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Acknowledgement of Receipt (AOR)	
A letter or notification issued by IRCC once an application for permanent residence has passed the initial completeness check. It's often the first confirmation that your application has been received and is in processing.	
Accompanying Dependent	
A family member (spouse, common-law partner, or dependent child) who applies for immigration with the principal applicant.	
Admissibility Hearing	
A hearing conducted by the Immigration Division of the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) to determine whether a foreign national or permanent resident is allowed to enter or remain in Canada.	
Advisory Opinion	
Sometimes, a legal opinion sought from a court or legal body on a point of law. Affidavit	
A written statement of fact, voluntarily made by an affiant or deponent under an oath or affirmation administered by a person authorized to do so by law. Often used as supporting evidence in immigration applications or appeals.	
Adaptability	
A factor in some immigration programs (like Federal Skilled Worker) where points are awarded based on an applicant's potential to successfully integrate into Canadian society, considering factors like Canadian work/ education experience, or family in Canada.	
Applicant	
An individual who applies to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) for a visa, permit, or other immigration status. Application for Leave and Judicial Review	
A legal process where an individual can ask the Federal Court of Canada to review a decision made by IRCC or the IRB, if they believe an error was made in law or fact. "Leave" means permission to proceed with the review.	
Application Package/Kit	
The complete set of forms, instructions, and supporting documents required to apply for a specific visa, permit, or immigration program. Approved in Principle (AIP)	
A status for a permanent residence application where IRCC has determined that you meet the eligibility requirements, but still needs to complete medical, security, and background checks for you and your family members.	
Arranged Employment	
A valid job offer from a Canadian employer that has often undergone a Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) or is LMIA-exempt, which can provide additional points in certain immigration programs.	B
Biometrics	
Digital fingerprints and a photograph collected from most applicants for visitor visas, study and work permits, and permanent residence. This helps IRCC confirm identity.	
Bridging Open Work Permit (BOWP)	
A type of open work permit that allows eligible temporary foreign workers to continue working in Canada while they wait for a decision on their permanent residence application.	C
CAIPS (Computer Assisted Immigration Processing System)	
An internal electronic system used by IRCC to process and record information on immigration and visa applications. Applicants can sometimes request their CAIPS notes to see the status and details of their application. Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA)	
The federal agency responsible for border control, customs, and immigration enforcement at ports of entry.	
Canadian Experience Class (CEC)	
An immigration program for individuals who have Canadian work experience and wish to become permanent residents. It falls under the Express Entry system.	
Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB)	
The national standards used to describe, measure, and recognize the English language proficiency of adult immigrants and prospective immigrants. For French, it's Niveaux de compétence linguistique canadiens (NCLC).	
Case Management System (GCMS)	
The Global Case Management System is IRCC's electronic system used to process and track immigration and citizenship applications.	
Centralized Intake Office (CIO)	
IRCC offices responsible for the initial intake and completeness checks of certain immigration applications.	
Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC)	
The former name of the federal department now known as Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). You may still see this acronym used in older documents.	
Citizenship Ceremony	
The official event where permanent residents	

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who have the residency requirements to take the Oath of Citizenship and become Canadian citizens.	
Citizenship Test	
A knowledge test on Canada's history, geography, government, and rights and responsibilities of citizens, which applicants for Canadian citizenship aged 18-54 must typically pass.	
Come to Canada Tool/Wizard	
An online tool on the IRCC website that helps individuals determine which immigration programs they might be eligible for by answering a series of questions.	
Common-Law Partner	
A person who has been living with another person in a conjugal relationship for at least one year. This relationship is recognized for immigration purposes.	
Completeness Check	
The initial review of an application to ensure all required forms are filled out and all necessary documents are included. An incomplete application may be returned.	
Comprehensive Ranking System (CRS)	
The points-based system used in Express Entry to rank candidates in the pool. Points are awarded based on human capital factors (age, education, language, work experience), skill transferability, and additional factors (PNP nomination, arranged employment, Canadian education).	
Confirmation of Permanent Residence (COPR)	
A document issued by IRCC to individuals who have been approved for permanent residence in Canada. It's often referred to as a "landing paper."	D

Deportation Order	
The most severe type of removal order, requiring a foreign national or permanent resident to leave Canada and preventing them from returning permanently unless they obtain special authorization.	
Departure Order	
A less severe removal order than a deportation order. The person must leave Canada within a specified time. If they comply, they may be able to return to Canada in the future without special authorization.	
Designated Learning Institution (DLI)	
A school approved by a provincial or territorial government to host international students. International students must attend a DLI to be eligible for a study permit.	
Designated Medical Practitioner (DMP)	
Also known as a "Panel Physician," these are doctors approved by IRCC to conduct immigration medical exams.	
Dependent Child	
For immigration purposes, a child who is under the age of 22 and does not have a spouse or common-law partner. Children 22 years or older who are unable to financially support themselves due to a mental or physical condition may also be considered dependent.	
Detention	
The holding of an individual by the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) if they are deemed a flight risk, a danger to the public, or if their identity cannot be immediately established.	

eTA (Electronic Travel Authorization)	
An entry requirement for visa-exempt foreign nationals traveling to Canada by air. It's electronically linked to your passport.	
Economic Immigrant	
A category of immigrants selected for their ability to contribute to Canada's economy, including skilled workers, business immigrants, and provincial nominees.	
Exclusion Order	
A removal order that prohibits a foreign national from returning to Canada for a specific period (usually one to five years), depending on the grounds of inadmissibility.	
Excessive Demand	
A ground for medical inadmissibility. If a person's health condition is expected to cause an excessive demand on Canada's health or social services, they may be deemed inadmissible.	
Expression of Interest (EOI)	
Some Provincial Nominee Programs or other immigration streams require candidates to submit an EOI before they can receive an invitation to apply. Similar in concept to an Express Entry profile.	
Express Entry	
An online system used by IRCC to manage applications for permanent residence under certain economic immigration programs (Federal Skilled Worker Program, Federal Skilled Trades Program, Canadian Experience Class).	

Family Class Sponsorship	
The immigration category that allows Canadian citizens and permanent residents to sponsor eligible family members (spouse, common-law partner, dependent children, parents, grandparents, and in some cases, other relatives) for permanent residence.	
Federal Court of Canada	
The court that hears judicial review applications concerning decisions made by federal tribunals, including those related to immigration.	
Federal Skilled Trades Program (FSTP)	
An immigration program under Express Entry for skilled workers in eligible trade occupations.	

Federal Skilled Worker Program (FSWP)	
An immigration program under Express Entry for skilled workers with foreign work experience.	
Foreign National	
A person who is neither a Canadian citizen nor a permanent resident. This term applies to visitors, international students, and temporary foreign workers.	G
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Humanitarian and Compassionate (H&C) Grounds	
A discretionary provision in immigration law that allows IRCC to grant permanent resident status to individuals who would not otherwise qualify, due to exceptional circumstances or compelling humanitarian reasons.	I

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB)	
An independent administrative tribunal that makes decisions on immigration and refugee matters. It has four divisions: the Refugee Protection Division (RPD), the Refugee Appeal Division (RAD), the Immigration Division (ID), and the Immigration Appeal Division (IAD).	
Immigration Appeal Division (IAD)	
A division of the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB) that hears appeals regarding family class sponsorships, removal orders, and residency obligation decisions.	
Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA)	
The primary federal legislation that governs immigration and refugee protection in Canada. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)	
The federal government department responsible for immigration and citizenship.	
Immigration Division (ID)	
A division of the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB) that conducts admissibility hearings and detention reviews.	
Implied Status	
The legal status of an individual who has applied to extend their stay in Canada (e.g., extend a visitor visa, study permit, or work permit) before their current status expires. They can remain in Canada under the conditions of their expired permit until a decision is made on their new application.	
Inadmissibility	
A determination by an immigration officer that a person is not allowed to enter or remain in Canada due to reasons such as criminality, health concerns (excessive demand on health services), security risks, financial reasons, or misrepresentation.	
Inland Application	
An application submitted to IRCC from within Canada.	
International Mobility Program (IMP)	
Programs that allow employers to hire temporary foreign workers without the need for an LMIA, often due to significant benefit to Canada or reciprocal agreements.	
Invitation to Apply (ITA)	
An invitation issued through the Express Entry system to eligible candidates, allowing them to submit a formal application for permanent residence.	J

Judicial Review	
The process by which courts review the decisions of administrative tribunals (like the IRB) to ensure they were made fairly and according to the law.	K
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Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA)	
A document that an employer in Canada may need to obtain before hiring a foreign worker. It assesses the impact of hiring a foreign worker on the Canadian labour market.	
Labour Market Information (LMI)	
Data and analysis related to the supply and demand for labour in Canada, used to assess the need for foreign workers.	
Landed Immigrant	
An older term for "permanent resident," still occasionally used.	
Licensing Body (Regulatory Body)	
An organization that sets standards and issues licenses or certifications for specific regulated professions or trades in Canada. Many immigrants in regulated professions need to be certified by these bodies to work.	M

Material Fact	
A fact that is significant or essential to a decision. Misrepresenting or withholding a material fact can lead to inadmissibility.	
Medical Exam	
A required health examination conducted by a panel physician for most permanent resident and some temporary resident applications to ensure applicants are not inadmissible on health grounds.	
Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)	
An agreement between the federal government and a provincial or territorial government regarding immigration matters, often related to	

Minister's Delegate	
An officer acting on behalf of the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, often involved in making decisions regarding inadmissibility or other complex cases.	
Misrepresentation	
Providing false information or withholding material facts on an immigration application. This can lead to a five-year ban from applying for permanent residence and a finding of inadmissibility.	N
National Occupational Classification (NOC)	
A standardized system used by the Canadian government to classify jobs. Each occupation is assigned a unique four-digit code and categorized by skill level and type. Immigration programs often require experience in specific NOC codes.	
Natural Justice	
Legal principles that ensure fairness in decision-making, including the right to be heard and the right to an unbiased decision-maker. Breaches of natural justice can be grounds for appeal.	
Newcomer	
A general term for individuals who have recently immigrated to Canada.	O

Official Languages	
Canada's two official languages are English and French. Proficiency in one or both is often a key factor in immigration programs.	
Open Work Permit	
A type of work permit that allows a foreign national to work for any employer in Canada (with some exceptions).	
Outland Application	
An application submitted to IRCC from outside Canada.	P

Permanent Resident (PR)	
A person who has been granted the right to live permanently in Canada but is not yet a Canadian citizen.	
Permanent Resident Card (PR Card)	
A plastic card that provides proof of an individual's permanent resident status in Canada. It's required for re-entry into Canada for permanent residents.	
Points-Based System	
A system used in many Canadian immigration programs (like Express Entry) where applicants are awarded points based on factors such as age, education, language proficiency, and work experience.	
Police Certificate/Criminal Record Check	
A document from police or law enforcement authorities in countries where an applicant has lived, used to assess criminal inadmissibility.	
Port of Entry (POE)	
Any official border crossing where individuals enter Canada (e.g., airports, land border crossings).	
Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP)	
An open work permit available to international students who have graduated from eligible Canadian Designated Learning Institutions.	
Pre-Removal Risk Assessment (PRRA)	
An assessment offered to individuals facing removal from Canada, to determine if they would face a risk to their life, a risk of cruel and unusual treatment or punishment, or a danger of torture if removed to their country of origin.	

Principal Applicant	
The individual who initiates an immigration application and whose eligibility primarily determines the outcome of the application for themselves and any accompanying family members.	
Processing Times	
The estimated duration it takes IRCC to process different types of applications. These times are regularly updated on the IRCC website.	
Protected Person	
A person who has been determined by Canada to be either a Convention Refugee or a person in need of protection (someone who faces danger if they return to their home country).	
Proof of Funds	
Documentary evidence that an applicant has sufficient money to support themselves and their family members upon arrival in Canada, as required by some immigration programs.	
Provincial Nominee Program (PNP)	
Immigration programs operated by individual Canadian provinces and territories. They allow provinces to nominate individuals who meet specific criteria for permanent residence based on their local labour market needs.	Q

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Refugee	
A person who has fled their country due to a well-founded fear of persecution. Canada offers protection to convention refugees and persons in need of protection.	
Refugee Appeal Division (RAD)	
A division of the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB) that hears appeals from decisions of the Refugee Protection Division (RPD).	
Refugee Claimant (Asylum Seeker)	
An individual who has arrived in Canada and made a claim for refugee protection, seeking asylum.	

Refugee Protection Division (RPD)	
A division of the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB) that hears claims for refugee protection made in Canada.	
Regulated Occupation	
An occupation that requires specific education, training, and/or licensing from a provincial or territorial regulatory body before a person can legally practice it in Canada.	
Removal Order	
An official order to leave Canada. There are three types: Departure Order, Exclusion Order, and Deportation Order, each with different implications for re-entry.	
Representative	
A person (e.g., an immigration lawyer, consultant, or family member) authorized to act on behalf of an applicant with IRCC. Authorized representatives must be in good standing with their respective regulatory bodies.	
Residency Obligation	
The requirement for permanent residents to be physically present in Canada for at least 730 days (two years) out of every five-year period to maintain their permanent resident status. Appeals can be made to the IAD if this obligation is not met.	
Resettled Refugee	
A refugee who has been offered a permanent home in Canada while still outside the country, often through referral by the UNHCR or private sponsors. Right of Permanent Residence Fee (RPRF)	
A fee that most applicants for permanent residence must pay to IRCC before they can be granted permanent resident status.	S

Self-Employed Persons Program	
An economic immigration program for individuals who have relevant experience in cultural activities or athletics and intend to be self-employed in Canada.	
Settlement Funds	
The financial resources that economic immigrants are required to have to support themselves and their accompanying family members upon landing in Canada.	
Settlement Services	
Free services and resources available to newcomers in Canada to help them adjust to life in their new country (e.g., language training, employment assistance, housing support).	
Spousal Sponsorship	
An immigration program that allows Canadian citizens and permanent residents to sponsor their spouse or common-law partner for permanent residence in Canada.	
Sponsor	
A Canadian citizen or permanent resident who supports the immigration of a family member or refugee to Canada, agreeing to provide financial and emotional support for a specified period.	
Sponsorship Appeal	
An appeal heard by the IAD when a family class sponsorship application has been refused by IRCC.	
Stateless Person	
A person who is not recognized as a citizen by any country under the operation of its law.	
Study Permit	
A document issued by IRCC that allows foreign nationals to study at a Designated Learning Institution (DLI) in Canada.	T

Temporary Resident	
A foreign national who is authorized to be in Canada for a temporary period (e.g., visitors, international students, temporary foreign workers).	
Temporary Resident Permit (TRP)	
A discretionary document issued by an immigration officer that allows an otherwise inadmissible person to enter or remain in Canada temporarily, if the benefits of their entry outweigh the risks.	
Temporary Resident Visa (TRV)	
Also known as a visitor visa, this is an official document issued by a Canadian visa office that is placed in a passport. It allows foreign nationals from non-visa-exempt countries to travel to Canada.	U

UCI (Unique Client Identifier) / Client ID Number	
A unique 8 or 10-digit number assigned to each individual who deals with IRCC. It helps IRCC track all applications and interactions for that person.	
Undertaking	
A legal promise made by a sponsor to provide financial support to the person they are sponsoring for a specified period.	
Underlying Offence	
In the context of criminal inadmissibility, this refers to the Canadian equivalent of a crime committed in another country.	V
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Work Permit	
A document issued by IRCC that allows foreign nationals to work in Canada.	X