arrived in Winnipeg in December, four years after fleeing war in Syria. They were sponsored by the South Osborne Syrian Refugee Initiative

Newsletter May 2017 – Issue #3

Canada was lauded Monday for resettling a record number of refugees in 2016 and called upon to open its doors wider to let in their loved ones left behind. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) praised Canada for welcoming 46,700 refugees in 2016. It's the largest number of refugees admitted in one year since the implementation of the 1976 Immigration Act, the UNHCR said in a news release.

"This is a tremendous achievement which reflects Canada's longstanding tradition of welcoming refugees and assisting them with their integration into Canadian society," Jean-Nicolas Beuze, the UNHCR's Canada representative, said in a news release. "Without this support, scores of refugees would have been left in life-threatening situations and without any hope. Canada has again shown the world that successful resettlement is possible, particularly when government and civil society work together. "One of Canada's largest private sponsors of refugees, Winnipeg's Hospitality House Refugee Ministry, said it's a "remarkable achievement" that reflects the government's willingness to resettle a record number of refugees and the efforts of thousands of Canadian volunteers.

Canada shines again

From Nov. 4, 2015 to Jan. 29, 2017 Canada resettled 40,081 Syrian refugees. The country's largest resettlement effort previously was with the Vietnamese boat people, which at its high point resulted in 40,271 refugees being admitted in 1980.

In 1986, Canada and its people received the United Nations Nansen Refugee Award in recognition of its response to the refugees involved in the "Indochinese Movement" that directly helped thousands of persecuted people start new lives in Canada. The Nansen award is named after Norwegian Fridtjof Nansen who directed the League of Nations' first major humanitarian operation — the repatriation of 450,000 prisoners of war as Europe struggled to rebuild after the First World War. His intellect, valour and charisma proved instrumental in winning the support of governments and voluntary agencies.

Sources: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada See more at: <http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/local/un-praises-canada-for-refugee-resettlement-program-420295873.html>

Newsletter May 2017 – Issue #3

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q. I live outside Canada. Can I use the Change of Address or the Address Notification online services to update my mailing or home address?

A- No. If you live outside Canada, you will not be able to change your address through either the Change of Address or the Address Notification online services, even though you may be able to view it that way. You must contact the Canadian visa office serving your region. Clients who are being processed in Canada and who have a home address in Canada can use Change of Address.

Q. How can I check that my address has been updated successfully?

A. Please allow (5) business days for your new address to be updated. Depending on which online tool you used, it will appear on Address notification, Change of Address or Client Application Status (CAS). After 5 business days, you can check it by going into Address Notification, Change of Address or CAS.

Q. I have not been able to submit an eTA (Electronic Travel Authorization) application because of technical issues (i.e. with payment or the application form). Can I still fly to Canada?

No. eTA is a mandatory entry requirement. If you have not been able to get an eTA, you should not plan or undertake any travel to Canada.

If you try to apply again but still have technical issues, complete this enquiry form.

- Under “Type of application” select “Electronic Travel Authorization”, then “General and Technical Enquiries.”
- Provide as many details as possible about the problem you encountered. Note: It can take us several days to answer your inquiry

If you decide to travel to Canada without an eTA you will experience delays or be prevented from boarding your flight to Canada.

Q. I cannot submit the additional documents required for my eTA application by the requested deadline. Can I still travel to Canada?

No. eTA is a mandatory entry requirement. You should not travel to Canada until a decision is made on your application. If you are leaving for Canada soon, you may want to consider rescheduling your flight.

If you are not sure how to submit the documents requested for your eTA application, follow these step-by-step instructions. If you are waiting for someone (police department, doctor) to send you documents, or have problems uploading the documents and cannot submit them by the deadline, complete this web form to request an extension to the deadline.

Newsletter May 2017 – Issue #3

Q. I submitted the documents for my eTA application but I haven't heard anything yet. Can I still travel to Canada?

A. No. eTA is a mandatory entry requirement. You should not travel to Canada until a decision is made on your application. If you are leaving for Canada soon, you may want to reschedule your flight. If you decide to travel to Canada while your application is still being assessed, you will be prevented from boarding your flight to Canada.

Q. Are there any age exemptions for eTA?

A. No. All eTA-required travellers, regardless of their age, will need an eTA when they fly to Canada.

Comprehensive Ranking System (CRS) tool - Skilled immigrants (Express Entry)



The Comprehensive Ranking System (CRS) is a point-based system that assesses and scores potential skilled worker candidates on their skills, work experience, language ability, education, and other factors, such as a job offer or a nomination by a province or a territory.

Furthermore, you can use the CRS calculator to find out whether you are eligible to apply for Permanent Residency to Canada through the Express Entry System. For this purpose, please access this link:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/skilled/crs-tool.asp>

Newsletter May 2017 – Issue #3

IELTS



Take this opportunity and get to know what IELTS all about. We just thought that it would be appropriate to supply you with some major links to IELTS, which we are so sure that you will find interesting and useful. For example, Road to IELTS is your best possible online preparation and practice resource for IELTS.

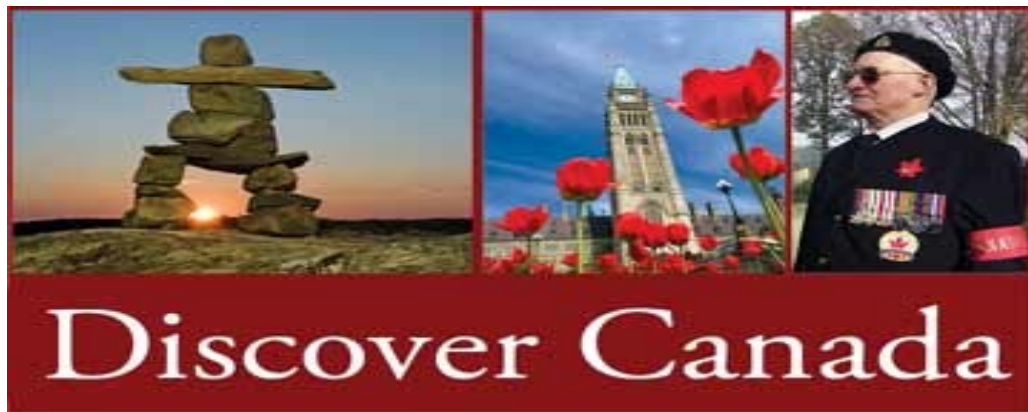
Road to IELTS is a comprehensive e-learning and online assessment tool that gives you (30) hours of FREE online tuition when you book your test online with the British Council. It comes with over 100 hours of interactive activities, how-to videos from British Council experts, hints and tips on typical questions and downloadable practice tests for IELTS.

Give it a try by clicking the useful links below:

- <http://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/prepare/road-to-ielts>
- <http://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/pt/recognising-organisation/american-university-sharjah>
- <https://www.ielts.org/>
- <https://www.ieltsessentials.com/global/prepare/freepracticetests>
- http://www.ielts-exam.net/practice_tests/

Newsletter May 2017 – Issue #3

Canadian Citizenship Test



Passing this Canadian citizenship test is mandatory to obtain the Canadian citizenship. Therefore, we thought that it would be a good idea to provide you with useful and helpful links to do a free practice test to help you get ready for the Canadian Citizenship test. It is important to note that this is not the actual Canadian Citizenship test, but the questions are designed to help you build your knowledge and efficiently prepare for the real test.

To gain access to such free practice questions related to Canadian citizenship, you are recommended to log into the useful links below:

- <http://www.apnatoronto.com/canadian-citizenship-test-practice/>
- <http://www.v-soul.com/>
- <http://www.yourlibrary.ca/citizenship/>
- <http://www.thecanadiantest.com/>
- <http://www.citizenshipsupport.ca/>

Newsletter May 2017 – Issue #3

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