

## **Are You a Refugee with Permanent Resident Status in Canada? Apply for Citizenship Now to Protect Your Status!**

If you are a Convention Refugee who has become a Permanent Resident coming changes to the law may put you at risk of losing your Permanent Resident Status.

You may lose your Permanent Resident status for the following reasons:

- You have voluntarily sought and received the protection of your country of nationality (e.g. returned to your country of origin or applied for a passport)
- You have voluntarily re-acquired your nationality (e.g. you have applied for citizenship from your country of origin after having lost it)
- You have acquired a new nationality and enjoy the protection of that country (for example, if you marry a citizen of another country and then obtain citizenship in that country )
- You have voluntarily become re-established in the country that you have left

**Immigration could try to take away your Convention Refugee status at a hearing for these reasons. If your status is taken away, you would lose your Permanent Resident status as well.**

**Canadian Citizens cannot lose their status for these reasons. They can only lose their status if it is based on a "misrepresentation."**

**It is important to apply for Canadian Citizen status as soon as possible.**

<b>Citizenship: Am I Eligible?</b>	<b>Resources</b>
<p>Permanent Residents may be eligible to become citizens if they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• are over 18 years old</li> <li>• have lived in Canada for 3 of the last 4 years</li> <li>• have a knowledge of one official language (English or French)</li> <li>• have no history of serious criminality</li> <li>• have passed the citizenship test (if between 18 and 55 years of age)</li> </ul> <p>Visit: <a href="http://eservicesak.cic.gc.ca/rescalc/startBasicCalc.do">HTTP://eservicesak.cic.gc.ca/rescalc/startBasicCalc.do</a> to see if you meet the residency requirements.</p>	<p>Refugees who have become Permanent Residents may face barriers to getting citizenship including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• difficulties learning the official languages</li> <li>• learning disabilities</li> <li>• visual or hearing impairments</li> </ul> <p>If you think this might apply to you, contact your local Legal Clinic for information and help.</p> <p>For information on the application process visit <a href="http://www.cic.gc.ca">www.cic.gc.ca</a> or <a href="http://www.settlement.org">www.settlement.org</a></p> <p>Contact the Toronto Public Library for free language and citizenship classes</p>